**Definitions of key planning terms**

**Activity Centre** - An area with good access to employment, public transport and other amenities. E.g. Carlisle Street.

**Adaptability -** Design of buildings to serve different uses over time in response to changing demands for space. (source: VPA)

**Affordable housing -** Housing that is appropriate for the needs of a range of very low to moderate income households, and priced (where mortgage repayments or rent) so these households are able to meet their other essential basic living costs.(source: VPA)

**Amenity -** The pleasant or satisfactory aspects of a location which contribute to its overall character and the enjoyment of residents or visitors. May include access to services and well-designed public spaces. (source: VPA)

**Social housing** – Non-profit housing owned and managed for the primary purpose of meeting social objectives such as affordable rents, responsible management, security of tenure and good location in relation to employment services. The term encompasses public housing and includes housing owned or managed by housing associations and community housing. (source: VPA)

**Community housing -** Refers to a type of social housing run by not-for-profit social housing. Community housing offers secure, affordable, rental housing for people on very low to moderate income households with a housing need. (source: VPA)

**Port Phillip Planning Scheme -**The Port Phillip Planning Scheme sets out the rules for the way land can be used and developed. It includes local and state policies and controls.

**Housing density** – The number of dwellings in an urban area divided by the area of the residential land they occupy, expressed as dwellings per hectare. (source: VPA)

**Neighbourhood character** – Neighbourhood character is essentially the combination of the public and private realms. The key to understanding character is being able to describe how the features of an area come together to give that area its own particular character.

**Liveability** – A measure of a city’s resident’s quality of life, used to benchmark cities around the world. It includes socioeconomic, environmental, transport and recreational measures.

**Planning Strategy -** Broad strategies developed by either State or Local, (often topic‐based i.e. housing, economic, transport or ESD) need to be developed to plan for these changes to a municipality or city.

**Sustainable development** – An approach to development that seeks to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It has economic, social and environmental dimensions.

**Planning Scheme Terms**

**Provisions -** A broad term used to discuss/describe the policy, zones, overlays, particular, general and operations provisions in the Planning Scheme. That is why it is called the “Victorian Planning Provisions” (The VPP provides the standard format, including clause numbering, for a planning scheme)

**Planning Policy** - Sets out the strategic basis for the application of a provision and, where appropriate, guide the exercise of discretion under other provisions. A planning policy applies to all land in the planning scheme unless the policy specifies otherwise.

**Zones -** All land in Victoria is divided into areas called zones by local government via maps in their planning schemes. The zones indicate whether a planning permit is required to construct a building or carry out works. These zones determine what land can and can't be used for. They are one of the elements of a planning scheme that can determine whether or not a planning permit is required

**Residential Zones** – Land that is suitable primarily for residential purposes is generally included in one of the three zones – the Neighbourhood Residential Zone (NRZ), the General Residential Zone (GRZ), or the Residential Growth Zone (RGZ).

**The Neighbourhood Residential Zone** provides for limited development to land in established area that has been identified as having specific neighbourhood, heritage, environmental or landscape character values that distinguish the land from other parts of the municipality or surrounding area.

**The General Residential Zone** is applied to land in areas where growth and housing diversity is anticipated. It is expected that the type of housing provided will evolve over time to provide more diverse forms of housing.

**The Residential Growth Zone** is applied to land identified as suitable for increased residential development, such as urban renewal sites, and locations offering good access to services and transport. These areas include activity centres and town centres.