# 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.

**Affordable housing** – Affordable housing is housing, including social housing, that is appropriate for the housing needs of very low-income households; low income households; and moderate-income households.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Neighbourhood character** - Neighbourhood character is the combination of the public and private realms. Every property, public place or piece of infrastructure makes a contribution, whether great or small. It is the cumulative impact of all these contributions that establishes neighbourhood character. The key to understanding character is being able to describe how the features of an area come together to give that area its own character. Understanding how these relationships physically appear on the ground is usually the most important aspect in establishing the character of the area.

**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.