



Commonly used planning terms

DEFINITIONS

Activity centre – An area with good access to employment, public transport, and other amenities e.g., Carlisle Street.

Active transport – Transport requiring physical activity, typically walking and cycling.

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.

Climate change – A long-term change of the earth's temperature and weather patterns, generally attributed directly or indirectly to human activities such as fossil fuel combustion and vegetation clearing and burning.

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.

Controls – controls include zones, overlays and particular provisions. They the application of zones and overlays by Council should reflect a policy objective in the scheme.

Environmentally sustainable design – 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.

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.

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.

Metropolitan Melbourne – The 31 municipalities that make up metropolitan Melbourne, plus part of Mitchell Shire within the urban growth boundary.

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.

Open space – Includes land reserved for natural landscape, parkland, recreation and active sports, as well as waterways and bays.

Overlays – An overlay is a complementary planning control to the zone. Unlike zones, that deal primarily with the broader aspects of the use and development of land, an overlay generally seeks to control a specific aspect of the development of land. Overlays control a broad range of development matters such as the protection of vegetation or heritage values, the design of built form or mitigating flood risk.

Planning Policy Framework (PPF) – The PPF is the policy content in the planning scheme. It is based on a three-tier structure that integrates state, regional and local policy.

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

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.

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.

Provisions – A broad term used to discuss/ describe the policy, zones, overlays, particular, general and operations provisions in the Planning Scheme.

Resilience – The capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses, systems and infrastructure to survive, adapt and grow, no matter what chronic stresses or shocks they encounter

Secondary dwelling – An additional self-contained dwelling developed on the same land as the principal dwelling.

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.

Social infrastructure – Encompasses all the facilities, services and networks that help families, groups and communities to meet their social, health, education, cultural and community needs.

Zones – All of the land in Victoria is divided into areas called zones by local government. They are the primary tool for guiding the fair and orderly use and development of land. A zone sets expectations about what land use and development activity is or may be acceptable. Each zone broadly deals with a particular predominant land use theme, such as residential, commercial, industrial or public land uses.

