Why have the land use terms in the Victoria Planning Provisions been amended?

The Victorian Government’s Smart Planning is a reform program to make Victoria’s planning system more efficient and accessible. Part of the reforms include simplifying and modernising Victoria’s planning policy and rules to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the operation of planning schemes.

The 2017 Smart Planning discussion paper Reforming the Victoria Planning Provisions identified that an integral reform was to improve land use terms and definitions. To assist with reviewing land use terms, the Minister for Planning appointed the Land Use Terms Advisory Committee (the Committee) in December 2017.

What was the role of the Land Use Terms Advisory Committee?

The Committee was tasked with providing advice in relation to:

- the principles and business rules for land use terms
- existing land use terms that should be removed or modified
- new land use terms that should be included
- legal and practical implications of any recommended changes to land use terms and their definitions
- a recommended approach to implement proposed changes where there are legal and practical implications.

The Committee’s report is available under the ‘Documents’ tab on the land use terms web page.

Where can I find out more information about the changes to land use terms?

DELWP has prepared a summary of the Government’s response to the recommendations of the Land Use Terms Advisory Committee. The summary document is available under the ‘Documents’ tab on the land use terms web page.

What does Amendment VC159 do?

Amendment VC159 amends the Victoria Planning Provisions and all planning schemes to introduce new land use terms, revise the definition of land use terms and change where land use terms are nested to:

- increase use of everyday terms that the community understands
- remove or modernise obsolete terms
- provide for new or emerging land uses
- remove unnecessary specific terms and broaden terms, where appropriate
• provide definitions for undefined terms where appropriate (except for terms that are sufficiently captured by
an ordinary dictionary meaning or defined in the Planning and Environment Act 1987).

Have land use terms in local schedules been updated?

No. Land use terms in local schedules have not been updated.

Amendment VC159 updates land use terms in all affected zones, the Bushfire Management Overlay and all
affected particular provisions and general provisions. The Airport Environ Overlay and Melbourne Airport Environ
Overlay local schedules have also been amended in all affected planning schemes and in the Ministerial Direction -
Form and Content of Planning Schemes.

The land use terms introduced as part of Amendment VC159 will need to be updated in the local schedules of
planning schemes by individual councils as part of a future council planning scheme amendment.

DELWP will work with councils to identify the changes to be made and when these can be implemented.