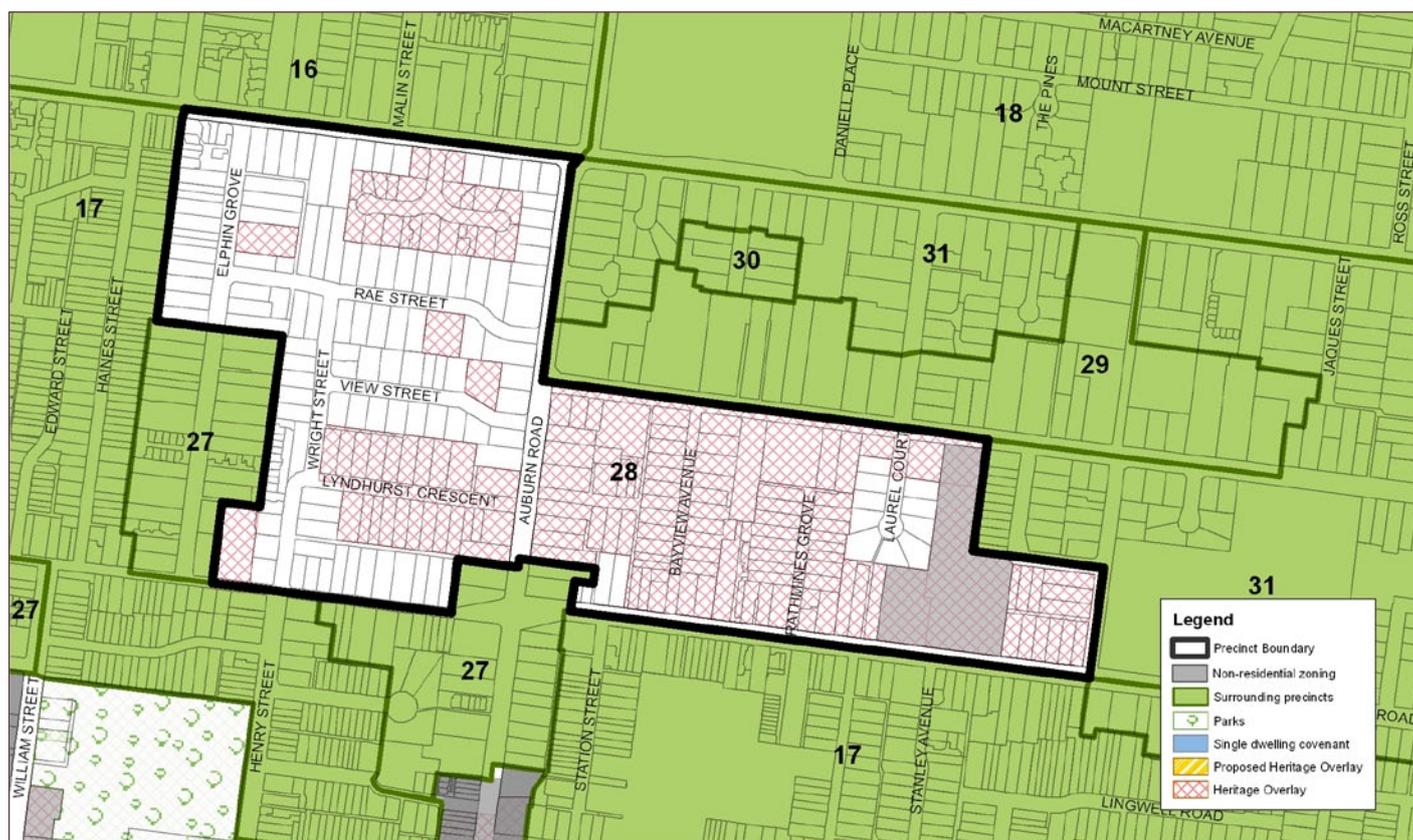


# Precinct Statement

Adopted 24 September 2012, updated October 2013



## DESCRIPTION

Precinct 28 includes the area between Barkers Road, Wright Street and Liddiard Street, Hawthorn, as well as land across Auburn Road, along Rathmines Road and the southern side of Harcourt Street to Kildare Street, Hawthorn East. The precinct contains the Corsewall Close, Lyndhurst Crescent and Rathmines Grove heritage overlay areas (HO147, HO155 and HO160 respectively), as well as part of the Harcourt Street heritage overlay precinct (HO151). These heritage areas contain a range of Victorian cottages, villas and mansions as well as interwar apartments (Corsewall Close).

The rest of the precinct contains a range of historic buildings that date from the Victorian to interwar era, as well as some contemporary dwellings. Buildings are usually detached (although duplexes and multi-unit developments are present) and are constructed from brick and masonry with pitched roofs. Dwellings range in size from 1 to 2 storeys and are generally set back from the street by 5m to 9m allowing for small to medium sized front gardens. Some 2 and 3 storey walk up flats are located in the precinct, mainly focussed on Auburn Road and in the Corsewall Close heritage area.

Lot frontages generally vary from 15m to 20m. On-site car parking, where it exists, is generally located to the side of dwellings.

Most dwellings have backyards that vary in size and degree of landscaping. Front fences are generally of a low to medium height.

While the era of houses varies, overall the precinct has a historic character which is enhanced by the mature street trees which create a leafy feel.

# Design Guidelines

## KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- Generally historic buildings from the Victorian to interwar eras;
- Predominantly 1 and 2 storey dwellings;
- Pitched roofs;
- Medium to large front setbacks;
- Well landscaped front gardens;
- Leafy green streetscapes;
- Some 2 and 3 storey walk up flats, mainly in Corsewall Close and on Auburn Road;
- Low to medium high front fences; and
- Rear gardens of various sizes.

## PREFERRED CHARACTER STATEMENT

To facilitate contemporary design that respects the historic character of the precinct and enhances the area's leafy feel. To ensure higher density developments are suitably located and do not detract from the surrounding heritage properties.

This will be achieved by:

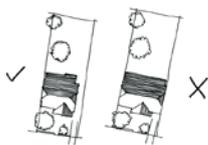
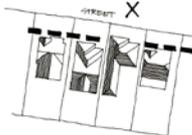
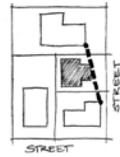
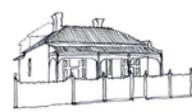
- Encouraging the retention of large trees and landscaped gardens;
- Ensuring buildings are consistently setback from front and side boundaries to retain the existing streetscape rhythm;
- Ensuring new developments and additions respect the predominant building scale and forms of the streetscape;
- Ensuring car parking structures do not dominate the streetscape;
- Encouraging design that integrates with the heritage styles of the precinct;
- Maximising soft landscaping and minimising areas of hard surfaces;
- Encouraging low or medium height front fences that are appropriate to the era of the dwelling; and
- Focusing new higher density development in streetscapes already characterised by apartments, such as Auburn Road.

## THREATS/ISSUES

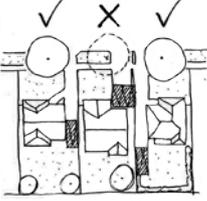
- Loss of historic buildings;
- Buildings that appear bulky and 'box' like;
- Lack of soft landscaping / vegetation;
- Boundary to boundary development;
- High front fences that disrupt the rhythm of the street;
- Car parking structures in front setbacks that obscure views of the dwelling behind;
- Removal / loss of large trees;
- New houses that dominate the streetscape; and
- Unsympathetic or dominant dwelling extensions.

# Design Guidelines

## TABLE OF ELEMENTS

CHARACTER ELEMENT	OBJECTIVE	DESIGN RESPONSE	AVOID	ILLUSTRATION
<b>VEGETATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To maintain and enhance the landscaped setting of dwellings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure front gardens incorporate soft landscaping that complements the streetscape.</li> <li>Ensure the retention of large trees.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Removal of large trees.</li> <li>Front gardens dominated by hard surfaces.</li> <li>Loss of front gardens.</li> </ul>	 <p><i>Encourage landscaped gardens</i></p>
<b>SITING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To maintain and enhance the existing streetscape rhythm.</li> <li>To maintain the existing backyard character and enhance the area's leafy feel.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure buildings are setback no less than the average distance of the front setback of the adjoining properties on either side or 9m, whichever is less.</li> <li>Ensure buildings in the heritage overlay are setback in line with or behind the adjoining heritage buildings in accordance with Council's Heritage Policy.</li> <li>Ensure buildings are setback from at least one side boundary in accordance with the prevailing streetscape spacing.</li> <li>Ensure buildings are sufficiently setback from rear boundaries to maintain the open, backyard character of the immediate area where this exists.</li> <li>Provide a secluded private open space with a minimum dimension of 4m to enable the planting and retention of large trees.</li> <li>Ensure new development on a corner site is adequately set back to provide a transition between the adjoining buildings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dwellings set too far forward.</li> <li>Boundary to boundary development.</li> <li>Dwellings built too close to their rear boundary with other residential properties.</li> </ul>	 <p><i>Side setbacks</i></p>  <p><i>Front setbacks</i></p>  <p><i>Siting on corner sites</i></p>
<b>BUILDING HEIGHT AND FORM</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To maintain the existing one and two storey scale and pitched roof character of the precinct.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure new buildings are composed of facades that are no more than 2 storeys to the street.</li> <li>Ensure upper level additions to historic dwellings are setback to minimise their visibility.</li> <li>Allow buildings of up to 3 storeys in streetscapes already characterised by apartments.</li> <li>Ensure visible roof forms integrate with the pitched roofs in the streetscape.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large bulky buildings or extensions that dominate the streetscape.</li> <li>Flat or curved roofs.</li> </ul>	 <p><i>Maintain 1 &amp; 2 storey streetscape scale</i></p>  <p><i>Integrate with pitched roofs</i></p>  <p><i>Minimise visibility of upper level extensions</i></p>

# Design Guidelines

CHARACTER ELEMENT	OBJECTIVE	DESIGN RESPONSE	AVOID	ILLUSTRATION
<b>BUILDING MATERIALS AND DESIGN DETAILS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure building materials and façade articulation integrates within the streetscape.</li> <li>To minimise period reproduction design.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure materials, colours and façade articulation, including the size and spacing of windows, integrates with the streetscape.</li> <li>Ensure new dwellings and visible additions complement the historic buildings in the precinct.</li> <li>Ensure rooflines of new buildings, extensions and additions incorporate sloping roofs with greater than 10 degrees roof slope and reflect the existing character of surrounding dwellings.</li> <li>Ensure integration of front verandas and awnings into the façade design where this is a characteristic of the streetscape.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bland design such as sheer or plain rendered façades.</li> <li>Large areas of glazing to the street.</li> <li>Period reproduction design.</li> </ul>	 <p><i>Integrate with heritage streetscapes</i></p>
				 <p><i>Avoid bland design</i></p>
<b>FRONT BOUNDARY TREATMENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure the height and design of front fences is appropriate to the era of the dwelling and integrates with the streetscape.</li> <li>To maintain views of front gardens.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure front fences are no more than 1.5m or the average fence height of the four properties on either side (whichever is less).</li> <li>Ensure the retention of original front fences where heritage overlays apply.</li> <li>Front fences along declared main roads (RD1Z) may be up to 2m in height where this is consistent with the prevailing fence height on the neighbouring properties.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High solid front fences.</li> <li>Fence designs that are inappropriate to the era and design of the dwelling.</li> </ul>	
				 <p><i>Avoid high front fences</i></p>
<b>CAR PARKING STRUCTURES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To minimise the loss of front gardens and the dominance of car parking structures.</li> <li>To ensure basement garages do not increase the visual bulk of buildings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure car parking structures are located to the rear of dwellings where rear access is available. Where no rear access is available, ensure driveways are located to the side of dwellings.</li> <li>Ensure car parking structures, including entrances to basements, are setback at least 1m behind the dwelling facade and are designed to minimise their prominence.</li> <li>Ensure basements project no more than 0.5m above natural ground level, unless the finished floor level of abutting properties is greater than 0.5m.</li> <li>Where possible, locate the entry to basement garages to the side or rear of dwellings so they are not visible from the street.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Driveways and car parking structures that dominate front setbacks or obscure views of the dwelling.</li> <li>Basement ramps that commence at the street frontage.</li> <li>Basement garages that result in buildings with a 2.5 to 3 storey appearance from the street.</li> </ul>	 <p><i>Location of car parking structures</i></p>

# General Information

## ABOUT THE NEIGHBOURHOOD CHARACTER STUDY

This Precinct Statement was completed in 2012. The methodology involved a review of the Residential Urban Character Study from 1996 as well as substantial community consultation and fieldwork. As a result of this review the City's residential areas have been divided into 75 precincts.

The common characteristics of each area in terms of building scale, setbacks, building style and form and the area's landscape character were taken into account when determining the boundaries of each precinct.

The resulting Neighbourhood Precinct Character Statements describe the existing character of each precinct as well as the precinct's preferred future character.

Those characteristics most valued by the community were reflected in the preferred character statements. The accompanying design guidelines table provides direction for new buildings which ensure future development assists in achieving the area's preferred character.

The Boroondara Neighbourhood Character Study is based on an analysis of existing neighbourhood character and does not take into account other planning policy objectives such as housing capacity, access to services and sustainability.

## HOW THE PRECINCT STATEMENTS WILL BE USED

The Precinct Statements will be used when assessing planning permit applications in residential zones. In instances where no planning permit is required (e.g. for single dwellings on lots over 500m<sup>2</sup>), the Precinct Statements will be used when assessing report and consent applications to vary the siting requirements of the Building Regulations.

New development proposals will be assessed against the directions contained in the "objective", "design response" and "avoid" columns in the design guidelines Table of Elements. Proposals will need to demonstrate how they meet the objectives in the table if they do not meet the relevant "design response" or "avoid" criteria.

With the exception of the guidelines relating to rear garden character, the view from the street will be used to assess consistency with the design guidelines. Existing development that does not comply with the design guidelines should not be used as a precedent when designing new buildings or building extensions.

## RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

The Precinct Statements will be used in conjunction with other policies and guidelines in the Boroondara Planning Scheme.

Where a conflict occurs between the Precinct Statements and an existing Design and Development Overlay or Council's Heritage

Policy, the provisions of the Design and Development Overlay or Council's Heritage Policy will take precedence.

# Glossary

## CHARACTER ELEMENTS IN DESIGN GUIDELINES TABLE OF ELEMENTS

- **Building Height and Form** – refers to building height (as measured from natural ground level), roof form and the massing of building elements.
- **Building Materials and Design Details** – refers to external building materials, façade articulation and design elements such as verandahs, awnings, window configurations and eaves.
- **Car Parking Structures** – refers to the presence and location of on-site car parking structures such as garages, carports, driveways and uncovered car spaces.
- **Front Boundary Treatment** – refers to the presence, height and style of front fences.
- **Lot Frontage** – refers to the width of lots.
- **Siting** – refers to front setbacks, side setbacks and the area's rear garden character.
- **Vegetation** – refers to the trees and landscaping on the site.

## GENERAL TERMS

- **'Box'-like** – refers to a building with proportions and detailing that give the building a box-like appearance. Typical characteristics include sheer two storey walls, no or narrow eaves, a symmetrical, un-articulated front facade and a low pitched or flat roof form with parapet detailing.
- **Historic Buildings** – refers to early buildings that date from the establishment of the area or that are important to the area's history.
- **Heritage Buildings** – refers to historic buildings that are subject to statutory protection through a Heritage Overlay or the Victorian Heritage Register.
- **Period Reproduction Design** – refers to design that incorporates mock heritage detailing such as Mock-Georgian and Mock-French Provincial elements.
- **Front Setback** – The distance between the front property boundary and the dwelling, categorised as:
  - **Small:** 0 to 5 metres
  - **Medium:** 5 to 9 metres
  - **Large:** 9+ metres
- **Front Fence Height:**
  - **Low:** 0.5 to 1.2m high
  - **Medium:** 1.2m - 1.5m high
  - **High:** over 1.5m high
- **Roof Forms:**
  - **Flat** – refers to a roof with a gradient of 10 degrees or less.
  - **Pitched** – refers to a roof with two slopes that meet at a central ridge.
- **Multi-Unit Dwellings:**
  - **Flats / Apartment Buildings** – refers to several dwellings contained in a multi-storey structure.
  - **Town Houses** – refers to dwellings of 2 or more storeys that have their own entrance and private yard, but which adjoin another dwelling.
  - **Villas** – refers to groups of dwellings which have their own entrance and private yard, which may or may not adjoin another dwelling, but which generally share common areas such as driveways and car parking.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

**Understanding Planning Terms Information Sheet**, City of Boroondara, (search for this title at <http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au>).

**What house is that? A Guide to Victoria's Housing Styles**, Heritage Victoria, (search for this title at <http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/heritage>).

**ResCode provisions**, Clause 54 and 55 of the Boroondara Planning Scheme at <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/boroondara/home.html>.