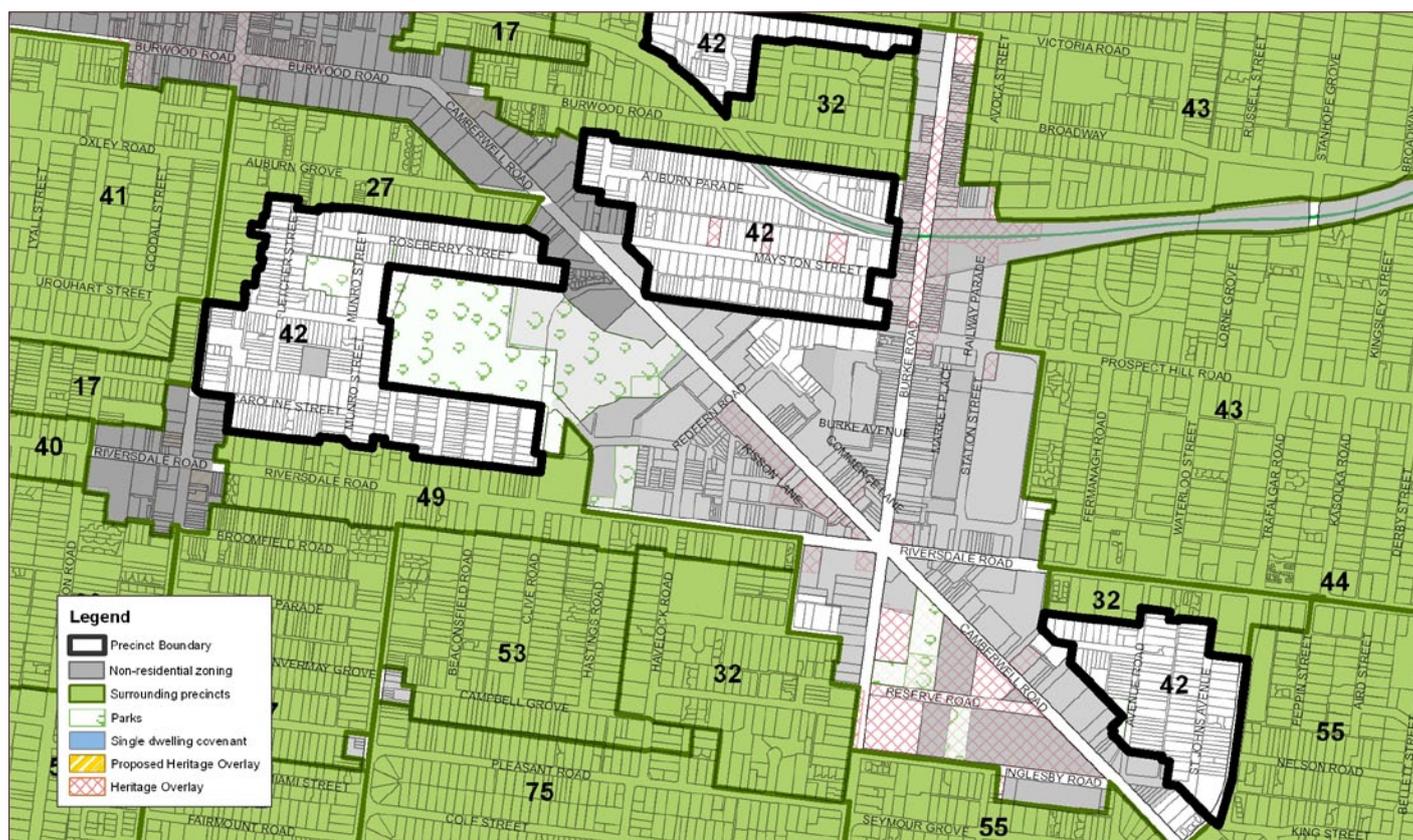


# Precinct Statement

Adopted 24 September 2012, updated October 2013



## DESCRIPTION

Precinct 42 is located in Hawthorn East and Camberwell. This precinct is spread across residential pockets surrounding the Camberwell Junction Activity Centre.

The areas that make up the precinct contain a concentration of Victorian and Federation era single storey cottages and semi-detached dwellings which are distinct from the surrounding area. There is a limited presence of 2 and 3 storey apartments in some sections of the precinct such as at the eastern end of Mayston Street.

The strong consistency in the built form is reflected in the consistent narrow lot frontages (up to 10m) and front setbacks (up to 5m), which provide for small front gardens. These characteristics, along with the lack of nature strips in some streets, create a compact feel which is reinforced by narrow side setbacks. Bluestone kerbs and laneways are also characteristic of the precinct.

Building materials vary widely between timber, brick and rendered brick. The majority of roofs are pitched. Front fences are generally low and are commonly composed of timber pickets or low brick walls.

On-site car parking, where it exists, is generally located to the rear of blocks, accessed from rear laneways.

While rear gardens are small, they generally contain some mature vegetation. This landscaping along with the existing street trees soften the precinct's inner-urban feel.

# Design Guidelines

## KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- Mainly Victorian and Federation era dwellings;
- Strong consistency of built form;
- Single storey cottages and semi-detached terraces;
- Small number of 2 and 3 storey apartments in select locations;
- Narrow lot frontages;
- Narrow or no side setbacks;
- Small front setbacks and front gardens;
- Generally low front fences; and
- Small rear gardens.

## PREFERRED CHARACTER STATEMENT

To maintain the precinct's predominantly single storey, inner-urban, historic character and enhance the precinct's landscape character. This will be achieved by:

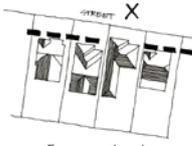
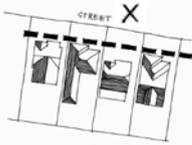
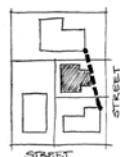
- Encouraging the retention of large trees;
- Ensuring buildings are consistently setback from the front boundary to retain the existing streetscape rhythm;
- Ensuring new developments and additions respect the predominant building scale and forms of the streetscape;
- Ensuring car parking structures do not dominate the streetscape;
- Maximising soft landscaping and minimising areas of hard surfaces; and
- Encouraging low front fences.

## THREATS/ISSUES

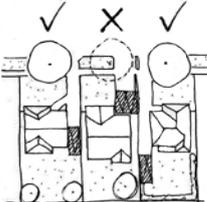
- Buildings that appear bulky and 'box' like;
- New houses or additions that dominate the streetscape;
- Lack of soft landscaping / vegetation;
- Car parking structures in front setbacks that obscure views of the dwelling behind;
- High front fences that disrupt the rhythm of the street; and
- Removal/loss of large trees.

# Design Guidelines

## TABLE OF ELEMENTS

CHARACTER ELEMENT	OBJECTIVE	DESIGN RESPONSE	AVOID	ILLUSTRATION
<b>LOT FRONTAGE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To maintain the existing fine grain streetscape rhythm.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retain existing narrow lot frontages.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consolidation of existing narrow lots into larger lots.</li> </ul>	
<b>VEGETATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To enhance the landscaped setting of dwellings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure the retention of large trees.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Removal of large trees.</li> </ul>	
<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>Provide a secluded private open space area 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 or back.</li> <li>Dwellings built too close to their rear boundary with other residential properties.</li> </ul>	 <p>Front setbacks</p>  <p>Front setbacks</p>  <p>Siting on corner sites</p>
<b>BUILDING HEIGHT AND FORM</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To maintain the predominantly single storey scale and pitched roof character of the precinct.</li> <li>To ensure buildings do not dominate the streetscape or disrupt the existing streetscape rhythm.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure new buildings are composed of façades that contain a single storey element with recessive upper levels.</li> <li>Ensure upper level additions to existing dwellings are sufficiently setback to minimise their visibility and appear as a recessive element.</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>Two storey façades to the street.</li> <li>Large bulky buildings or extensions that dominate the streetscapes.</li> </ul>	 <p>Maintain single storey streetscape scale</p>  <p>Recessive upper levels for new dwellings</p>  <p>Integrate with pitched roofs</p>  <p>Minimise visibility of upper level extensions</p>  <p>Avoid 3 storey facades</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 facade articulation integrates within the streetscape.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure contemporary design for new dwellings or visible additions that is distinguishable from the historic buildings in the precinct.</li> <li>Ensure integration of front verandas and awnings into the facade design where this is a characteristic of the streetscape.</li> <li>Ensure materials, colours and facade articulation, including the size and spacing of windows, integrates with 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> </ul>	 <p>Avoid bland design</p>
<b>FRONT BOUNDARY TREATMENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To maintain the predominant low front fence heights.</li> <li>To maintain views of front gardens.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure low (up to 1.2m) front fences that are appropriate to the era and design of the dwelling behind.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High solid front fences.</li> </ul>	 <p>Avoid high front fences</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, 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>Ensure basement garages are accessed from side or rear lane ways where possible.</li> <li>Ensure basement entrances are setback at least 5m from the primary street frontage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Driveways and car parking structures that dominate front setbacks or obscure views of the dwelling where this is not characteristic of the streetscape.</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> <li>Basement garages accessed from the primary street frontage on lots with a frontage less than 10m wide.</li> </ul>	 <p>Location of car parking structures</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>.