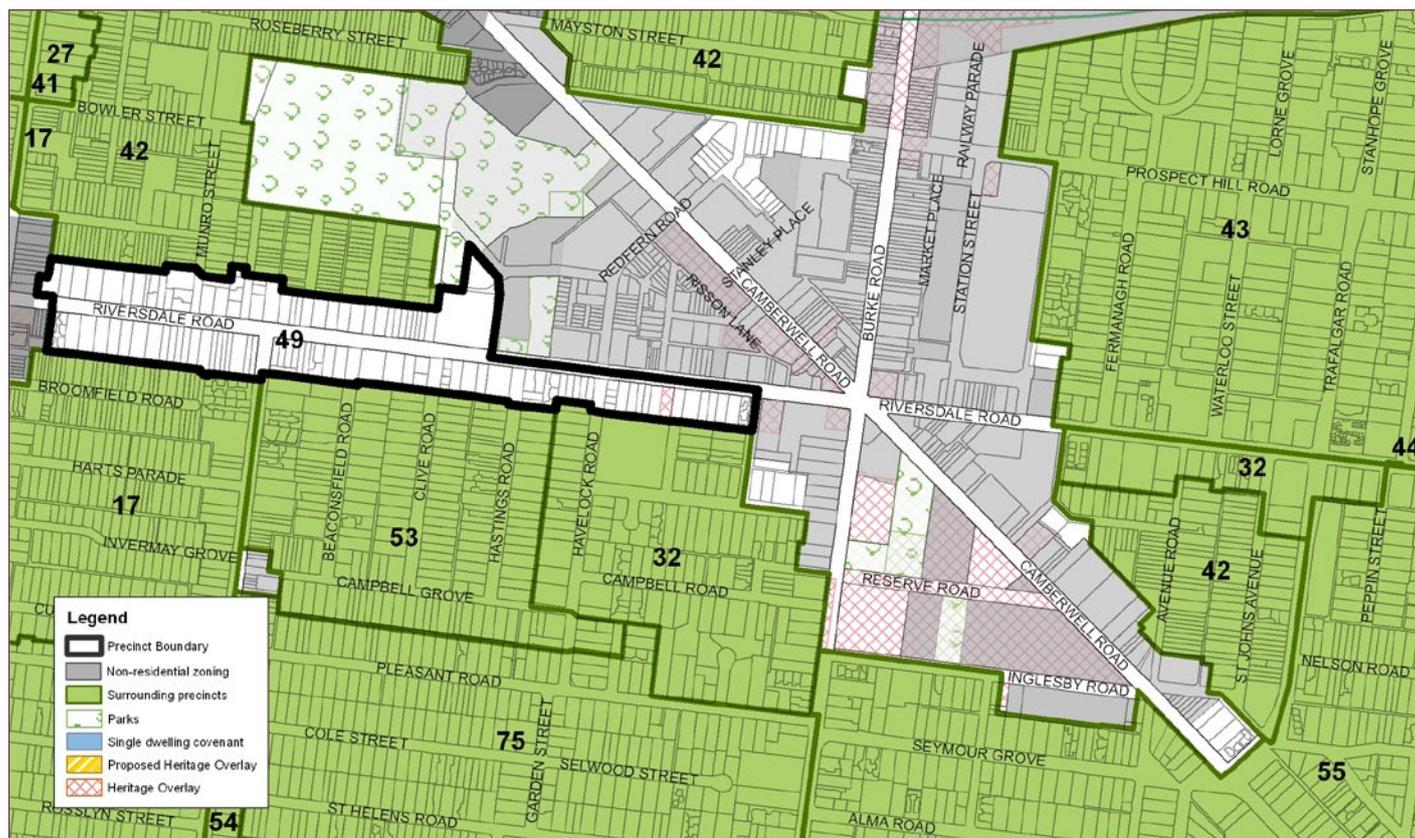


# Precinct Statement

Adopted 24 September 2012, updated October 2013



## DESCRIPTION

Precinct 49 comprises two corridor precincts along Riversdale Road in Camberwell and Hawthorn East, situated on either side of the Camberwell Junction Activity Centre. The western section of the precinct contains the Rylands multi-storey retirement village.

This precinct contains a number of apartment buildings of 2 to 4 storeys from the interwar period to now. The precinct also contains a range of 1 and 2 storey single dwellings from multiple eras.

The width of allotments varies from less than 10m to over 20m.

The mixture of building styles, building types and lot frontages creates an eclectic character which is enhanced by the presence of the cars and trams along the main road and the proximity of commercial buildings and shops in Auburn Village and Camberwell Junction.

While the size of side setbacks, front gardens and rear gardens varies, most buildings have space around them accommodating landscaping and / or mature plantings to the front, side or rear of buildings. This vegetation softens the otherwise busy, built up streetscape.

Medium and high fences are found in a variety of styles, as are low front fences, particularly in front of existing apartments. Many allotments benefit from the presence of a laneway which provides rear access to off street car parking.

Most buildings are masonry in their construction. The older buildings generally have pitched roofs, but these are interspersed with walk up flats with flat roofs.

# Design Guidelines

## KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- Various eras and dwelling styles;
- Mix of 1 and 2 storey single dwellings and 2 to 4 storey apartments;
- Medium front setbacks;
- Well landscaped front gardens;
- Medium to high front fencing in front of single dwellings;
- Low front fences in front of apartment buildings; and
- Mature trees and landscaping in front, side and / or rear setbacks.

## PREFERRED CHARACTER STATEMENT

To facilitate development of a diverse range of housing that integrates with the scale and form of buildings in the precinct and which enhances the landscape setting of dwellings.

This will be achieved by:

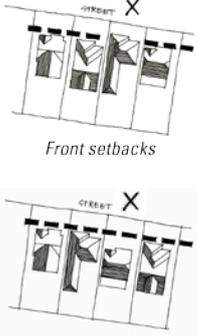
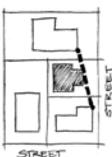
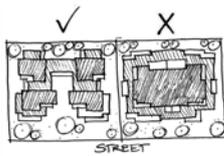
- Encouraging the retention of large trees and landscaped gardens;
- Ensuring buildings are sufficiently setback from front boundaries to retain the existing streetscape rhythm;
- Ensuring new developments and additions respect the predominant building scale and forms of the streetscape;
- Ensuring car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

## THREATS/ISSUES

- Lack of soft landscaping / vegetation;
- High front fences that disrupt the rhythm of the street;
- Car parking structures in front setbacks that obscure views of the dwelling behind; and
- Removal / loss of large trees.

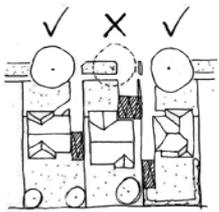
# Design Guidelines

## TABLE OF ELEMENTS

CHARACTER ELEMENT	OBJECTIVE	DESIGN RESPONSE	AVOID	ILLUSTRATION
<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 front gardens incorporate soft landscaping that enhances 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> </ul>	 <p><i>Encourage landscaped gardens</i></p>
<b>SITING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure development integrates with the existing streetscape rhythm.</li> <li>To enhance the landscape character of the streetscape by providing sufficient space for vegetation.</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 dwellings provide space in side or rear setbacks that can accommodate the retention and planting of large trees.</li> <li>Ensure apartment buildings are setback from both side boundaries to reduce visual bulk, retain streetscape rhythm and provide space for landscaping.</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> </ul>	 <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 create a consistent streetscape that respects the surrounding suburban context.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure buildings are no higher than 3 storeys to the street.</li> <li>Ensure fourth levels are setback and appear as a recessive element.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'Block-like' apartment buildings which have a footprint that is both wide and deep.</li> </ul>	 <p><i>Preferred apartment building layout</i></p>
<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> <li>To minimise period reproduction design.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Break buildings into separate elements and use varied setbacks, eaves, overhangs and other design details to articulate the façade.</li> <li>Ensure use of contemporary design in preference to period reproduction styles.</li> <li>Ensure use of high quality, durable materials.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bland design such as sheer or plain rendered facades.</li> <li>Period reproduction design.</li> </ul>	 <p><i>Avoid bland design</i></p>

# Design Guidelines

## TABLE OF ELEMENTS

CHARACTER ELEMENT	OBJECTIVE	DESIGN RESPONSE	AVOID	ILLUSTRATION
<b>FRONT BOUNDARY TREATMENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To enhance the pedestrian environment by increasing the visual connection between the public and private realm.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure low or medium height front fences that maintain views of the building behind.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High, solid front fences.</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 dominance of car parking structures.</li> <li>To ensure basement or under-croft parking areas 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 side or rear of dwellings or are configured in basement arrangements.</li> <li>Ensure car parking structures are integrated into the design of buildings.</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 the front setback.</li> <li>Basement garage doors set forward of the building line.</li> <li>Driveways, basements and ramps that cover the extent of the site.</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>.