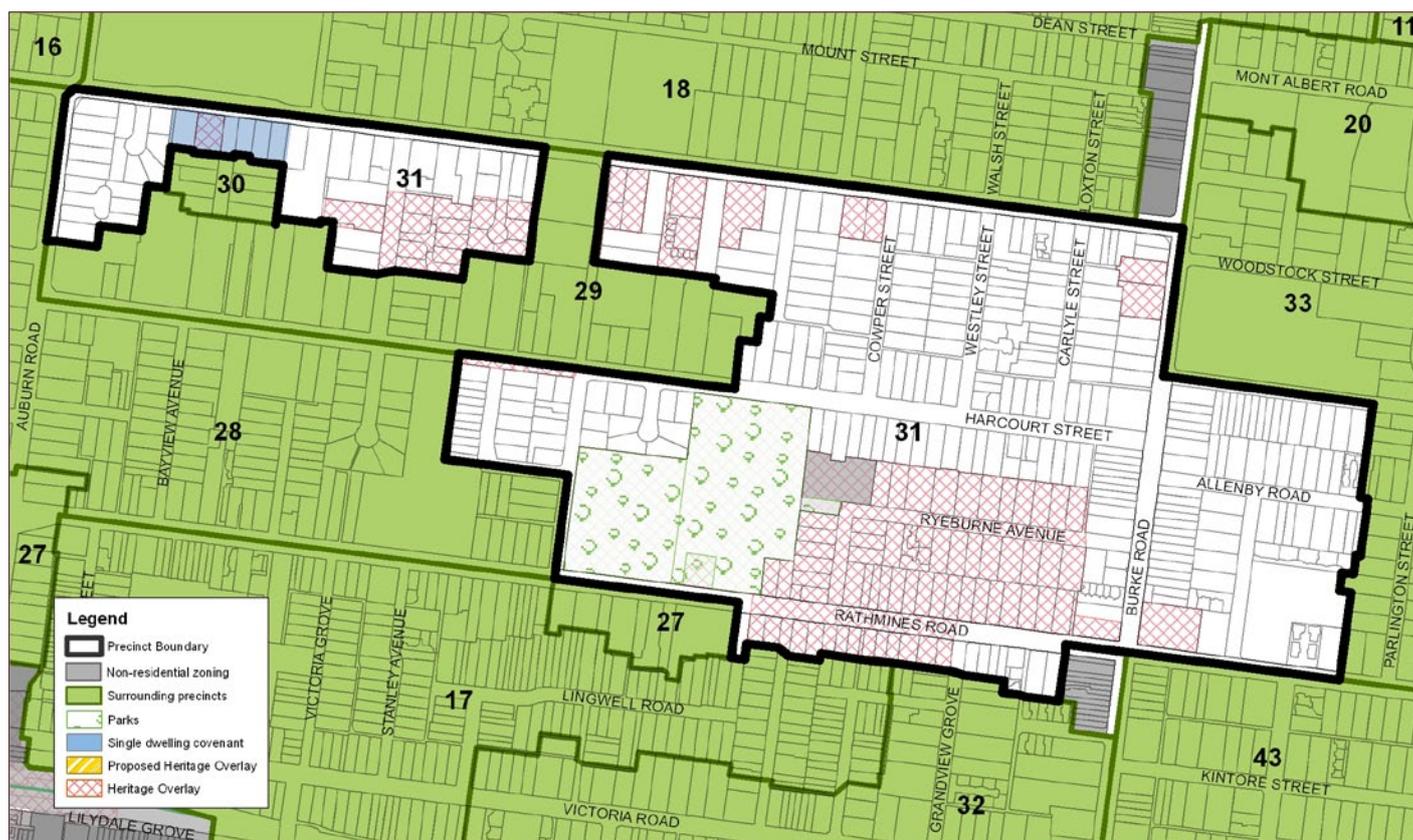


# Precinct Statement

Adopted 24 September 2012, updated October 2013



## DESCRIPTION

Precinct 31 covers parts of Canterbury and Hawthorn East and is situated at the northern end of the Camberwell Junction Activity Centre, extending south of Barkers Road towards Torrington Road. A portion of the precinct is within the Ryeburne Avenue heritage overlay area (HO161) which is representative of the growth of Hawthorn as a garden suburb in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

The precinct is close to William Angliss Park and Rathmines Road reserves. St Marks Church on Canterbury Road and local shopping strips also add to the amenity of the area.

Precinct 31 is characterised by detached, generally single storey Victorian, Federation and Edwardian dwellings. In particular, streets west of Burke Road contain a number of semi-detached, Edwardian dwellings. Later additions to the building stock include larger, two storey houses. Apartments also appear along Burke Road. This variety in building styles creates different scales despite the predominantly single storey built form.

Lot frontages vary as does the use of building materials, including brick and render facades and slate, terracotta and concrete for the pitched roofs. Front setbacks are usually between 5m and 9m and side setbacks are generally between 1m and 3m.

Front boundaries are marked by low to medium high front fences of varying styles and materials.

A mix of deciduous and evergreen canopy trees line the nature strips of all streets, creating a leafy green feel which is enhanced by moderate sized front gardens.

Rear gardens vary in size with the width of the block, however most contain some mature vegetation. On-site car parking is generally located to the side of dwellings where it exists.

# Design Guidelines

## KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- Mainly Victorian, Federation and Edwardian dwellings;
- Detached, predominantly single storey houses;
- Brick and rendered facades;
- Pitched roofs;
- Rear gardens of various sizes, generally with mature landscaping;
- Medium front setbacks;
- Landscaped front gardens; and
- Low to medium height front fences.

## PREFERRED CHARACTER STATEMENT

To facilitate contemporary design that respects the historic character and 1 and 2 storey scale of the precinct and which enhances the area's leafy feel.

This will be achieved by:

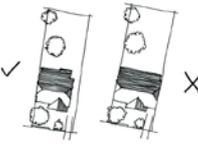
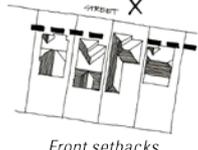
- Encouraging the retention of large trees and landscaped gardens;
- Ensuring sufficient space is retained in front and rear gardens to accommodate large trees;
- Ensuring buildings are sufficiently setback from the front and side boundaries to retain the existing streetscape rhythm;
- Ensuring new developments and additions respect the predominant building scale and forms of the streetscape;
- Encouraging design that integrates with the heritage styles of the precinct;
- Ensuring car parking structures do not dominate the streetscape;
- Maximising soft landscaping and minimising areas of hard surfaces;
- Encouraging low or open style front fences; and
- Encouraging contemporary design in preference to period reproduction styles.

## THREATS/ISSUES

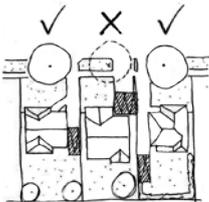
- Loss of historic buildings;
- Boundary to boundary development;
- Buildings that appear bulky and 'box' like;
- New houses that dominate the streetscape;
- Unsympathetic or dominant dwelling extensions;
- Car parking structures in front setbacks that obscure views of the dwelling behind;
- Lack of soft landscaping / vegetation; 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 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 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.</li> <li>Boundary to boundary development.</li> <li>Dwellings built to or 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> <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 do not exceed the prevailing height of buildings in the streetscape when viewed from the street.</li> <li>Ensure upper level additions to existing dwellings are sufficiently setback to minimise their visibility.</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> </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 facade 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 facade 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> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bland design such as sheer or plain rendered facades.</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 enhance the consistency of front fence heights and maintain views of front gardens.</li> <li>To ensure fences in front of heritage properties are appropriate to the era and design of the house.</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, 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>.