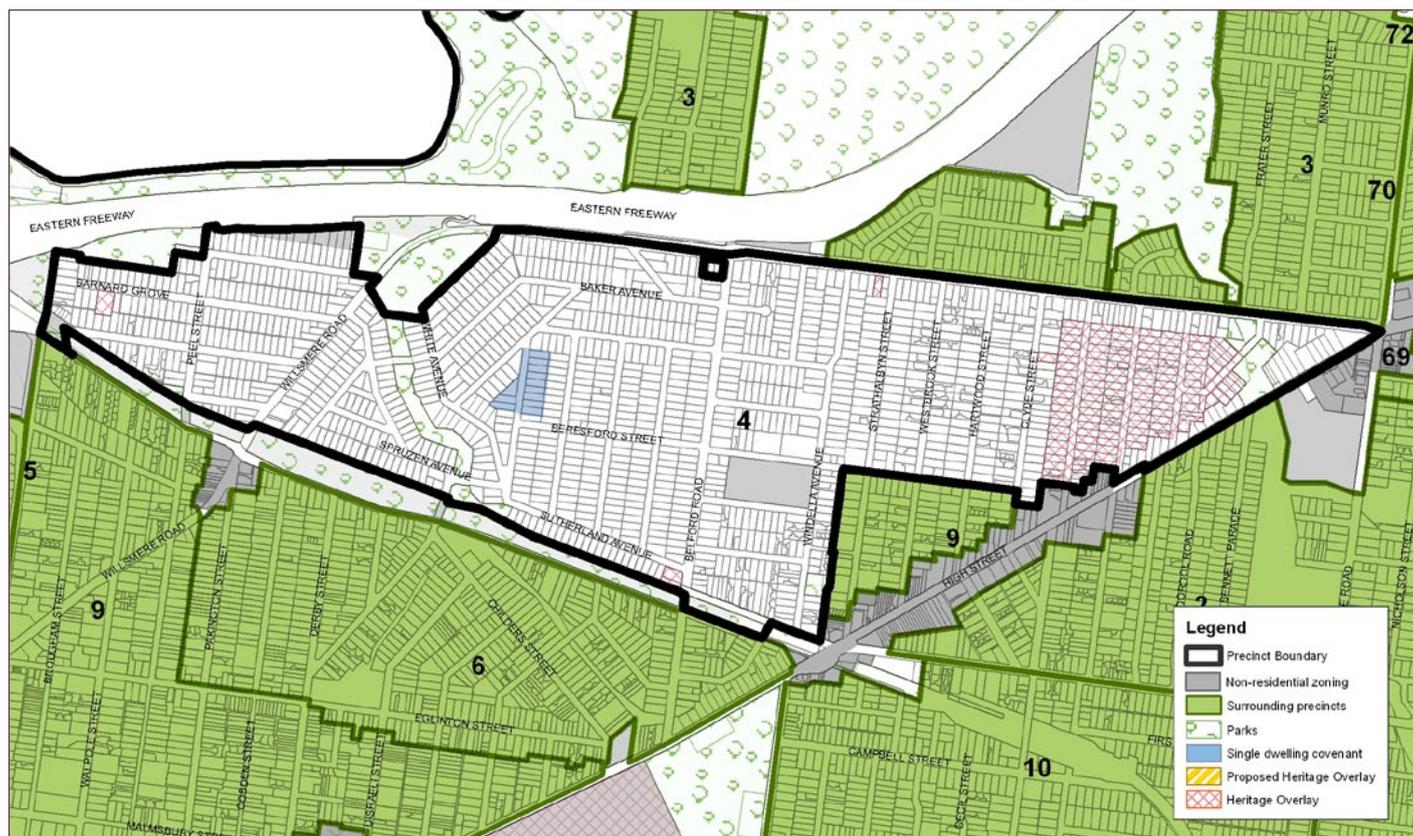


Precinct Statement

Adopted 24 September 2012, updated October 2013



DESCRIPTION

Precinct 4 is a large precinct with slightly sloping topography that contains part of Kew and East Kew. The streets in the north east corner of the precinct are within the Oswin Street heritage overlay area (HO157) which is significant for its concentration of interwar housing.

The houses are predominantly from the interwar and post war era and are generally single storey with pitched roofs. Larger, new dwellings, often with period reproduction detailing, are starting to appear which often dominate the streetscape.

Some multi-unit villas are scattered throughout the precinct. These generally present as single dwellings to the street.

The building material is an even mix of brick and timber cladding. The dominant front setback is 5 to 9m and lot frontages are generally around 15m wide. Dwellings are mainly detached with 1 to 3m wide side setbacks. Street design is generally gridded.

The street trees present are deciduous and, in most areas sparse other than in the eastern part of the precinct where street trees are frequent.

Footpaths and nature strips feature throughout. Front fences are generally low to medium in height. Rear gardens are generally spacious, however rear units and other buildings are present in some instances.

The regular front setback pattern, generous, landscaped front gardens, open rear gardens and low scale, predominantly single storey dwellings creates a consistent, suburban feel.

Driveways are generally located to the side of dwellings with car parking structures set back to the middle or rear of the block.

Design Guidelines

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- Detached, single storey dwellings;
- Inter war and post war housing;
- Pitched roofs;
- Generally large rear gardens;
- Low to medium high front fences;
- Medium to large front setbacks; and
- Generously landscaped front gardens.

PREFERRED CHARACTER STATEMENT

To maintain the predominantly single storey, detached, spacious character of streetscapes and the leafy, garden setting of dwellings.

This will be achieved by:

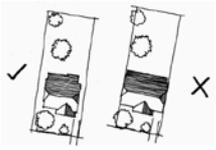
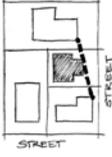
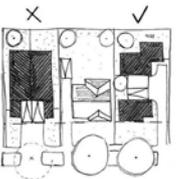
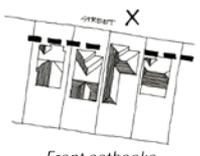
- Encouraging the retention of large trees and landscaped gardens;
- Ensuring sufficient space is retained in front and rear gardens to accommodate large trees;
- Ensuring buildings are setback from front and side boundaries to retain the existing streetscape rhythm;
- Ensuring design that integrates with the heritage styles of the precinct;
- Ensuring new developments and additions respect the predominant building scale and forms of the streetscape;
- Ensuring car parking structures do not dominate the streetscape;
- Giving preference to units which are set one behind the other, or which are side by side but designed to read as one dwelling;
- Maximising soft landscaping and minimising areas of hard surfaces; and
- Encouraging low or open style front fences.

THREATS/ISSUES

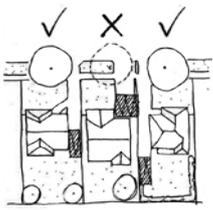
- Loss of historic buildings;
- Boundary to boundary development;
- Buildings that appear bulky and 'box' like;
- Dominant new dwellings and upper level dwelling extensions;
- Lack of soft landscaping / vegetation;
- High front fences that disrupt the rhythm of the street;
- Removal / loss of large trees;
- Car parking structures in front setbacks that obscure views of the dwelling behind;
- Lack of garden space for planting; and
- Period reproduction design.

Design Guidelines

TABLE OF ELEMENTS

CHARACTER ELEMENT	OBJECTIVE	DESIGN RESPONSE	AVOID	ILLUSTRATION
VEGETATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain and enhance the landscaped setting of dwellings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the retention of large trees. Ensure front gardens incorporate soft landscaping that complements the streetscape. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of large trees. Front gardens dominated by hard surfaces. Loss of front gardens. 	 <p>Encourage landscaped gardens</p>
SITING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain the existing streetscape rhythm and sense of spaciousness. To maintain the existing spacious backyard character and enhance the area's leafy feel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Ensure buildings are setback from both side boundaries in accordance with the prevailing streetscape spacing. Ensure buildings are sufficiently setback from rear boundaries to maintain the open, backyard character of the immediate area, where this exists. Provide a secluded private open space area with a minimum dimension of 4m to enable the planting and retention of large trees. Ensure new development on a corner site is adequately set back to provide a transition between the adjoining buildings. Give preference to units set one behind the other as opposed to side by side townhouses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dwellings set too far forward. Boundary to boundary development. Attached side-by-side town houses Dwellings built too close to their rear boundary with other dwellings. 	 <p>Side setbacks</p>  <p>Siting on corner sites</p>  <p>Siting of units</p>  <p>Front setbacks</p>
BUILDING MATERIALS AND DESIGN DETAILS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure building materials and façade articulation integrates within the streetscape. To minimise period reproduction design. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure materials, colours and facade articulation, including the size and spacing of windows, integrates with the streetscape. Ensure new dwellings and visible additions complement the historic buildings in the precinct. 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bland design such as sheer or plain rendered façades. Period reproduction design. 	 <p>Integrate with heritage streetscapes</p>  <p>Avoid bland design</p>

Design Guidelines

CHARACTER ELEMENT	OBJECTIVE	DESIGN RESPONSE	AVOID	ILLUSTRATION
BUILDING HEIGHT AND FORM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain the predominantly single storey scale and pitched roof character of the precinct. To ensure buildings do not dominate the streetscape or disrupt the existing streetscape rhythm. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure new buildings are composed of facades that contain a single storey element where this is the prevailing streetscape character, with recessive upper levels. Ensure upper level additions to existing single storey dwellings are setback to appear as a recessive element. Ensure buildings incorporate roof forms that integrate with the pitched roofs in the street. Ensure attached side by side developments are designed to read as one dwelling within the streetscape. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two storey façades to the street where this is not the prevailing streetscape character. Flat or curved roofs. Three storey facades to the street. 	 <p>Maintain single storey streetscape scale</p>  <p>Integrate with pitched roofs</p>  <p>Recessive upper levels for new dwellings</p>  <p>Minimise visibility of upper level extensions</p>  <p>Avoid 3 storey facades</p>
FRONT BOUNDARY TREATMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain the predominant low to medium front fence heights. To ensure fences in front of heritage properties are appropriate to the era and design of the house. To maintain views of front gardens. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure front fences are no more than 1.5m or the average fence height of the four properties either side (whichever is less). Ensure the retention of original front fences where heritage overlays apply. 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High solid front fences. Fences designs that are inappropriate to the era and design of the dwelling. 	  <p>Avoid high front fences</p>
CAR PARKING STRUCTURES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To minimise the loss of front gardens and the dominance of car parking structures. To ensure basement garages do not increase the visual bulk of buildings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure car parking structures, including entrances to basements, are setback at least 1m behind the dwelling facade and are designed to minimise their prominence. 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. Where possible, locate the entry to basement garages to the side or rear of dwellings so they are not visible from the street. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Driveways and car parking structures that dominate front setbacks or obscure views of the dwelling. Wide garages and carports that dominate the front façade. Basement ramps that commence at the street frontage. Basement garages that result in buildings with a 2.5 to 3 storey appearance from the street. 	 <p>Location of car parking structures</p>  <p>Avoid wide garages</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 500m²), 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>.