

**KEY EXISTING CHARACTERISTICS**

- Architecture is predominantly 1950s to 60s era dwellings with contemporary infill.
- Building materials are predominantly brick or timber with tiled roofs.
- The area is predominantly 1 to 2 storey detached dwellings with semi-detached and some attached infill (units, townhouses and apartments). There are some instances of 3 to 4 storey apartments occurring along main roads.
- Front setbacks generally range from 5-9m with 1-2m side setbacks from both side boundaries. New developments usually have smaller front and side setbacks.
- Garages or carports are sited behind dwellings and hidden from the front setback with single crossovers.
- Front fences are nonexistent or low (up to 1.2m in height) and constructed of brick or timber.
- Gardens are generally exotic and formally landscaped with established vegetation, lawn areas, garden beds, shrubs and canopy trees. The majority of the precinct comprises larger lots with generous rear garden settings including tall trees that provide a spacious canopy backdrop to the streets. Due to the prevalence of substantial native and exotic canopy trees, this precinct is included in a vegetation protection overlay within the Whitehorse Planning Scheme.
- Road treatments are sealed, with upstanding kerbs and footpaths on both sides.
- Street trees are mixed, including avenues of large exotic or native trees, and some areas of mixed species with regular spacing in mixed sizes.
- Topography is predominantly rolling with gentle slopes. Interface with Koonung Creek reserve to the north and west.

**PREFERRED CHARACTER STATEMENT**

Dwellings will be dominated by the vegetated surrounds and sit within the landscape. While often visible from the street, buildings will not dominate the streetscape or penetrate the predominant tree canopy height and will fit within the contours of the site. The established pattern of front and side setbacks will be maintained, allowing sufficient space for retention, planting and growth of trees. All redeveloped properties within the area will contribute to the bushy landscape character of the public realm, incorporating large native / indigenous canopy trees and vegetation. The vegetated character of the streetscape will be complemented by the absence of front fencing, or low open style front fences, allowing views into private gardens.

**PROPOSED HOUSING CHANGE AREAS**

- Limited Change
- Natural Change

- Train station & rail lines
- Tram stops & tram lines
- Activity centres with structure plans or urban design frameworks
- Commercial areas
- Parks & open space



**PRECINCT MAP**

CHARACTER ELEMENT	OBJECTIVE	DESIGN RESPONSE	AVOID
<b>GARDENS &amp; LANDSCAPING</b>	<i>To maintain and strengthen the garden setting of the dwellings and the tree canopy of the neighbourhood.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Retain established or mature trees and provide for the planting of new canopy trees and substantial vegetation.</li> <li>– Locate footings and paved areas outside the root zone of established trees</li> <li>– Prepare and implement a landscape plan that includes substantial trees and vegetation.</li> <li>– Buildings should not exceed 40% site coverage.</li> <li>– Provide at least 40% of the site as permeable surface.</li> <li>– Provide space for two areas with minimum dimensions of 5m x 5m, for open space to accommodate substantial canopy trees.</li> <li>– Open space areas should be oriented to the north wherever possible.</li> </ul>	<p>Removal of large, established trees.</p> <p>Loss of established vegetation.</p> <p>Inadequate space for trees/planting around buildings.</p> <p>Use of an easement or service area for the provision of space for a canopy tree.</p>
	<i>To minimise the loss of front garden space and the dominance of car parking structures.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Carports, garages and outbuildings should be located at least 1m behind the front façade of the dwelling fronting the street.</li> <li>– Provide only one vehicular crossover per typical site frontage.</li> </ul>	<p>Car parking structures that dominate the façade or view of the dwelling from the street.</p> <p>Creation of new crossovers and driveways, or wide crossovers.</p> <p>Excessive areas of hard paving and driveways.</p>
	<i>To maintain the sense of openness and visibility of tree canopies in rear gardens</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Buildings should not exceed the dominant tree canopy height.</li> <li>– Landscape plans for new developments should include canopy trees in rear gardens.</li> </ul>	<p>Bulky development dominating the tree canopy.</p> <p>Lack of space for large trees.</p>
	<i>To ensure the provision of permeable and useable private open space for new dwellings.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– In addition to any new balconies or rooftops, private open space with a minimum dimension of 5m for each dwelling should be provided.</li> <li>– Private open space should be oriented to the north wherever possible and accommodate garden planting.</li> </ul>	<p>Inadequate permeable private open space.</p>
<b>MINIMUM LOT SIZE</b>	<i>To ensure the spacing and density of dwellings is managed to accord with housing objectives.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– In Limited Change areas / sites, the minimum subdivision area should be 320 sq. m.</li> <li>– A permit is required for the construction or extension of one dwelling on a lot that is less than 500 sq. m. Development of single dwellings on lots smaller than 500 sq. m. should only be approved if all other guidelines are satisfied.</li> </ul>	<p>Lot sizes and development that does not meet the other neighbourhood character Guidelines.</p>
<b>SITING</b>	<i>To maintain and reinforce the rhythm of spacing between and around buildings, and the alignment of buildings along the street.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– New buildings should be set back a minimum of 7m from the front boundary.</li> <li>– Set back buildings a minimum of 1m from both side boundaries.</li> <li>– Set back buildings a minimum distance of 5m from the rear boundary.</li> <li>– Provide a separation of at least 3-4 metres between dwellings on the same site to accommodate vegetation.</li> <li>– Carports, garages or outbuildings should be setback a minimum of 1m from the front facade of a dwelling fronting the street with no walls on a boundary.</li> </ul>	<p>Loss of front garden space and / or consistent front setback patterns.</p> <p>Inconsistent siting patterns and a lack of space around buildings.</p>
<b>SENSITIVE LANDSCAPE ENVIRONS</b>	<i>To ensure buildings make a positive contribution to the adjacent Koonung Creek parklands.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Minimise the visual impact of development on the adjacent sensitive landscape area.</li> <li>– Building design should respond to the topography and minimise the need for cut and fill.</li> <li>– Provide landscape plans that incorporate substantial use of indigenous and native trees and vegetation to reflect that in the adjacent sensitive landscape area.</li> <li>– Minimise site coverage and hard surfaces on sites adjoining sensitive landscape environs.</li> </ul>	<p>Buildings that are visually dominant when viewed from within the sensitive landscape.</p> <p>Buildings that do not respond to the topography.</p> <p>Excessive site coverage and hard surfaces that leave inadequate space for trees and vegetation to complement the sensitive landscape environs.</p>
<b>PARK INTERFACE</b>	<i>To ensure that new development provides a positive interface with any adjoining parks and open space.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Design new buildings to provide a façade to any adjacent parkland to enable casual passive surveillance of the public space.</li> <li>– Buildings should be setback from the interface boundary so as not to dominate or appear overbearing from within the parkland.</li> </ul>	<p>Blank walls fronting parkland space.</p>

CHARACTER ELEMENT	OBJECTIVE	DESIGN RESPONSE	AVOID
<b>BUILDING HEIGHT &amp; FORM</b>	<i>To ensure that buildings and extensions do not dominate the streetscape.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Buildings should not exceed two storeys in height.</li> <li>– Roof forms should incorporate eaves.</li> </ul>	<p>Buildings that appear to exceed the predominant height of buildings in the street by more than one storey.</p> <p>Lack of eaves.</p>
<b>MATERIALS &amp; DESIGN DETAIL</b>	<i>To encourage building detailing that reflects, without mimicking, the details of buildings in the area.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Articulate the facades of buildings with the use of recesses, verandahs, balconies, window openings and variations in materials and colours.</li> </ul>	<p>Blank walls and facades.</p> <p>Mock historical styles and 'reproduction' detailing.</p>
<b>FRONT FENCING</b>	<i>To retain views to dwellings and gardens, and complement the predominant style of front boundary delineation in the street.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– No front fence or a low open style front fence up to 1m height. Utilise vegetation as an alternative to fencing where possible.</li> <li>– On main roads, higher front fences (up to 1.8m) may be constructed where they provide at least 50% permeability.</li> </ul>	<p>High, solid front fencing.</p>