

**KEY EXISTING CHARACTERISTICS**

- Architecture is predominantly post-war to 1960s cream brick styles, with a significant number of 1980s to contemporary infill.
- Building materials are predominantly brick or timber weatherboard, with tiled roofs and some render infill.
- Front setbacks are usually 5-8m, with 1-3m side setbacks usually from both side boundaries. Some new developments have smaller front (3-5m) and side setbacks (0-1m).
- Dwellings are 1-2 storeys, detached and semi-detached (units), with some attached infill (2 storey flats / apartments) closer towards Whitehorse Road.
- Garages and carports are usually located to the rear of dwellings, along the side boundary and with a single crossover.
- Front fences are nonexistent, planted with vegetation or low in height (up to 1.2m), and usually constructed of brick or timber.
- Garden styles are generally low and established with exotic vegetation, consisting of shrubs, garden beds, lawns and canopy trees.
- Roads are sealed with upstanding kerbs with footpaths on both sides of the street.
- Street trees are regularly planted with mixed species and sizes.
- The topography of the area is predominantly rolling with gentle slopes, and some flat areas.
- Interface with Cootamundra Walk, Nunawading / Megamile Major Activity Centre and Blackburn Neighbourhood Activity Centre.

**PREFERRED CHARACTER STATEMENT**

The area will retain its classic garden suburban characteristics of low set, pitched roof dwellings set in spacious garden settings, with a backdrop of large native and exotic trees. The established pattern of regular front and side setbacks from both side boundaries will be maintained, allowing sufficient space for planting and growth of new vegetation.

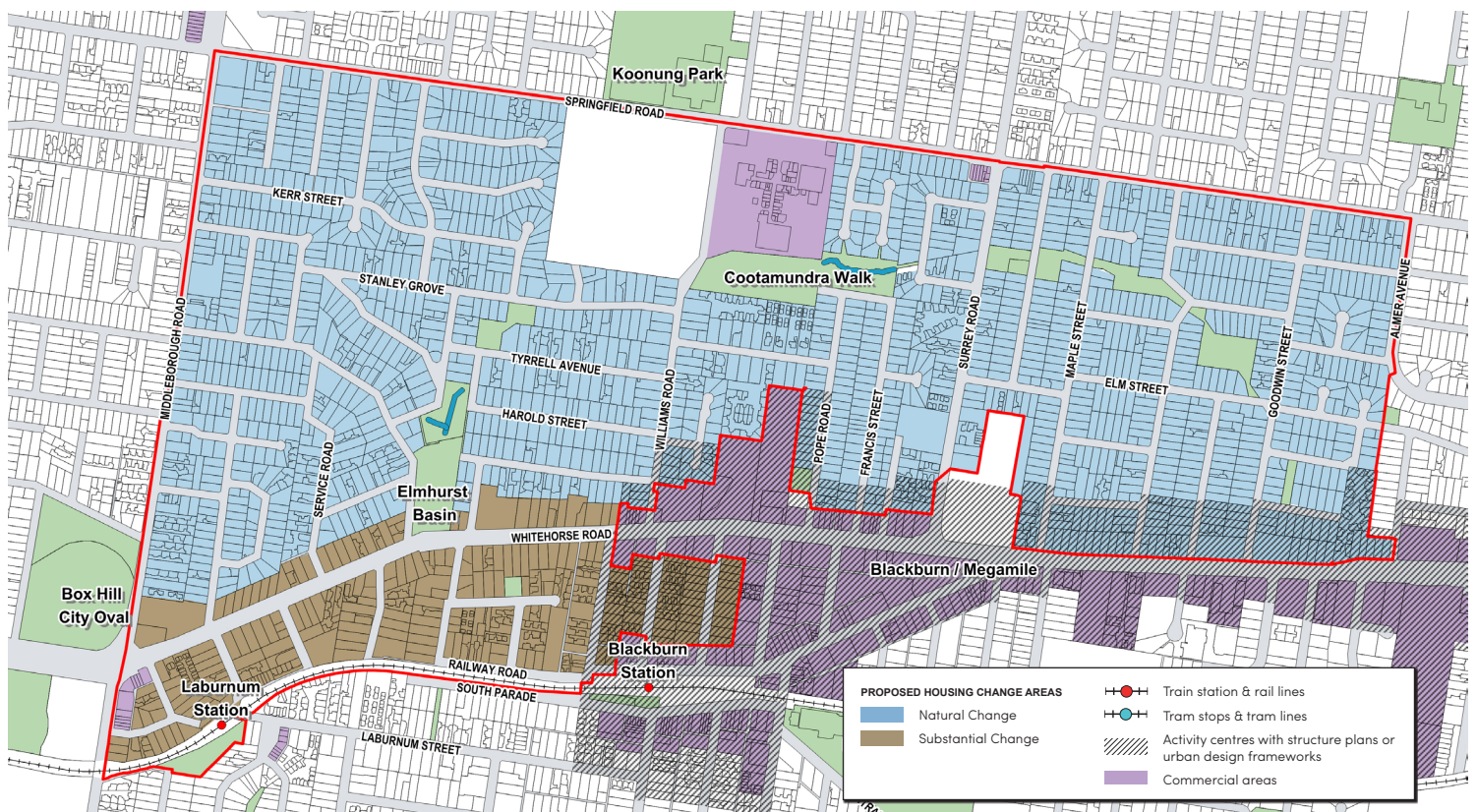
Infill development including unit developments will be common, however new buildings and additions will be setback at upper levels to minimise dominance in the streetscape. Low or open style front fences will provide a sense of openness along the streetscape, and allow views into front gardens and lawn areas.

Buildings close to Cootamundra Walk will be sited so that the overall visibility of the development is minimised when viewed from the open space, which will enhance the natural, bushy settings. Vegetation from private gardens will enhance the existing landscape character of the corridor, incorporating large native / indigenous canopy trees.

Areas within the Blackburn / Megamile West Urban Design Framework and nearby (Substantial Change) will undergo change to accommodate new medium density dwellings with more compact siting, while retaining space for landscaping including trees.

Areas with good access to the train stations at Laburnum and Blackburn (Substantial Change) will accommodate more dwellings with slightly more compact siting than the remaining residential areas, but with space for large trees and gardens.

Some of this precinct is contained within the Blackburn Neighbourhood Activity Centre, and the Nunawading – Megamile Major Activity Centre.



# GARDEN SUBURBAN PRECINCT 13 GUIDELINES

CHARACTER ELEMENT	OBJECTIVE	DESIGN RESPONSE	AVOID
GARDENS & LANDSCAPING	<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>Provide at least 30% of the site as permeable surface, other than in Substantial Change areas, where ResCode standard applies.</li> <li>Site coverage should not exceed 50% other than in Substantial Change areas where the site coverage should accord with standard ResCode requirements (60%).</li> <li>Provide for one ground level area with minimum dimensions of 5m x 5m, for open space to accommodate at least one canopy tree.</li> <li>Plant at least two canopy trees with a minimum mature height of 8 metres per dwelling.</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>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 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 x 5m for each dwelling should be provided. This minimum private open space dimension does not apply in apartment developments.</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>
MINIMUM LOT SIZE	<i>To ensure the spacing and density of dwellings is managed to accord with housing objectives.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A permit is required for the construction or extension of one dwelling on a lot that is less than 300 sq. m. Development of single dwellings on lots smaller than 300 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>
SITING	<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 setback to reflect the prevailing front setbacks.</li> <li>Set back buildings a minimum of 1m from at least one side boundary.</li> <li>In Substantial Change areas, any walls on boundaries should be setback a minimum of 3 metres behind the front façade of the building fronting the street.</li> <li>Carports, garages or outbuildings may be located on one side boundary, where it is setback a minimum of 1m from the front facade of a dwelling fronting the street.</li> </ul>	<p>Inconsistent siting patterns and a lack of space around buildings.</p>
SENSITIVE LANDSCAPE ENVIRONS	<i>To ensure buildings make a positive contribution to the adjacent Cootamundra Walk.</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>
PARK INTERFACE	<i>To ensure that new development provides a positive interface with any adjoining parks or 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 spaces.</p>
BUILDING HEIGHT & FORM	<i>To ensure that buildings and extensions do not dominate the streetscape.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In Natural Changes areas buildings should not exceed two storeys in height.</li> <li>In Substantial Change Areas buildings should not exceed 4 storeys in height, unless otherwise specified in the current adopted structure plan or urban design framework applying to the location.</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>
MATERIALS & DESIGN DETAIL	<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>
FRONT FENCING	<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>Provide a low or open style front fence up to 1.2m in height, and constructed of materials appropriate to the dwelling style.</li> <li>On main roads, higher front fences (up to 1.8m) may be constructed where they provide at least 20% permeability.</li> </ul>	<p>High, solid front fencing.</p>