

**55.03**15/07/2013  
VC100**SITE LAYOUT AND BUILDING MASSING****55.03-1**15/07/2013  
VC100**Street setback objective**

To ensure that the setbacks of buildings from a street respect the existing or preferred neighbourhood character and make efficient use of the site.

**Standard B6**

Walls of buildings should be set back from streets:

- At least the distance specified in a schedule to the zone, or
- If no distance is specified in a schedule to the zone, the distance specified in Table B1.

Porches, pergolas and verandahs that are less than 3.6 metres high and eaves may encroach not more than 2.5 metres into the setbacks of this standard.

**Table B1 Street setback**

| <b>Development context</b>   | <b>Minimum setback from front street (metres)</b>   | <b>Minimum setback from a side street (metres)</b>   |
|--|---|--|
| There is an existing building on both the abutting allotments facing the same street, and the site is not on a corner.   | The average distance of the setbacks of the front walls of the existing buildings on the abutting allotments facing the front street or 9 metres, whichever is the lesser.  | Not applicable   |
| There is an existing building on one abutting allotment facing the same street and no existing building on the other abutting allotment facing the same street, and the site is not on a corner. | The same distance as the setback of the front wall of the existing building on the abutting allotment facing the front street or 9 metres, whichever is the lesser.   | Not applicable   |
| There is no existing building on either of the abutting allotments facing the same street, and the site is not on a corner.  | 6 metres for streets in a Road Zone, Category 1, and 4 metres for other streets.  | Not applicable   |
| The site is on a corner.   | <p>If there is a building on the abutting allotment facing the front street, the same distance as the setback of the front wall of the existing building on the abutting allotment facing the front street or 9 metres, whichever is the lesser.</p> <p>If there is no building on the abutting allotment facing the front street, 6 metres for streets in a Road Zone, Category 1, and 4 metres for other streets.</p> | <p>Front walls of new development fronting the side street of a corner site should be setback at least the same distance as the setback of the front wall of any existing building on the abutting allotment facing the side street or 3 metres, whichever is the lesser.</p> <p>Side walls of new development on a corner site should be setback the same distance as the setback of the front wall of any existing building on the abutting allotment facing the side street or 2 metres, whichever is the lesser.</p> |

## **Decision guidelines**

Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider:

- Any relevant neighbourhood character objective, policy or statement set out in this scheme.
- The design response.
- Whether a different setback would be more appropriate taking into account the prevailing setbacks of existing buildings on nearby lots.
- The visual impact of the building when viewed from the street and from adjoining properties.
- The value of retaining vegetation within the front setback.

### **55.03-2**

15/07/2013  
VC100

## **Building height objective**

To ensure that the height of buildings respects the existing or preferred neighbourhood character.

### **Standard B7**

The maximum building height should not exceed the maximum height specified in the zone, schedule to the zone or an overlay that applies to the land.

If no maximum height is specified in the zone, schedule to the zone or an overlay, the maximum building height should not exceed 9 metres, unless the slope of the natural ground level at any cross section wider than 8 metres of the site of the building is 2.5 degrees or more, in which case the maximum building height should not exceed 10 metres.

Changes of building height between existing buildings and new buildings should be graduated.

## **Decision guidelines**

Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider:

- Any relevant neighbourhood character objective, policy or statement set out in this scheme.
- Any maximum building height specified in the zone, a schedule to the zone or an overlay applying to the land.
- The design response.
- The effect of the slope of the site on the height of the building.
- The relationship between the proposed building height and the height of existing adjacent buildings.
- The visual impact of the building when viewed from the street and from adjoining properties.

### **55.03-3**

15/07/2013  
VC100

## **Site coverage objective**

To ensure that the site coverage respects the existing or preferred neighbourhood character and responds to the features of the site.

### **Standard B8**

The site area covered by buildings should not exceed:

- The maximum site coverage specified in a schedule to the zone, or
- If no maximum site coverage is specified in a schedule to the zone, 60 per cent.

### **Decision guidelines**

Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider:

- Any relevant neighbourhood character objective, policy or statement set out in this scheme.
- The design response.
- The existing site coverage and any constraints imposed by existing development or the features of the site.
- The site coverage of adjacent properties.
- The effect of the visual bulk of the building and whether this is acceptable in the neighbourhood.

**55.03-4**  
15/07/2013  
VC100

### **Permeability objectives**

To reduce the impact of increased stormwater run-off on the drainage system.

To facilitate on-site stormwater infiltration.

### **Standard B9**

The site area covered by the pervious surfaces should be at least:

- The minimum area specified in a schedule to the zone, or
- If no minimum is specified in a schedule to the zone, 20 percent of the site.

### **Decision guidelines**

Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider:

- The design response.
- The existing site coverage and any constraints imposed by existing development.
- The capacity of the drainage network to accommodate additional stormwater.
- The capacity of the site to absorb run-off.
- The practicality of achieving the minimum site coverage of pervious surfaces, particularly on lots of less than 300 square metres.

**55.03-5**  
19/01/2006  
VC37

### **Energy efficiency objectives**

To achieve and protect energy efficient dwellings and residential buildings.

To ensure the orientation and layout of development reduce fossil fuel energy use and make appropriate use of daylight and solar energy.

## **Standard B10**

Buildings should be:

- Oriented to make appropriate use of solar energy.
- Sited and designed to ensure that the energy efficiency of existing dwellings on adjoining lots is not unreasonably reduced.

Living areas and private open space should be located on the north side of the development, if practicable.

Developments should be designed so that solar access to north-facing windows is maximised.

### **Decision guidelines**

Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider:

- The design response.
- The size, orientation and slope of the lot.
- The existing amount of solar access to abutting properties.
- The availability of solar access to north-facing windows on the site.

**55.03-6**

19/01/2006  
VC37

### **Open space objective**

To integrate the layout of development with any public and communal open space provided in or adjacent to the development.

## **Standard B11**

If any public or communal open space is provided on site, it should:

- Be substantially fronted by dwellings, where appropriate.
- Provide outlook for as many dwellings as practicable.
- Be designed to protect any natural features on the site.
- Be accessible and useable.

### **Decision guidelines**

Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider:

- Any relevant plan or policy for open space in the State Planning Policy Framework and Local Planning Policy Framework, including the Municipal Strategic Statement and local planning policies.
- The design response.

**55.03-7**

19/01/2006  
VC37

### **Safety objective**

To ensure the layout of development provides for the safety and security of residents and property.

## **Standard B12**

Entrances to dwellings and residential buildings should not be obscured or isolated from the street and internal accessways.

Planting which creates unsafe spaces along streets and accessways should be avoided.

Developments should be designed to provide good lighting, visibility and surveillance of car parks and internal accessways.

Private spaces within developments should be protected from inappropriate use as public thoroughfares.

### **Decision guideline**

Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider the design response.

**55.03-8**

15/07/2013  
VC100

### **Landscaping objectives**

To encourage development that respects the landscape character of the neighbourhood.

To encourage development that maintains and enhances habitat for plants and animals in locations of habitat importance.

To provide appropriate landscaping.

To encourage the retention of mature vegetation on the site.

## **Standard B13**

The landscape layout and design should:

- Protect any predominant landscape features of the neighbourhood.
- Take into account the soil type and drainage patterns of the site.
- Allow for intended vegetation growth and structural protection of buildings.
- In locations of habitat importance, maintain existing habitat and provide for new habitat for plants and animals.
- Provide a safe, attractive and functional environment for residents.

Development should provide for the retention or planting of trees, where these are part of the character of the neighbourhood.

Development should provide for the replacement of any significant trees that have been removed in the 12 months prior to the application being made.

The landscape design should specify landscape themes, vegetation (location and species), paving and lighting.

Development should meet any additional landscape requirements specified in a schedule to the zone.

### **Decision guidelines**

Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider:

- Any relevant neighbourhood character objective, policy or statement set out in this scheme.

- Any relevant plan or policy for landscape design in the State Planning Policy Framework and Local Planning Policy Framework, including the Municipal Strategic Statement and local planning policies.
- The design response.
- The location and size of gardens and the predominant plant types in the neighbourhood.
- The health of any trees to be removed.
- Whether a tree was removed to gain a development advantage.

#### **55.03-9**

19/04/2013  
VC95

#### **Access objective**

To ensure the number and design of vehicle crossovers respects the neighbourhood character.

#### **Standard B14**

The width of accessways or car spaces should not exceed:

- 33 per cent of the street frontage, or
- if the width of the street frontage is less than 20 metres, 40 per cent of the street frontage.

No more than one single-width crossover should be provided for each dwelling fronting a street.

The location of crossovers should maximise the retention of on-street car parking spaces.

The number of access points to a road in a Road Zone should be minimised.

Developments must provide for access for service, emergency and delivery vehicles.

#### **Decision guidelines**

Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider:

- The design response.
- The impact on the neighbourhood character.
- The reduction of on-street car parking spaces.
- The effect on any significant vegetation on the site and footpath.

#### **55.03-10**

19/04/2013  
VC95

#### **Parking location objectives**

To provide convenient parking for resident and visitor vehicles.

To protect residents from vehicular noise within developments.

#### **Standard B15**

Car parking facilities should:

- Be reasonably close and convenient to dwellings and residential buildings.
- Be secure.
- Be well ventilated if enclosed.

Shared accessways or car parks of other dwellings and residential buildings should be located at least 1.5 metres from the windows of habitable rooms. This setback may be reduced to 1 metre where there is a fence at least 1.5 metres high or where window sills are at least 1.4 metres above the accessway.

**Decision guideline**

Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider the design response.