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C92**HERITAGE PLACES OUTSIDE THE CAPITAL CITY ZONE**

This policy applies to all places within the Heritage Overlay Area excluding the Capital City Zone and the Docklands Zone.

Policy Basis

The Municipal Strategic Statement identifies that Melbourne has a high-quality, rich and diverse urban environment. Heritage is an extremely significant component of Melbourne's attractiveness, its character and its distinction, and therefore its appeal as a place to live, work and visit. This policy is the mechanism to conserve and enhance places and areas of architectural, social or historic significance and aboriginal archaeological sites and to encourage development which is in harmony with the existing character and appearance of designated heritage places and areas. This policy is consistent with policy document *Urban Conservation in the City of Melbourne*, which has been in operation since 1985 and has contributed to the conservation of the character of places of heritage significance.

Objectives

- To conserve all parts of buildings of historic, social or architectural interest which contribute to the significance, character and appearance of the building, streetscape or area.
- To ensure that new development, and the construction or external alteration of buildings, make a positive contribution to the built form and amenity of the area and are respectful to the architectural, social or historic character and appearance of the streetscape and the area.
- To promote the identification, protection and management of aboriginal cultural heritage values.

Policy

The following matters will be taken into account when considering planning applications for Heritage Places within the Heritage Overlay.

Performance Standards for Assessing Planning Applications

The performance standards outline the criteria by which the heritage aspects of planning applications will be assessed. Definitions of words used in these performance standards and an explanation of building and streetscape gradings are included at the end of this policy.

In considering applications under the Heritage Overlay, regard should be given to the buildings listed in the individual conservation studies and their significance as described by their individual Building Identification Sheets. The Building Identification Sheet includes information on the age, style, notable features, integrity and condition of the building.

Demolition

Demolishing or removing original parts of buildings, as well as complete buildings, will not normally be permitted in the case of 'A' and 'B', the front part of 'C' and many 'D' graded buildings. The front part of a building is generally considered to be the front two rooms in depth.

Before deciding on an application for demolition of a graded building the responsible authority will consider as appropriate:

- The degree of its significance.
- The character and appearance of the building or works and its contribution to the architectural, social or historic character and appearance of the streetscape and the area.
- Whether the demolition or removal of any part of the building contributes to the long-term conservation of the significant fabric of that building.
- Whether the demolition or removal is justified for the development of land or the alteration of, or addition to, a building.

A demolition permit should not be granted until the proposed replacement building or works have been approved.

Renovating Graded Buildings

Intact significant external fabric on any part of an outstanding building, and on any visible part of a contributory building, should be preserved. Guidelines on what should be preserved are included in *Urban Conservation in the City of Melbourne*.

In considering a planning application to remove or alter any fabric, consideration will be given to:

- The degree of its significance.
- Its contribution to the significance, character and appearance of a building or a streetscape.
- Its structural condition.
- The character and appearance of proposed replacement materials.
- The contribution of the features of the building to its historic or social significance.

Where there is evidence of what a building originally looked like, renovation of any part of an outstanding building, or any visible part of a contributory building, should form part of an authentic restoration or reconstruction process, or should not preclude it at a future date. Evidence of what a building used to look like might include other parts of the building or early photographs and plans.

Where there is no evidence of what a building originally looked like, renovations should preferably be respectful of an interpretive modern design, rather than "guesswork" reconstruction or any other form of reproduction design.

Sandblasting and Painting of Previously Unpainted Surfaces

Sandblasting of render, masonry or timber surfaces and painting of previously unpainted surfaces will not normally be permitted.

Designing New Buildings and Works or Additions to Existing Buildings

Form

The external shape of a new building, and of an addition to an existing building, should be respectful in a Level 1 or 2 streetscape, or interpretive in a Level 3 streetscape.

Facade Pattern and Colours

The facade pattern and colours of a new building, and of an addition or alteration to an existing building, should be respectful where visible in a Level 1 streetscape, and interpretive elsewhere.

Materials

The surface materials of a new building, and of an addition or alteration to an existing building, should always be respectful.

Details

The details (including verandahs, ornaments, windows and doors, fences, shopfronts and advertisements) of a new building, and of an addition or alteration to an existing building, should preferably be interpretive, that is, a simplified modern interpretation of the historic form rather than a direct reproduction.

Concealment Of Higher Rear Parts (Including Additions)

Higher rear parts of a new building, and of an addition to an existing graded building, should be concealed in a Level 1 streetscape, and partly concealed in a Level 2 and 3 streetscape. Also, additions to outstanding buildings ('A' and 'B' graded buildings anywhere in the municipality) should always be concealed. In most instances, setting back a second-storey addition to a single-storey building, at least 8 metres behind the front facade will achieve concealment.

Facade Height and Setback (New Buildings)

The facade height and position should not dominate an adjoining outstanding building in any streetscape, or an adjoining contributory building in a Level 1 or 2 streetscape. Generally, this means that the building should neither exceed in height, nor be positioned forward of, the specified adjoining building. Conversely, the height of the facade should not be significantly lower than typical heights in the streetscape. The facade should also not be set back significantly behind typical building lines in the streetscape.

Building Height

The height of a building should respect the character and scale of adjoining buildings and the streetscape. New buildings or additions within residential areas consisting of predominantly single and two-storey terrace houses should be respectful and interpretive.

Archaeological Sites

Proposed development must not impact adversely on the aboriginal cultural heritage values, as indicated in an archaeologist's report, for any site known to contain aboriginal archaeological relics.

Sites of Historic or Social Significance

An assessment of a planning application should take into account all aspects of the significance of the place. Consideration should be given to the degree to which the existing fabric demonstrates the historic and social significance of the place, and how the proposal will affect this significance. Particular care should be taken in the assessment of cases where the diminished architectural condition of the place is outweighed by its historic or social value.

Definitions of Words Used in the Performance Standards

Concealed means not visible from any part of the street serving the front of the building, as defined under ‘visible’. ‘Partly concealed’ means that a limited amount of the addition or higher rear part may be visible, provided it does not dominate the appearance of the building's facade and the streetscape.

Conservation means looking after a place to retain its heritage significance. It may include maintenance, preservation, restoration, reconstruction and adaptation to accommodate new uses.

Context means:

- The surrounding area as a whole
- Adjoining or nearby significant buildings or works
- In the case of additions or alterations, significant parts of the subject building.

Contributory building means a ‘C’ grade building anywhere in the municipality, or a ‘D’ grade building in a Level 1 or Level 2 streetscape.

Cultural significance means aesthetic, historic, scientific or social value for past, present and future generations.

Enhancement means:

- Encouraging removal of buildings or objects that detract from an area’s character and appearance.
- Allowing replacement of buildings or objects that do not contribute to an area’s character and significance by a building of a sympathetic new design.
- Allowing new works specifically designed to enhance an area’s character and appearance.

Fabric means all the physical material of the place.

Outstanding building means a grade A or B building anywhere in the municipality.

Preservation means maintaining the fabric of a place in its existing state and retarding deterioration.

Reconstruction means returning a place as nearly as possible to a known earlier state and is distinguished by the introduction of materials (new or old) into the fabric. This is not to be confused with either ‘recreation’ or ‘conjectural reconstruction’.

Respectful and interpretive refer to design that honestly admits its modernity while relating to the historic or architecturally significant character of its context. ‘Respectful’ means a design approach in which historic building size, form, proportions, colours and materials are adopted, but modern interpretations are used instead of copies of historic detailing and decorative work. ‘Interpretive’ means a looser reference to historic size, form, proportions, colours, detailing and decoration, but still requires use of historic or closely equivalent materials.

Restoration means returning the existing fabric of a place to a known earlier state by removing accretions or later additions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material.

Significant means of historic, architectural or social value for past, present or future generations. All graded buildings are significant. ‘Significant parts’ of a graded building means parts which contribute to the historic, architectural or social value of the building. The Building Identification Forms within *City of Melbourne Conservation Schedule* highlight many of the significant parts of each building.

Visible means anything that can be seen from any part of the street serving the front of the building including:

- Side elevations that are readily visible from the front street.
- Anything that can be seen from a side or rear laneway, if the laneway itself is classified as a Level 1 or 2 streetscape.

Grading of Buildings and Streetscape Levels

Every building of cultural significance has been assessed and graded according to its importance. Streetscapes, that is complete collections of buildings along a street frontage, have also been graded for planning control purposes. The individual buildings are grade A to D, the streetscapes from Level 1 to 3, both in descending order of significance. The grade of every building and streetscape is identified in the incorporated document *Heritage Places Inventory 2000*.

'A' Buildings

'A' buildings are of national or state importance, and are irreplaceable parts of Australia's built form heritage. Many will be either already included on, or recommended for inclusion on the Victorian Heritage Register or the Register of the National Estate.

'B' Buildings

'B' buildings are of regional or metropolitan significance, and stand as important milestones in the architectural development of the metropolis. Many will be either already included on, or recommended for inclusion on the Register of the National Estate.

'C' Buildings

'C' buildings. Demonstrate the historical or social development of the local area and /or make an important aesthetic or scientific contribution. These buildings comprise a variety of styles and building types. Architecturally they are substantially intact, but where altered, it is reversible. In some instances, buildings of high individual historic, scientific or social significance may have a greater degree of alteration.

'D' buildings

'D' buildings are representative of the historical, scientific, architectural or social development of the local area. They are often reasonably intact representatives of particular periods, styles or building types. In many instances alterations will be reversible. They may also be altered examples which stand within a group of similar period, style or type or a street which retains much of its original character. Where they stand in a row or street, the collective group will provide a setting which reinforces the value of the individual buildings.

Level 1 Streetscapes

Level 1 streetscapes are collections of buildings outstanding either because they are a particularly well preserved group from a similar period or style, or because they are highly significant buildings in their own right.

Level 2 Streetscapes

Level 2 streetscapes are of significance either because they still retain the predominant character and scale of a similar period or style, or because they contain individually significant buildings.

Level 3 Streetscapes

Level 3 streetscapes may contain significant buildings, but they will be from diverse periods or styles, and of low individual significance or integrity.

Policy Reference

Urban Conservation in the City of Melbourne 1985

East Melbourne & Jolimont Conservation Study 1985

Parkville Conservation Study 1985

North & West Melbourne Conservation Study 1985, & 1993

Flemington & Kensington Conservation Study 1985

Carlton, North Carlton and Princes Hill Conservation Study 1994 & 1985

South Yarra Conservation Study 1985

South Melbourne Conservation Study 1985 & 1998

Harbour, Railway, Industrial Conservation Study 1985