

# RATHDOWNE

WOLLERT

## DESIGN GUIDELINES

February 2026

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## MESSAGE FROM VILLAWOOD

Welcome to Rathdowne the newest in a long list of high quality developments by Villawood that will set a new benchmark for residential living in Rathdowne delivering a place that is of superior quality in all aspects which residents are proud to call home.

The principal aim of these Design Guidelines (“Guidelines”) is to create a coherent vision for the Rathdowne community. Developed to enhance the lifestyle and investment of purchasers, the Guidelines are designed to ensure all homes at Rathdowne are built to a high standard whilst encouraging a variety of housing styles which are in harmony with the streetscape. The Guidelines will assist in providing you with peace of mind that your investment will be enhanced in the future, guarding against inappropriate development that may detract from the attractiveness of the development.

Each individual house design should contribute to the surrounding environment and to the estate in a positive way. The Guidelines encourage home owners to construct innovative and appropriate designs that address sustainability issues and present a cohesive residential image for the estate.

To complement the design guidelines, we encourage homes to be built with the benefit of Villawood’s Positive Change initiative and the Green Savings Calculator. The Green Savings Calculator is a helpful online tool for this looking to build a new home or renovating and offers a useful and cost-effective tool to help you save water energy and money.

To learn more about the Positive Change program and ideas you can incorporate into your new home, please visit our website:  
<http://villawoodproperties.com.au/positive-change>

We hope you will see the value in Rathdowne Guidelines and we look forward to working with you through the process of making Rathdowne your home.

## **1.1 OPERATION OF THE DESIGN GUIDELINES**

The Design Assessment Panel ("DAP") will be formed to oversee the implementation of the Guidelines. It will comprise an Architect and a representative of the developer. The makeup of the panel may be varied. However, the panel will always include at least one Architect member.

All proposed building works including houses, garages, outbuildings and fencing shall be approved by the DAP prior to seeking a Planning Permit (if required) and a Building Permit.

Swimming pools do not require DAP approval.

In considering designs, the DAP may exercise a discretion to waive or relax a requirement. The Guidelines are subject to change by the developer at any time without notice. All decisions regarding these Guidelines are at the discretion of the DAP.

Preliminary designs and enquiries are welcome to ensure compliance with your guidelines and it is recommended that you provide a copy of the design guidelines to your builder at the earliest possible time.

## **1.2 CONSTRUCTION OF YOUR HOME**

Incomplete building works must not be left for more than 3 months without work being carried out and all building works must be completed within twelve months of their commencement.

Commencement of your home must occur within 12 months from settlement taking place, and your home complete within 12 months from commencement.

## 2. APPROVAL PROCESS

### 2.1 PROCESS FOR APPROVAL

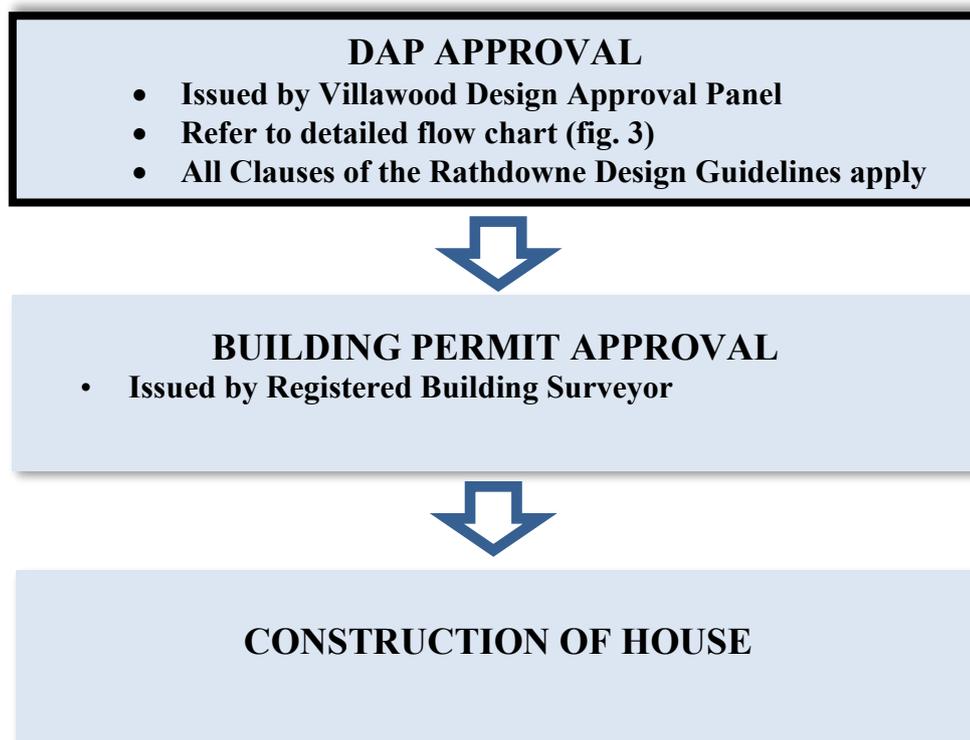
The process for approval of your house design depends on the size of your lot, and the details for your proposed house design.

All documents are to be lodged via the Villawood Properties Builders Portal, this can be accessed by visiting the website [www.villawoodproperties.com.au](http://www.villawoodproperties.com.au) General enquiries should be directed direct to the DAP via email [dap@kosaarchitects.com.au](mailto:dap@kosaarchitects.com.au)

#### 2.1.1 Lots 300m<sup>2</sup> and Greater

If your lot is 300m<sup>2</sup> or greater in size, then the following approvals process applies:

**Figure 1. Approval Process for Lots Greater than 300m<sup>2</sup>**

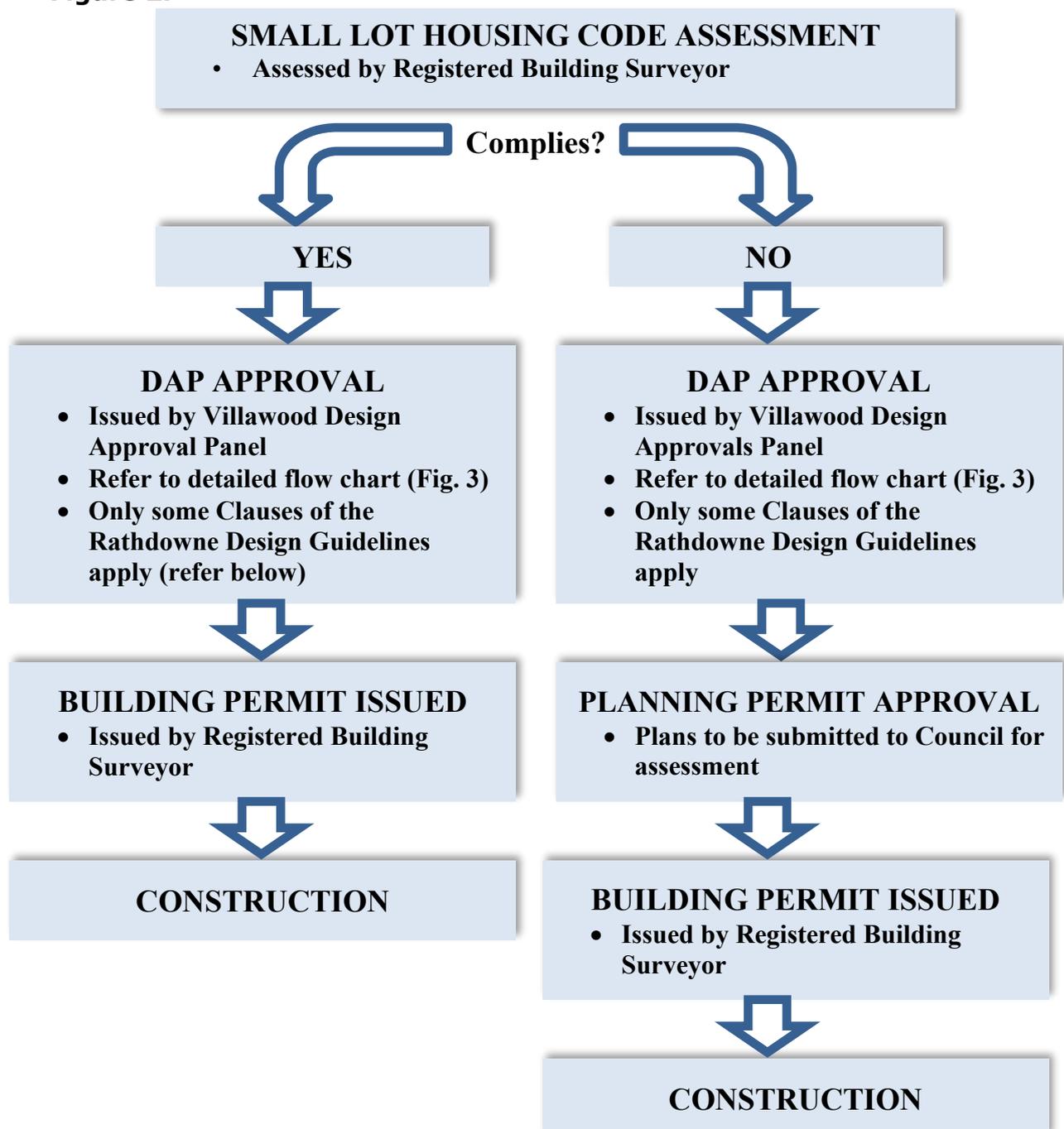


## 2.1.2 Lots Smaller than 300m<sup>2</sup>

If your lot is smaller than 300m<sup>2</sup>, Council requires that your house go through an additional approvals process, which requires your house design to be assessed against the Small Lot Housing Code. A copy of the Small Lot Housing Code can be obtained from Council.

If your house design complied with the Code, the process is similar to that outlined in Figure 1. However, if your house does not comply, you can seek discretionary approval from Council. Refer to Figure 2 for an outlined of the process.

**Figure 2.**



The Small Lot Housing Code covers many of the siting requirements specified in the Rathdowne Design Guidelines. As such, if your house design complies with the Small Lot Housing Code, you are exempt from the following clauses of the Rathdowne Design Guidelines.

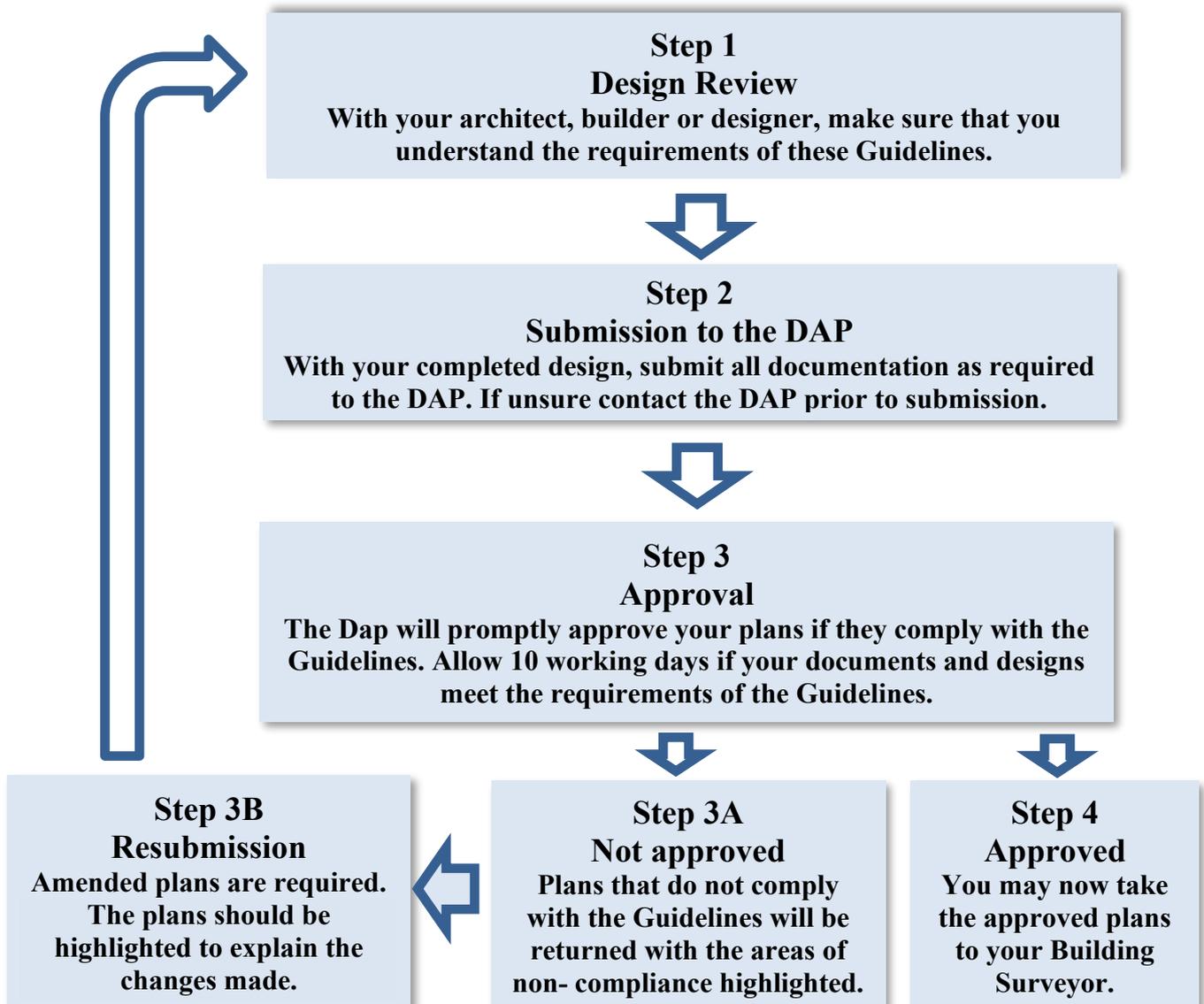
- 3.3 House Orientation
- 3.5 Building Envelopes and setbacks
- 3.6 Building Height
- 3.8 Site Coverage
- 4.10 Overshadowing
- 4.11 Privacy and Overlooking

If there is any uncertainty regarding interpretation of the Small Lot Housing Code versus the Rathdowne Design Guidelines, the Small Lot Housing Code takes precedence.

## 2.2 DAP PROCESS

Figure 3 provides a summary of the DAP process.

**Figure 3. DAP Process**



## 2.3 PLAN SUBMISSION

After reviewing and understanding these Guidelines, including discussing the Guidelines with your Architect, Builder and or building designer, you will need to submit the following to the DAP.

**Provide PDF copies in A4 or A3 format to the DAP for approval as follows:**

- Site plan (1:200 scale) showing:
  - setbacks from all boundaries
    - Building Envelope
    - existing contours
    - proposed finished floor levels and site levels
    - external features including driveways, paths, fencing and outbuildings
    - Landscaping
- House floor plans (1:100 scale)
- Elevations from four sides (1:100 scale)
- Schedule of external materials and colours. Colour swatches must be provided.
- Completed Check List (refer Section 8 of Guidelines)
- **Note: do not include internal fit-out details such as kitchens, electrical plans etc**

Submit all information via the Builders Portal on the Villawood website

[www.villawoodproperties.com.au](http://www.villawoodproperties.com.au)

all enquires to

**RATHDOWNE DESIGN ASSESSMENT PANEL**

c/- [dap@kosaarchitects.com.au](mailto:dap@kosaarchitects.com.au)

or telephone contact on 03 9853 3513

## **2.4 RE-SUBMISSION**

Plans that do not comply with the Guidelines will be returned with the areas of non-compliance highlighted. Amended plans need to be resubmitted for approval.

Any alterations made to the resubmission other than the initial non-compliance should also be highlighted on the plans or an accompanying letter.

## **2.5 APPROVAL**

The DAP will promptly approve plans that comply with the requirements of these Guidelines. Allow approximately 10 working days for approval.

## **2.6 BUILDING PERMIT**

After approval from the DAP, you must then obtain a Building Permit from the Council or a Private Building Surveyor.

**Note:** Design approval from the DAP does not exempt the plans from any building or statutory regulations other than the regulations that are superseded by the approved building envelopes and approved profile diagrams.

Approval must be obtained from the relevant authorities for Building Permits, build over easements and connections etc.

Report and consents cannot be requested for regulations that are covered under the approved Building Envelopes.

Approval by the DAP does not infer compliance under the Building Code of Australia, Rescode and other applicable planning or building regulations.

## **2.7 CONSTRUCTION**

Once a Building Permit has been obtained, construction of your house may begin.

## 3. SITING & ORIENTATION

### 3.1 CONSIDERATIONS

The siting of your home will be integral in developing the neighbourhood theme within the community. Consideration must be given to:

- Ensuring best visual presentation from the street;
- Maximising the benefits of solar access;
- Promoting energy efficiency;
- Minimising overlooking & over shadowing; and
- Respecting the privacy and amenity of neighbours.

### 3.2 LAND USE

One dwelling only is permitted per allotment. Dual occupancy and further subdivision is not allowed. This does not apply to allotments identified by the developer as medium density allotments. Rooming or boarding houses are not permitted. Non-standard home designs can be approved at the discretion of the Developer.

### 3.3 HOUSE ORIENTATION

Houses must face the main street frontage and present an identifiable entrance to the street. The front door may face some side street frontages, this should be verified with the DAP. Where possible, houses should be sited so that habitable rooms and private open spaces face northwards to receive maximum solar efficiency.

### 3.4 DWELLING ARTICULATION

To ensure that dwellings constructed within the community are designed to a high quality contemporary standard, they should be designed so that front and secondary street frontage facades are well articulated. Broad flat surfaces extending greater than 6 metres shall not be permitted.

Articulation can be achieved through a variety of ways and must incorporate at least one of the following features;

- Use of different materials and textures
- Variable wall setbacks to the front and side street boundaries
- Introduction of verandahs, porticos and pergolas
- Feature gable roof
- Continuation of window style



*Acceptable articulation*



*No articulation*

### **3.5 BUILDING ENVELOPES AND SETBACKS**

#### **Building Envelopes**

Building Envelopes have been prepared for the lots in each stage at Rathdowne and are contained within the Guidelines. The construction of buildings or associated buildings, including garages, must be contained within the Building Envelope specified for that allotment in the Guidelines and in accordance with the Profile Diagrams depicted in the Guidelines.

#### **Setbacks**

The following setbacks for houses and garages must be met.

##### **(i) The Front Street**

The front street setback is designated on the specified Building Envelope for each allotment. All houses must be set back from the main street frontage by the minimum distance indicated.

Garages must be located or set back behind the front façade of the home.

##### **(ii) Splayed and curved street frontages**

Unless noted on the plan, the minimum front setback on a splayed or curved corner between two street frontages is on an arc connecting the front street setback line to the side street setback line commencing at the points that are perpendicular to the points where the street alignment commences to arc.

Front entrances are to be easily accessible from the main street frontage.

##### **(iii) The Side Boundaries**

The side setback is designated on the specified Building Envelope for each allotment. A building must be setback from a side boundary not less than the distances specified in the Building Envelope Profiles and shown on the Building Envelopes by a setback identifier code. Garages may be built to the side boundary if provided for on the Building Envelope and adjacent buildings allow. The measurements are taken from the natural surface levels to the top of the wall.

##### **(iv) The Side Street Boundary**

The side street setback is designated on the specified Building Envelope for each allotment.

##### **(v) The Rear Boundary**

Generally, a rear wall of a building not exceeding 3.6 metres in height must be set back from the rear boundary a minimum of 3 metres, and a rear wall of a building exceeding 3.6 metres in height must be set back from the rear boundary a minimum of 5.5 metres for standard lots. Note: the 5.5 metre set back does not apply to Stage 31 where the set back is a minimum of 3 metres.

The maximum height of a building facing a rear boundary must not exceed the maximum building height allowed by the side envelope

profile as shown in the Profile Diagrams, or a height limit for a rear setback as dimensioned on the Building Envelope plan.

**(vi) Walls on boundaries**

Unless otherwise noted on the Building Envelopes, walls and associated parts of a building within 1.0 metre of a boundary are restricted to areas within a Building to Boundary Zone (BBZ). The BBZ spans the length of the side boundary between the front and rear setbacks permitted by this Building Envelope. Total length of walls in the BBZ is limited to 60% of the length of the boundary except for terrace style lots where walls are permitted to the extent of the nominated BBZ.

Unless noted otherwise building to the boundary is allowable to one side only.

Within the BBZ, the following apply:

- Walls within the Building to Boundary Zone are allowed.
- Carports and verandahs are not permitted to be built to the boundary.
- Maximum height of a wall in the BBZ is restricted to 3.6 metres.
- Walls less than 1.0 metres from the boundary must be within 200 mm of the boundary.

**(vii) Encroachments**

**Side, Side Street and Rear:** The following may encroach into the specified setback distances by not more than 600 mm: For the purposes of these guidelines, gutters are not a measured item.

- Porches, eaves, verandahs
- Masonry chimneys
- Screens, but only to the extent needed to protect a neighbouring property from a direct view
- Water tanks
- Heating and cooling equipment and other services

The following may encroach into the specified setback distances:

- Landings with an area of not more than 2 square metres and less than 0.8 metres high
- Unroofed stairways and ramps
- Pergolas
- Shade sails
- Eaves, fascia, gutters

**Front:** The following may encroach into the specified front street setback distances by no more than 1500 mm: For the purposes of these guidelines, gutters are not a measured item.

- Porches and verandahs to a maximum height of 4m.
- Decks and uncovered landings of not more than 2 square metres and less than 0.8 metres high from natural ground
- Eaves.

**(viii) Edge Boundary**

Exemptions relating to side setbacks and relating to siting matters do not apply to an Edge Boundary.

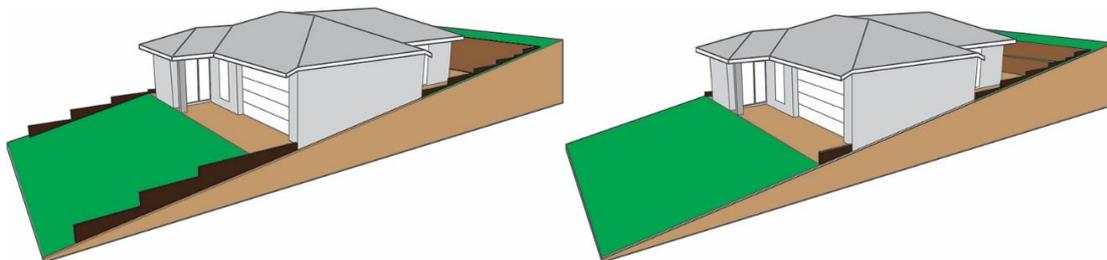
### **3.6 BUILDING HEIGHT**

The maximum building height is 9 metres above the natural surface level of the ground directly below it. A maximum rise of 2 storeys is permitted.

For the purpose of the Guidelines, a maximum wall height of 7.2 metres is permitted above natural ground level. Natural ground/surface level is defined as the ground level after engineering works associated with the subdivision have been completed. Sloping sites which may allow additional built area under the ground floor level will be considered and may be approved depending upon overall design and setback requirements. Large bulk excavations or high retaining walls are not permitted. For the purpose of these Guidelines retaining walls greater than 1m are considered excessive.

### **3.7 SLOPE CONSIDERATIONS**

Houses and garages should be sited and designed to take advantage of the natural slope conditions at Rathdowne. Split level designs, for example, can be designed to follow the fall of the land and avoid unsightly and expensive earthworks that scar the natural landscape.



*Correct level of excavation*

*Incorrect level of excavation*

Unsightly cut or fill should be avoided and limited to 1.0m in depth. Landscaped terraces are preferred as per below with engineer-designed retaining walls.

### **3.8 SITE COVERAGE**

Unless otherwise specified in the notations to the Building Envelopes as they apply to particular allotments, buildings must not occupy more than 60 per cent of the lot.

In calculating site coverage, eaves, fascia and gutters not exceeding 600 mm in total width, and unroofed swimming pools, terraces, patios, decks and pergolas should be disregarded. Roofed areas of terraces, patios, decks and pergolas are to be included in overall calculations.

Please be aware of the building regulations with regards to timber framed structures such as pergolas, verandahs and decks. Refer VBA's [Minimum setback for decks information sheet](#)

Those lots noted accordingly such as small lot housing or terrace style lots in the Building Envelopes may have maximum permitted site coverage of 70% but must have a private open space area that measures 25m<sup>2</sup> with a minimum dimension of 3 metres in width.

## 4. BUILT FORM

### 4.1 ARCHITECTURAL STYLE

At Rathdowne, high standards of house design will be required, and a variety of styles are encouraged. Designs should be responsive to the individual attributes of the lot, having regard to any slope or vegetation. Designs that break the front of the dwelling into distinct visual elements will be supported.

At Rathdowne, there are four precincts (as described in the Annexure A Precinct Plan); each precinct owners are encouraged to provide a design that reflects the precinct.

**Precinct 1**, Urban Village - contemporary feel with a dynamic community space with contemporary planting and open spaces.

**Precinct 2**, Eden Fields - contemporary feel, active village and open space reserves.

**Precinct 3**, Waterway Edge - a contemporary feel, architecturally creative to maximise views of the waterways.

**Precinct 4**, New Haven - contemporary feel, premium village feel with open space & conservation reserves tree lined streets and high end landscape treatments.

The inclusion of projections integral to the design and style of the dwellings such as verandahs are encouraged. Further enhancement can be achieved through the use of detail and shade in the form of pergolas and extended eaves.

Houses with identical facades may not be constructed in close proximity and identical houses must be separated by a minimum of five houses in any direction. This will only be permitted where lots are less than 300sqm and are located next to each other, but do not share a common street frontage. The appearance of dwellings should provide a degree of richness and variety ensuring the creation of pleasant, interesting streetscapes.

Houses which have long uninterrupted expanses of wall should be avoided. Features, which may detract from the appearance of a house from the street, including small windows, obscure glass, window security shields, canvas and metal awnings, will be discouraged.

Mock period style homes such as French provincial will not be permitted. Big boxy two storey homes with minimal or no articulation between ground and first floors will not be permitted.

### 4.2 MATERIALS AND COLOURS

The materials and colours of the walls and roofs of houses will have a major impact on the visual quality of Rathdowne. The use of a combination of finishes is encouraged for achieving a degree of individuality and interest.

Thoughtful selection of materials and colours will achieve a degree of visual harmony between houses and will avoid colours that are out of character with neighbouring houses. For these reasons, purchasers are requested to submit roof and wall materials and colours for approval. Colours which reflect the natural tones of the environment at Rathdowne are recommended.

### **External Walls**

- The external walls (excluding windows) are to be constructed of brick, brick veneer, texture coated material, weatherboard or other material as approved by the DAP. Colours of trims should be selected to complement the main body of the house & the natural environment.
- Dwellings must have at least 30% render to the front facade or other texture coated material as approved by the DAP.

### **Roofs**

- The roof is to be constructed of steel or masonry or as approved by the DAP. Roof colours which reflect the natural tones of the environment at Rathdowne are recommended and the use of Colorbond is encouraged.
- New Haven Precinct – all homes shall have eaves of at least 450mm width to all sides of the roof. Garage side walls that abut a lot boundary are exempt from eaves.
- Waterway Edge Precinct, all home directly fronting the waterways require eaves of at least 450mm width to all sides of the roof, all other lots within this precinct are encouraged to consider eaves of minimum 450mm to all sides of the roof.
- Eden Fields and Urban Village Precincts – all homes fronting any reserve require to have eaves of at least 450mm width to all sides of the roof.

### **4.3 DWELLING SIZE**

The minimum dwelling size is:

- 160 square metres in the case of a lot having an area of 500 square metres or greater; or
- 130 square metres in the case of a lot having an area of 400 square metres or greater but less than 500 square metres; or
- 100 square metres in the case of a lot having an area of 300 square metres or greater but less than 400 square metres; or
- 75 square metres in the case of a lot having an area of less than 300 square metres.

### **4.4 TERRACE AND DUPLEX STYLE DWELLINGS**

Terrace style and duplex dwellings and dwellings on lots less than 10 metres wide must have a greater degree of articulation to the front facades. Stepping of the materials and the use of alternate materials must be incorporated to accentuate the articulation. Consideration of garage location and treatment must be considered so as not to dominate the streetscape.

#### **4.5 TWO STOREY DWELLINGS**

All two storey dwellings must be articulated to the front façade as a minimum, alternate materials are encouraged as a method of providing the visual break from a monotone and bleak façade. Treatments such as pergolas, verandahs etc. are recommended to break the line of sight. This recommendation also reflects to double storeys dwellings to corner allotments.

It is important to ensure that two-storey houses are designed and sited correctly to minimise overlooking and overshadowing. It is recommended that initial concepts for two-storey houses be discussed with the DAP.

The articulation of the front of the upper level of two-storey houses is encouraged to avoid dominating the streetscape.

#### **4.6 CORNER ALLOTMENTS**

The home design must address both the primary and secondary street frontages and be of a consistent architectural design.

Design elements (such as balconies, verandahs, detailing, feature windows & materials) used on the primary frontage must continue on that part of the secondary frontage that is visible from the public realm.

#### **4.7 ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

An energy smart home takes advantage of the sun's free warmth and light and, with the inclusion of energy efficient appliance and systems, will save a great deal of energy.

Well-designed homes reduce the demand on heating and cooling. Any style of house can be energy efficient. Energy smart homes have a combination of features which work together to ensure you achieve the highest degree of comfort with minimum energy use.

Homes at Rathdowne must achieve a minimum of 7 Star Energy Rating in accordance with the Victoria Home Energy Rating System or greater if legislated by the building regulations. An energy rating certificate will not be required prior to DAP approval; however, a certificate will be required prior to obtaining a Building Permit.

Due to changes to the National Construction Code all new homes built after 1 May 2024 may need to achieve a minimum 7-Star rating when using the Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme (NatHERS). You should consider whether these new requirements will apply to you. For information about the new requirements see NCC 2022 (available at <https://ncc.abcb.gov.au/>) and contact your local State building regulator. Achieving a 7-star rating may result in increased build costs.

#### **4.8 ROOFS**

Articulated roof shapes are preferred with hips and gable roof forms, coastal skillion roof styles and higher degrees of pitch encouraged, although each design will be considered on its merits by the DAP.

Houses on lots fronting the Rathdowne Blvd or North Street (key northern road that starts at the intersection at Craigieburn Road East, and continues all throughout the development to the northern district active open space or a water body must have 450mm eaves.

#### **4.9 GARAGES**

The garage and family car(s) have a significant impact on the streetscape. The design and location of garages should endeavour to make them an integral and unobtrusive part of the house. All homes must allow for an enclosed garage for car accommodation.

Double garages must be provided for on lots greater than 12.5 metres in width. Garages must be constructed within the Building Envelope and sited a minimum of 5 metres from the front street boundary. The garage setback also applies for entry to the garage from the side street boundary. This applies for standard lots greater than 12.5 metre frontages.

Terrace style lots may have garage access from alternate roads at the rear of the site, in the case that this occurs as nominated on the building envelope plan, then the siting of the garage must be located within the confines of the building envelope plan. Generally, a 1 metre pedestrian access path must be left from the rear of the lot beside the garage.

Setbacks for single garages for lots less than 12.5 metres, terrace and duplex style lots are nominated on the building envelopes.

It is preferable for garages to be constructed under the main roof of the house. If garages are free standing and/or visible from the street, they should match the roof form and be constructed of the same materials as the house. The garage may be constructed to the side boundary, depending on the location of adjacent buildings and garages relative to the side boundaries and whether permitted by the Building Envelope. Deep excavations on the boundary will not be permitted - this would cause detriment to adjoining properties.

Secondary garages are discouraged. The design for an additional garage would need to be discussed with the DAP. Garages greater than double width have to be stepped back and well-articulated and are permitted only on lots greater than 16 metres. One crossover is permitted to each lot frontage.

When designing garages, consideration must be given to the screening of boats, caravans and trailers and for 'drive-through' access to the rear yard. The garage door is a major visual element of the streetscape and doors facing the street must be panelled and of a colour which complements the house. The inclusion of windows, recesses or projections in the garage door should be considered to present an interesting and integrated façade.



#### **4.10 OVERSHADOWING**

This item is covered within the building envelope plan and profile diagrams. Building Regulation 81, 82, & 83 is superseded by this Guideline.

#### **4.11 PRIVACY AND OVERLOOKING**

This item is covered within the building envelope plan and profile diagrams. Building Regulation 84 is superseded by this Guideline.

## 5. EXTERNAL CONSIDERATIONS

### 5.1 ACCESS AND DRIVEWAYS

Driveways are a major visual element at Rathdowne and should be constructed using materials that blend with or complement the dwelling textures and colours. Only one driveway will be permitted for each lot, unless there are special circumstances, if so these need to be discussed and confirmed with the DAP.

Driveways must not be wider than 5 metres at the street boundary of a lot and planting between the driveway and property boundary is encouraged.

Driveways must be constructed of brick and/or concrete pavers, coloured concrete, saw-cut coloured concrete, or concrete with exposed aggregate. Plain concrete is not permitted.

New Haven Precinct – driveways must be constructed of concrete with exposed aggregate



*Example of exposed aggregate concrete.*

All driveways must be completed prior to the Occupancy Permit being issued.

### 5.2 FENCES

The objective of the DAP is to provide a degree of uniformity throughout the estate and thereby avoid an untidy mix of various fence standards, colours and types. To enhance the park-like character of the estate, no front fencing will be permitted.

Fences may be stained with a clear finish but must not be painted with coloured stains or paint unless they are a corner lot side fence that fronts the street. Corner lot side fences fronting the street may be stained with a clear finish or painted the following colours:

- Colorbond Monument;
- Colorbond Ironstone; or
- Dulux Taihape – NZ10H3.

On side boundaries, no fencing is permitted forward of the building line.

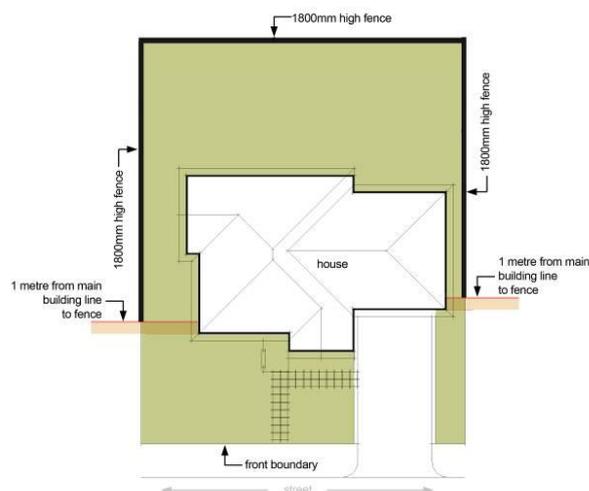
All side and rear fences are to be constructed of timber palings with exposed posts and capped across the top to a maximum height of 1.8 metres (excluding a screen required for overlooking purposes).

All fencing must be constructed in accordance with the Creation of Restriction as detailed on the relevant Plan of Subdivision and as approved in writing by the DAP. For the purposes of these Guidelines, the prescribed fence height of 1.8 metres to the side street, side and rear boundaries will be exempt from the provisions of the Building Regulations.

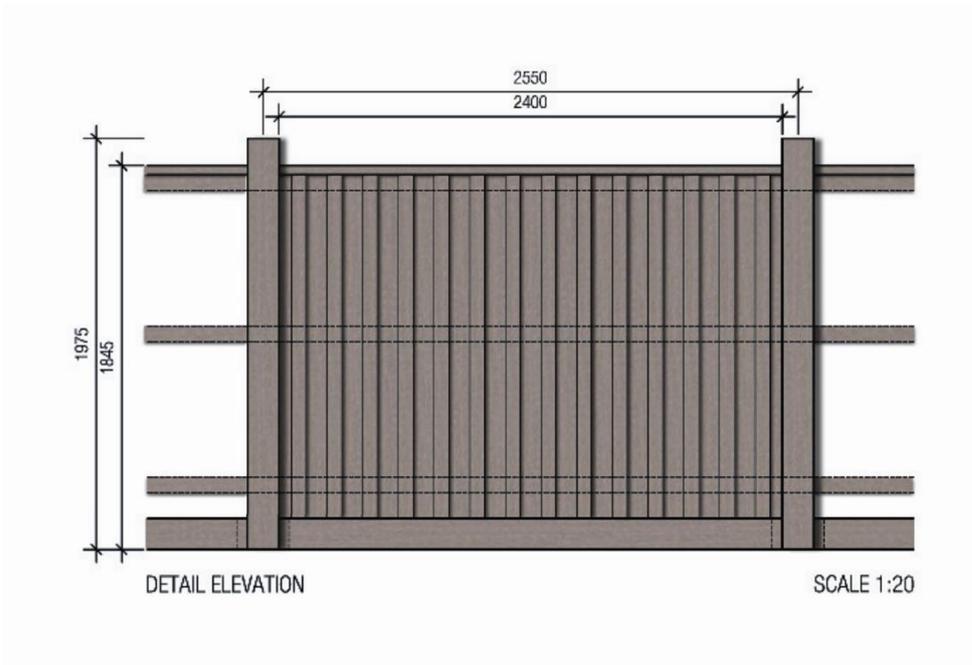
Lots facing a side street must comply with the building regulations regarding height and setbacks.

Lots sharing a fence with an electricity substation will be advised at DAP approval on the plans of the extent of fence required i.e. fences will likely extend beyond the front building line of the home in this instance only

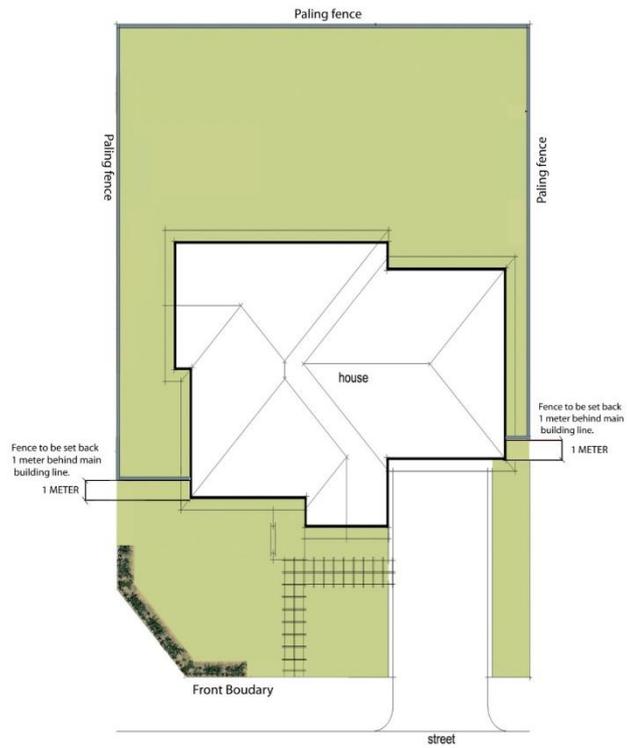
Fences permitted by the Guidelines are not deemed to overshadow the recreational private open space on the allotment.



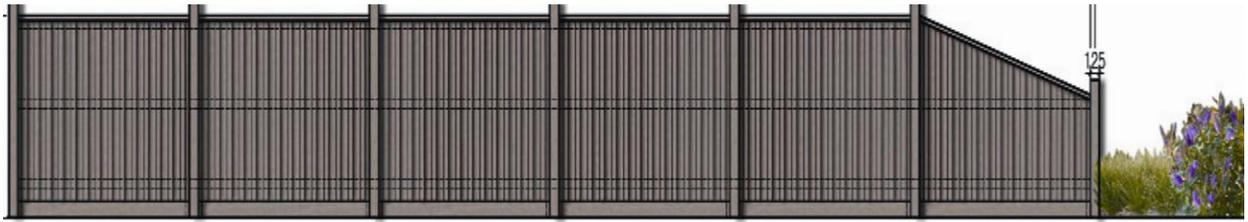
*Depiction of typical boundary fencing location*



*Elevations of typical paling fence*



*Depiction of corner lot fence*



*Side boundary fence elevation*

### **5.3 WATER SAVING INITIATIVES**

All homes must provide for a connection to the recycled water network for use in garden taps, toilet flushing, car washing and the like at the cost of the lot owner.

All residents are encouraged to consider other water saving initiatives in the home including:

- Grey water systems
- Rain water tanks
- Solar hot water systems
- Energy efficient tap ware and appliances

### **5.4 LETTERBOXES**

Letterboxes should be designed to match the house using similar materials and colours and must be erected prior to occupancy permit.

The size and position of the letterbox must comply with Australia Post requirements. The street number must be clearly identifiable, suitably sized and located and must not interfere with the overall streetscape.



*Acceptable*

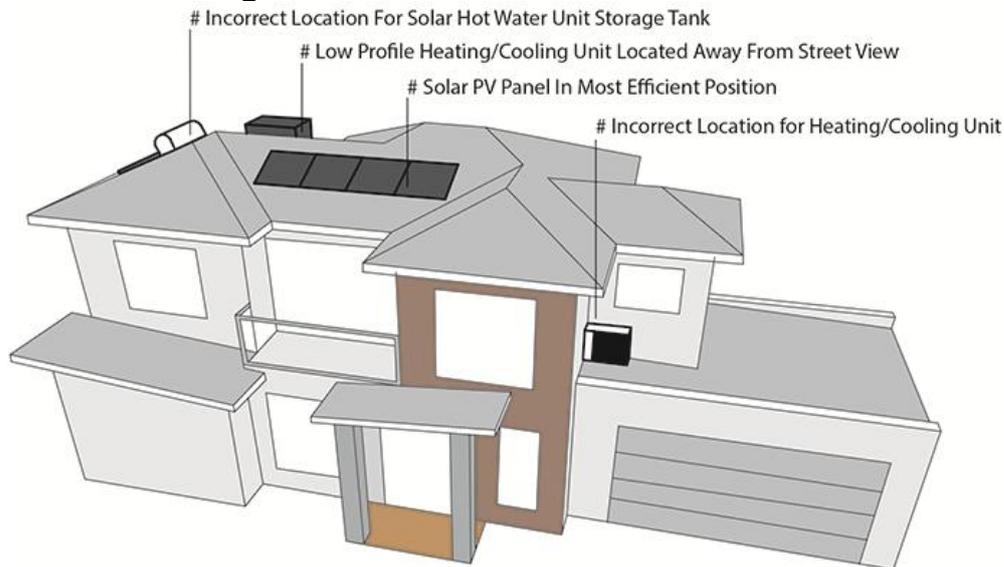


*Not acceptable*

## 5.5 GENERAL

External fixtures must achieve the following objectives and the location must be noted on plans to be submitted to the DAP:

**Clothes-lines, Garden Sheds, External Hot Water Services and Ducted Heating Units** must not be visible from the street.



**Solar Water Heaters** are permitted and, where possible, are to be located out of view from the street frontage. The solar panels shall be located on the roof, not on a separate frame.

**Solar Panels** – (photovoltaic) are encouraged and not restricted.

### **Air-Conditioning Units**

Evaporative air-conditioners must be positioned so that they are not visible from the main frontage of the dwelling. They must be painted to match the colour of the roof, be low profile units and installed as low as possible below the roof ridgeline towards the rear of the house. Wall mounted air-conditioners must be located below the eaves line, screened from public view and suitably baffled to reduce noise.



LOW PROFILE & POSITIONED AT REAR  
ACCEPTABLE



STANDARD UNIT IN CLEAR VIEW OF STREET  
NOT ACCEPTABLE

**Television Antennae** are not permitted as television services are available through the Opticomm Fibre Network.

**Satellite Dishes** will only be approved if located below the roofline of the house and must be screened from public view.

**Rainwater Tanks** must be not visible from the street frontage. No external **Plumbing** to a dwelling shall be visible from a street or dwelling. All plumbing on double-storey houses, except downpipes, must be internal so as not to be visible from the street or neighbouring properties.

**External lighting** including spotlights, flood lights and any lights illuminating any outdoor area are to be approved by the DAP and the use of LED or solar lighting is encouraged.

**Rubbish Bins & Recycling** Bins should be stored out of view from the street.

**Commercial Vehicles** with a carrying capacity of 1 tonne or more or any boat, caravan or trailer shall not be permitted to be parked on a lot so that it is visible from any street.

### **Advertising Signage**

Signage is not permitted on residential lots with the following exceptions:

- Only one advertising sign will be permitted to be erected on a lot that is being advertised for resale AND only after the developer has sold and settled ALL lots in the Rathdowne community.
- Display home signage will be permitted but only with the written approval of the DAP and the council.

Builders or tradespersons identification required during construction of the dwelling to a maximum size of 600mm x 600mm. Such signs must be removed within 10 days of the issue of the Occupancy Permit.

### **Sheds**

Sheds should be restricted in size and must be in harmony with the other buildings. Permission for sheds under 9m<sup>2</sup> do not require DAP approval, sheds greater than 9m<sup>2</sup> require both DAP approval and a building permit. It is the responsibility of the Purchaser to ensure that the requirements relating to location, size and height for all outbuildings adhere to governing authority requirements. Sheds must not be greater than 3 metres in height.

All sheds are to be erected with a muted/earthy colour tones, colorbond material is acceptable.

### **Carports**

No carports are permitted to the front of the dwelling.

### **Pools**

Swimming Pools do not require the approval of the DAP.

### **Window Furnishings**

Internal window furnishings which can be viewed by the public must be fitted within three months of occupancy. Sheets, blankets or similar materials for which window furnishing is not their primary use will not be permitted.

## 5.6 LANDSCAPING AND TREE PROTECTION

### **General Guidelines**

The garden design will require careful thought to ensure that the appropriate plants are selected for the particular lot conditions.

The objective is to achieve a cohesive blend of indigenous vegetation and other landscape elements, integrating street and parkland landscaping with private gardens so that the streetscape presents as a landscaped garden.

Landscape design and plant selection should minimise the need for garden watering. No tree or shrub with a mature height greater than 3 metres should be planted closer than 2 metres to the house. Purchasers should make their own enquiries with the Council and obtain a list of allowable vegetation.

### **Front Gardens**

All landscaped areas to the front of the house must be established within three months of the issuing of the Occupancy Permit to ensure good presentation is achieved for the local community. The front garden should include a variety of plants, lawn, garden beds that incorporate ground covers, small to medium shrubs and at least one advanced feature tree in a 75 litre pot when purchased. Artificial Turf is not permitted.



*Examples of acceptable landscaping treatments.*

### **Embankments**

Embankments should not exceed a slope of 1 in 5. Retaining walls are preferred to steep embankments and should be kept to a maximum height of 1 metre – a number of small terraces are preferred.



*Not acceptable*



*Acceptable*

## **5.7 CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT**

During the construction period, the builder must install a temporary fence and ensure that rubbish and building waste is contained within the building site. Damage to nature strips caused during the construction period is solely the responsibility of the landowner and their builder.

## **5.8 BROADBAND NETWORK**

Rathdowne is an OptiComm Fibre Connected Community. This means that all homes in Rathdowne will have access to the OptiComm high speed broadband network. Some benefits of high speed broadband are:

- Distribution of analogue and digital free to air television
- Ultra-high speed internet - even in high usage times and not affected by distance from an exchange
- Pay TV - choice of providers
- External aerials and satellite dishes are not required

### ***What you need to do to prepare for High Speed Broadband:***

#### ***Step 1. Conduit (Pipe) Installation***

Ensure your builder has installed a 25 mm white telecommunications conduit from the front boundary of your lot to the meter box location on the side of your house.

Your builder will install the conduit, which will need to be installed during the construction of your home.

#### ***Step 2. Prepare your home to be able to distribute the Internet, Telephone, TV and other services throughout your rooms***

Structured Cabling of your home is optional, but highly recommended, as it will enable you to take advantage of all features the Rathdowne Optical Fibre Network has to offer. It is recommended that you arrange a quote to cable your new home from your builder or OptiComm's contractors early in your construction phase or at contract negotiation as the wiring should be done at the frame stage of construction. Structured Cabling is an additional cost to the conduit and customer connection.

#### ***Step 3. Connection to the Optical Fibre Network***

When you have received your Certificate of Occupancy or are about two (2) weeks before you move in, call OptiComm's Customer Connection Information Desk on 1300 137 800 to arrange the connection to the Optical Fibre Network.

The typical customer connection cost is \$550.00 incl. GST and includes the following services:

- Installation of Optical Network Terminal and the Power Supply Unit (back-up battery not included)
- Access to Free to Air Digital and Analogue (if available) TV signals
- Access to Foxtel Pay TV signals (resident to arrange for Foxtel connection at their cost)

#### ***Step 4. Contact a Retail Internet and Telephone Service Provider***

Finally, the last step involves contacting a Retail Service Provider to arrange the connection of your Retail Internet and Telephone Services (see details over page). You will be contracting the Retail Service Provider to provide

the Internet and Telephone Services over the OptiComm Wholesale Network.

Hints when discussing your requirements:

- Tell them you are in an OptiComm Fibre Community
- Make sure you tell them you are at Rathdowne in Mickleham
- Make sure you give them your full address
- Tell them whether you have moved in yet
- Advise them whether you have had OptiComm install the Optic Fibre and Hardware in the enclosure near your meter box - this will affect the time it takes to connect services
- If speaking with Foxtel make sure you tell them you are in an OptiComm Fibre Estate and the "ONT" (Optical Network Terminal) is installed

For further information please refer to:

<http://www.opticomm.net.au/>

## 6. NOTES AND DEFINITIONS

### 6.1 NOTES ON RESTRICTIONS

- Ground level after engineering works associated with the subdivision is to be regarded as natural ground level.
- In the case of a conflict between the Building Envelope plan or Profile Diagrams and these written notations, the specifications in the written notations prevail.
- Buildings must not cover registered easements unless provided for by the easement.

### 6.2 GENERAL DEFINITIONS

If not defined above, the words below shall have the meaning attributed to them in the document identified:

In the *Building Act 1993*:

- Building
- Lot

In Part 5 of *Building Regulations 2018*:

- Clear to the sky
- Height
- Private open space
- Recreational private open space
- Raised open space
- Setback
- Site coverage
- Window
- Single dwelling
- North (true north)

In the *Victoria Planning Provisions*, 31 October 2002:

- Frontage (Clause 72)
- Dwelling (Clause 74)
- Habitable room (Clause 72)
- Storey (Clause 72)

### 6.3 ADDITIONAL DEFINITIONS

#### Edge Boundary

Edge Boundary means the boundary or part of a boundary of a lot on the Plan of Subdivision that abuts a lot, which is not shown on the Plan of Subdivision. An Edge Boundary lot is marked "E" on the Building Envelope plan.

**Front street or Main Street frontage**

Front Street means the street or road that forms the frontage to the lot concerned. Where there is more than one road which adjoins a lot or where it may be otherwise unclear, the Front Street may be identified by the letter "F" in the Building Envelope Plan or will be as agreed in writing by the DAP.

**Side boundary**

A boundary of a lot that runs between and connects the street frontage of the lot to the rear boundary of the lot.

**Street**

For the purposes of determining street setbacks, street means any road other than a lane, footway, alley or right of way.

**Standard lot**

A single lot that accommodates a freestanding house detached from adjoining houses and of an individual style.

## 7. BUILDING ENVELOPES

**Refer attached Building Envelopes**

Building regulation 74, 75, 76, 79, 80, 81, 83, 83, 84 & 85 are superseded by the Approved Building Envelopes.

To be read in conjunction with Building Envelope Profiles (refer Section 8) and Rathdowne Plan of Subdivision for each relevant stage.

## 8. BUILDING ENVELOPE PROFILES

**Refer attached Building Envelope Profiles**

To be read in conjunction with Building Envelopes (refer Section 7) and Rathdowne Plan of Subdivision for relevant stage.

# APPENDIX A – PRECINCT PLAN