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HERITAGE PLACES IN THE CAPITAL CITY ZONE

This policy applies to all places within the Heritage Overlay within the Capital City Zone (CCZ).

PART A

This Part of the policy applies to properties categorised significant, contributory or non-contributory in an incorporated document to this scheme.

Policy Basis

Melbourne's Municipal Strategic Statement identifies heritage as a defining characteristic of the municipality.

Heritage places encompass individual heritage places and heritage precincts.

Within the CCZ heritage places contribute to the significance of Melbourne as the cultural, administrative, educational and economic centre of the State and its importance both nationally and internationally. These places are fundamental to understanding the depth of its historic character as it developed on and extended from the Hoddle Grid. Their conservation enhances the appeal of the CCZ as a place to live, work, invest and visit.

The management of heritage places in the CCZ faces the challenge of the greater intensity of development in the CCZ relative to other parts of the city and the different built form outcomes which result from this.

This policy provides guidance on conserving and enhancing heritage places and is informed by the conservation principles, processes and practices of the *Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter*. The *Burra Charter* encourages the conservation, preservation and restoration of heritage places, and facilitates development which enhances the heritage place and is compatible and in keeping with its cultural heritage values.

This policy should be applied in conjunction with Statements of Significance as incorporated into this scheme.

Definitions

Term	Definition
Alteration	An alteration is to modify the fabric of a heritage place, without undertaking building works such as an addition.
Assessed significance	The assessed significance of an individual heritage place or heritage precinct is identified in the relevant Statement of Significance, as contained in the place citation. This normally identifies what is significant, how it is significant, and why it is significant.
Concealed/partly concealed	Concealed means cannot be seen from a street (other than a lane, unless the land has heritage value) or public park. Partly concealed means that some of the addition or higher rear part may be visible provided it does not visually dominate or reduce the prominence of the existing building's façade(s) in the street.
Conservation	Conservation means all the processes of looking after a place to retain its heritage significance. It may include one or more of maintenance, preservation, restoration, reconstruction, adaption and interpretation.
Context	The context of a heritage place can include; its setting (as defined under 'setting'), the immediate landholding, adjoining significant or contributory places, and the surrounding area.
Contextual design	A contextual design for new buildings and additions to existing buildings is one which adopts a design approach, derived through analysis of the subject property and its heritage context. Such an approach requires new development to comfortably and harmoniously integrate with the site and the street character.
Contributory heritage place	A contributory heritage place is important for its contribution to a heritage precinct. It is of historic, aesthetic, scientific, social or spiritual significance to the heritage precinct. A contributory heritage place may be valued by the community; a representative example of a place type, period or style; and/or combines with other visually or stylistically related places to

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Term	Definition
	demonstrate the historic development of a heritage precinct. Contributory places are typically externally intact, but may have visible changes which do not detract from the contribution to the heritage precinct.
Cultural significance	Cultural significance means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations.
Enhance	Enhance means to improve the presentation and appearance of a heritage place through restoration, reconstruction or removal of unsympathetic or intrusive elements; and through appropriate development.
Fabric	Fabric means all the physical material of the heritage place.
Facadism	The retention of the exterior face/faces of a building without the three-dimensional built form providing for its/their structural support and understanding of its function.
Front or principal part of a building	The front or principal part of a building is generally considered to be the front two rooms in depth, complete with the structure and cladding to the roof; or that part of the building associated with the primary roof form, whichever is the greater. For residential buildings this is generally 8-10 metres in depth. For most non-residential buildings, the front or principal part is generally considered to be one full structural bay in depth complete with the structure and cladding to the roof or generally 8-10 metres in depth. For corner sites, the front or principal part of a building includes the side street elevation. For sites with more than one street frontage, the front or principal part of a building may relate to each street frontage.
Heritage place	A heritage place has been assessed to have natural or cultural heritage value and can include a site, area or space, building or other works, structure, group of buildings, precinct, archaeological site, landscape, garden or tree.
Heritage precinct	A heritage precinct is an area which has been identified as having heritage value. It is identified as such in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay, and mapped in the Planning Scheme Heritage Overlay Maps.
Individual heritage place	An individual heritage place is equivalent to a significant heritage place. It may be categorised significant within a heritage precinct. It may also have an individual Heritage Overlay control, and be located within or outside a heritage precinct.
Key attributes	The key attributes or important characteristics of a heritage precinct as identified in the precinct Statement of Significance, include building height, massing and form, style and architectural expression, detailing, materials, front and side setbacks and orientation.
Lane	A lane is a narrow road or right of way (ROW) generally abutting the rear or side boundary of a property. It may be paved or unpaved and in public or private ownership and will typically provide vehicle access to adjoining properties.
Maintenance	Maintenance means the continuous protective care of a place, and its setting, and is distinguished from repair which involves restoration or reconstruction.
Massing	Massing means the arrangement of a building's bulk and its articulation into parts.
Non-contributory	A non-contributory place does not make a contribution to the cultural significance or historic character of the heritage precinct.
Preservation	Preservation is maintaining the fabric of a place in its existing state and retarding deterioration.
Reconstruction	Reconstruction means returning a place to a known earlier state, and is distinguished from restoration by the introduction of new material.
Respectful and interpretive	Respectful means a modern design approach to new buildings, additions and alterations to buildings, in which historic building size and form are adopted, and proportions and details are referenced but not directly copied, and sympathetic colours and materials are used. Interpretive means a looser and simplified modern interpretation of historic building form, details and materials.
Restoration	Restoration means returning a place to a known earlier state by removing accretions or later additions, or by reassembling existing elements. It is distinguished from reconstruction through not introducing new material.

Term	Definition
Services and ancillary fixtures	Services and ancillary fixtures include, but are not limited to, satellite dishes, shade canopies and sails, solar panels, water storage tanks, disabled access ramps and handrails, air conditioners, cooling or heating systems and hot water services.
Setting	Setting means the immediate and extended environment of a heritage place that is part of or contributes to its significance.
Streetscape	A streetscape is a collection of buildings along a street frontage. When referred to in relation to a precinct, a streetscape typically contains a majority of buildings which are categorised significant or contributory.
Significant streetscape (as referred to in this policy)	Significant 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 a collection of buildings significant in their own right.
Significant heritage place	A significant heritage place is individually important at state or local level, and a heritage place in its own right. It is of historic, aesthetic, scientific, social or spiritual significance to the municipality. A significant heritage place may be highly valued by the community; is typically externally intact; and/or has notable features associated with the place type, use, period, method of construction, siting or setting. When located in a heritage precinct a significant heritage place can make an important contribution to the precinct.
Use	Use means the functions of a place, including the activities and traditional and customary practices which may occur at the place or are dependent on the place.
Visible	Visible means anything that can be seen from a street (other than a lane, unless the lane is identified as having heritage value) or public park.

Category of heritage places

The category (significant, contributory or non-contributory) of properties is identified in the incorporated document *Heritage Places Inventory February 2020 Part A* or another incorporated document to this Scheme - Significant streetscapes are also identified in these incorporated documents.

Policy Objectives

- To conserve and enhance Melbourne's heritage places.
- To retain fabric, which contributes to the significance, character or appearance of heritage places and precincts.
- To recognise and conserve the assessed significance of heritage places and streetscapes, as referenced in this policy or incorporated into this planning scheme as the basis for consideration of development and works. Further information may be considered, including in relation to streetscapes, where there is limited information in the existing citation or council documentation.
- To ensure new development is respectful of the assessed significance of heritage places.
- To ensure new development is respectful of the character and appearance of heritage places.
- To encourage high quality contextual design for new development, which avoids replication of historic forms and details.
- To encourage retention of the three dimensional fabric and form of a building.
- To discourage facadism.
- To encourage the adaptive reuse of heritage places.
- To ensure new development is consistent with the conservation principles, processes and practices of the *Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter*.
- To enhance the presentation and appearance of heritage places through restoration and, where evidence exists, reconstruction of original or contributory fabric.

- To protect significant views and vistas to heritage places.
- To promote the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Permit Application Requirements

The following, where relevant, may be required to be lodged with a permit application:

- Where major development is proposed to significant heritage places, the preparation of a Conservation Management Plan (CMP), which is in accordance with the Heritage Council of Victoria's *Conservation Management Plans: Managing Heritage Places A Guide 2010*.
- The preparation of a Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) which is in accordance with Heritage Victoria's *Guidelines for preparing Heritage Impact Statements*. In a heritage precinct, the HIS should address impacts on adjoining significant or contributory buildings and the immediate heritage context, in addition to impacts on the subject place.
- Further information where there is limited information in an existing citation or council documentation.
- An arboricultural report where works will or may affect significant vegetation (as listed in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay or vegetation of assessed significance). The report should, where relevant, address landscape significance, arboricultural condition, impacts on the vegetation and impacts on the assessed significance of the heritage precinct.
- For development in heritage precincts, sight lines, and heights of existing and adjoining buildings, streetscape elevations, photos and 3D model, as necessary to determine the impact of the proposed development.
- A comprehensive explanation as to how the proposed development achieves the policy objectives.

Assessment of Planning Applications

Planning applications are to be assessed against the policy objectives and the policies set out below.

Demolition

It is policy that:

- The demolition of a non-contributory place will generally be permitted.
- Full demolition of significant or contributory buildings will not generally be permitted.
- Partial demolition in the case of significant buildings, and of significant elements or the front or principal part of contributory buildings will not generally be permitted.
- Retention of the three dimensional form is encouraged; facadism is discouraged.
- The adaptive reuse of a heritage place is encouraged as an alternative to demolition.
- The poor structural or aesthetic condition of a significant or contributory building will not be considered justification for permitting demolition.
- A demolition permit not be granted until the proposed replacement building or works have been approved.
- Fences and outbuildings which contribute to the cultural significance of the heritage place are not demolished.

Before deciding on an application for full or partial demolition, the responsible authority will consider, as appropriate:

- The assessed significance of the heritage place or building.

- The character and appearance of the proposed building or works and their effect on the historic, social and architectural values of the heritage place, and the street.
- The significance of the fabric or part of the building, and the degree to which it contributes to its three-dimensional form, regardless of whether it is visible.
- Whether the demolition or removal of any part of the building contributes to the long-term conservation of the significant fabric of the building.
- Whether the demolition will adversely affect the conservation of the heritage place.
- Whether there are any exceptional circumstances.

Where approval is granted for full demolition of a significant building, a recording program including, but not limited to, archival photographic recording and/ or measured drawings maybe required prior to demolition, to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

Alterations

It is policy that:

External fabric which contributes to the cultural significance of the heritage place, on any part of a significant building, and on any visible part of a contributory building, should be preserved.

Alterations to non-contributory buildings and fabric are respectful of, and do not detract from the assessed significance of the heritage precinct.

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

Removal of paint from original unpainted masonry or other surfaces be encouraged provided it can be undertaken without damage to the heritage place.

Reconstruction of an original awning or verandah is based on evidence of the original form, detailing and materials.

Any new awning or verandah is an appropriate contextual design response compatible with the location on the heritage place and one that can be removed without loss of fabric that contributes to the cultural value of the heritage place.

Before deciding on an application to alter the fabric of a significant or contributory building, the responsible authority will consider, as appropriate:

- The assessed cultural significance of the building and heritage place.
- The degree to which the alterations would detract from the significance, character and appearance of the building and heritage place.
- Its structural condition.
- The character and appearance of the proposed replacement materials.
- Whether the alterations can be reversed without loss of fabric which contributes to the significance of the heritage place.

Additions

It is policy that:

Additions to buildings in a heritage precinct are respectful of and in keeping with:

- 'Key attributes' of the heritage precinct, as identified in the precinct Statement of Significance.
- Precinct characteristics including building height, massing and form; style and architectural expression; details; materials; front and side setbacks; and orientation.
- Character and appearance of nearby significant and contributory buildings.
- Where abutting a lane, the scale and form of heritage fabric as it presents to the lane.

It is policy that:

Additions to significant or contributory buildings:

- Are respectful of the building's character and appearance, scale, materials, style and architectural expression.
- Do not visually dominate or visually disrupt the appreciation of the building as it presents to the street.
- Maintain the prominence of the building by setting back the addition behind the front or principal part of the building, and from other visible parts and moderating height.
- Do not build over or extend into the air space directly above the front or principal part of the significant or contributory building.
- Retain significant roof form within the setback from the building façade together with roof elements of original fabric.
- Do not obscure views of façades or elevations associated with the front or principal part of the building.
- Are distinguishable from the original fabric of the building.

The design of additions is to:

- Adopt high quality and respectful contextual design.
- Avoid direct reproduction of the form of historic fabric.
- Adopt an interpretive design approach to other details such as verandahs, fences, and shopfronts.

New Buildings

It is policy that:

New buildings are in keeping with 'key attributes' of the heritage precinct as identified in the precinct Statement of Significance and:

- Key attributes of the heritage precinct such as:
 - Building height, massing and form; style and architectural expression; details; materials; front and side setbacks; and orientation and fencing.
 - Prevailing streetscape height and scale.
- Do not obscure views from the street(s) and public parks of the front or principal part of adjoining significant or contributory places or buildings.
- Do not visually dominate or visually disrupt the appreciation of the heritage place.
- Maintain a façade height which is consistent with that of adjoining significant or contributory buildings, whichever is the lesser.
- Set back higher building components so as not to dominate or reduce the prominence of an adjoining significant or contributory place or building.
- Do not adopt a façade height which is significantly lower than prevailing heights in the street.
- Are neither positioned forward of the façade of adjoining significant or contributory heritage places or buildings, or set back significantly behind the prevailing building line in the street. New buildings should be positioned in line with the prevailing building line in the street.
- Do not build over or extend into the air space directly above the front or principal part of an adjoining significant or contributory building or heritage place.

- Where abutting a lane, are respectful of the scale and form of historic fabric of heritage places abutting the lane.
- Do not impact adversely on Aboriginal cultural heritage values.

The design of new buildings is to:

- Adopt high quality and respectful contextual design.
- Adopt an interpretive design approach to other details such as verandahs, fences and shopfronts.

Restoration and Reconstruction

It is policy to encourage the restoration and/or reconstruction of a heritage place.

Any reconstructive or restoration buildings and/or works to any part of a significant building, or any visible part of a contributory building should form part of an authentic restoration or reconstruction process, or should not preclude such a process at a future date.

Restoration or reconstruction of a building is to be based on evidence of what a building originally looked like. It may be assisted by reference to elements of nearby identical buildings, other parts of the building or early photographs and plans.

Subdivision

It is policy that:

Subdivision of a heritage place:

- Reflect the pattern of development in the street or precinct, whichever is most relevant to the place.
- Maintain appropriate settings and contexts for significant and contributory heritage buildings and places including the retention of any original garden areas, large trees and other features which contribute to the significance of the heritage place.
- Not provide for future development which will visually disrupt the setting and impact on the presentation of the significant or contributory building.
- Provide for three dimensional building envelopes for future built form to each lot proposed.

Subdivision of airspace above heritage buildings, to provide for future development, is discouraged.

Relocation

It is policy that:

- A building be retained in-situ unless it can be shown that the place has a history of relocation and/or is designed for relocation.
- An application to relocate a building should include recording its location on the site prior to relocation and supervision of its relocation by an appropriately qualified person.

Vehicle Accommodation and Access

It is policy that:

The introduction of on-site car parking, garages and carports, and vehicle crossovers is discouraged and should only be permitted where the following performance standards can be met:

- Car parking is located to the rear of the property, where this is an established characteristic.
- Any new garage or carport is placed behind the principal or front part of the building (excluding verandahs, porches, bay windows or similar projecting features), and:
 - it will be visually recessive;
 - it will not conceal an original contributory element of the building (other than a plain side wall); and

- the form, details and materials will be respectful of, but not replicate details of the building.
- Ramps to basement or sub-basement car parking are located to the rear of the property, or to a side street or side lane boundary, where they would not visually disrupt the setting of the significant or contributory building, or impact on the streetscape character.

Fences and Gates

It is policy that:

- where fences or gates to the front or principal part of a heritage place reconstruct an original fence or gate, this is based on evidence of the original form, detailing and materials; or
- the new fence or gate is an appropriate contextual design response, and the style, details and materials are interpretive and consistent with the architectural period of the heritage place and established street characteristics and:
 - it does not conceal views of the building or heritage place; and
 - is a maximum height of 1.5 metres; and
 - is more than 50% transparent.

Trees

It is policy that:

Trees with assessed cultural significance (as noted in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay) be retained wherever possible.

Buildings and works respect trees with assessed cultural significance (noted in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay) by siting proposed new development at a distance that ensures the ongoing health of the tree.

New buildings and works comply with the Australian Standard AS 4970-2009 Protection of Trees on Development Sites for vegetation of assessed significance.

Services and Ancillary Fixtures

It is policy that:

- The installation of services and ancillary fixtures, in particular those that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions or water consumption such as solar panels, solar hot water services or water storage tanks, may be permitted on any visible part of significant or contributory buildings where it can be demonstrated there is no feasible alternative and the services and ancillary fixtures will not detract from the character and appearance of the building or heritage place.
- Items affixed to roofs, such as solar panels, align with the profile of the roof.
- Services and ancillary fixtures are installed in a manner whereby they can be removed without damaging significant fabric.
- For new buildings, services and ancillary fixtures are concealed, integrated or incorporated into the design of the building.

Street Fabric and Infrastructure

It is policy that:

Street furniture, including shelters, seats, rubbish bins, bicycle racks, drinking fountains and the like, is designed and sited to avoid:

- impacts on views to significant or contributory places and contributory elements; and
- physical impacts on bluestone kerbs, channels and gutters, other historic street infrastructure, lanes and street tree plantings.

For existing historic street/lane fabric and infrastructure, restoration, reconstruction and maintenance be carried out in a way that retains the original fabric, form and appearance.

Signage

It is policy that:

Existing signage that is deemed to have heritage value be retained, and not altered or obscured, including historic painted signage.

New signage associated with heritage places:

- Minimise visual clutter
- Not conceal architectural features or details which contribute to the significance of the heritage place.
- Not damage the fabric of the heritage place.
- Be in keeping with historical signage in terms of size and proportion in relation to the heritage place.
- Be placed in locations where they were traditionally placed.
- Be readily removable.
- Address all relevant performance standards of Clause 22.07 – Advertising Signage.

Reference Documents

Central Activities District Conservation Study 1985

Central City (Hoddle Grid) Heritage Review 2011

Bourke Hill Precinct Heritage Review Amendment C240 2015

City North Heritage Review, RBA Architects 2013

East Melbourne & Jolimont Conservation Study 1985

North and West Melbourne Conservation Study 1985 & 1994

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

South Melbourne Conservation Study 1985 & 1998

Harbour, Railway, Industrial Conservation Study 1985

[Hoddle Grid Heritage Review July 2020](#)

[Guildford and Hardware Laneways Heritage Study 2017, Lovell Chen \(Updated October 2018\)](#)

PART B

This Part of the policy applies to properties graded A to D within the *Heritage Places Inventory February 2020 Part B*, and those properties within the suburb of Melbourne that are referred to in the Central City Heritage Study Review, 1993 and not categorised significant or contributory by an incorporated document to this Scheme.

Policy Basis

The heritage of the Capital City Zone area, comprising individual buildings, precincts, significant trees, and Aboriginal archaeological sites, is a significant part of Melbourne's attraction as a place in which to live, visit, do business and invest. It is also important for cultural and sociological reasons, providing a distinctive historical character and a sense of continuity. Much of Melbourne's charm is provided by its older buildings, which, while not always of high individual significance, together provide cultural significance or interest, and should be retained in their three dimensional form, not as two dimensional façades as has sometimes occurred.

The identification, assessment, and citation of heritage places have been undertaken over decades, as part of an ongoing heritage conservation process and their recognition and protection have been

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a crucial component of planning in Melbourne since 1982.

Objectives

- To conserve and enhance all heritage places, and ensure that any alterations or extensions to them are undertaken in accordance with accepted conservation standards.
- To consider the impact of development on buildings listed in the Central Activities District Conservation Study and the South Melbourne Conservation Study.
- To promote the identification, protection and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage values.
- To conserve and enhance the character and appearance of precincts identified as heritage places by ensuring that any new development complements their character, scale, form and appearance.

Policy

The following matters shall be taken into account when considering applications for buildings, works or demolition to heritage places as identified in the Heritage Overlay:

- Proposals for alterations, works or demolition of an individual heritage building or works involving or affecting heritage trees should be accompanied by a conservation analysis and management plan in accordance with the principles of the Australian ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance 1992 (The Burra Charter).
- The demolition or alteration of any part of a heritage place should not be supported unless it can be demonstrated that that action will contribute to the long-term conservation of the significant fabric of the heritage place.
- The impact of proposed developments on aboriginal cultural heritage values, as indicated in an archaeologist's report, for any site known to contain aboriginal archaeological relics.
- The recommendations for individual buildings, sites and areas contained in the Central City Heritage Study Review 1993 except for the buildings detailed in incorporated documents titled Central City (Hoddle Grid) Heritage Review: Statements of Significance June 2013, the Guildford and Hardware Laneways Heritage Study 2017: Statements of Significance, November 2018 ([Amended July 2020](#)), and ~~Hoddle Grid Heritage Review: or~~ [Statements of Significance in the Schedule to Clause 72.04, September 2018](#), in which case the Central City (Hoddle Grid) Heritage Review: Statements of Significance June 2013 or the Guildford and Hardware Laneways Heritage Study 2017: Statements of Significance, November 2018 ([Amended July 2020](#)) or ~~Hoddle Grid Heritage Review: Statements of Significance, September 2018~~ [in the Schedule to Clause 72.04](#) will apply.
- All development affecting a heritage precinct should enhance the character of the precinct as described by the following statements of significance.
- Regard shall be given to buildings listed A, B, C and D or significant and/or contributory in the individual conservation studies, and their significance as described by their individual Building Identification Sheet.

Policy Reference

Urban Conservation in the City of Melbourne 1985

Central Activities District Conservation Study 1985

Harbour, Railways, Industrial Conservation

South Melbourne Conservation Study 1985

Central City (Hoddle Grid) Heritage Review 2011

Bourke Hill Precinct Heritage Review Amendment C240 2015

City North Heritage Review, RBA Architects 2013

Southbank and Fishermans Bend Heritage Review, Biosis and Graeme Butler, 16 June 2017

Hoddle Grid Heritage Review, ~~June 2018~~ [July 2020](#)

