

O'Connor Section Master Plan

Sections 40 , 42 , 43 , 79 and 80

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose

The Territory Plan requires that multi-unit development consisting of more than two dwellings be in accordance with an approved Section Master Plan.

Section Master Plans provide section specific planning and design guidance supplementary to the controls contained in the Territory Plan for the B11 and B12 area specific (Urban Housing) policies and the Urban Housing Code at Appendix III.3 of the Plan.

Master plans for O'Connor Sections 41 and 86 have been completed.

Combined and simplified O'Connor master plans for Sections 40, 42, 43, 79 and 80 are the subjects of this document.

1.2 The Scope of Section Master Plans

The Section Master Plans:

- explain and illustrate how Territory Plan policies will be applied in the sections identified that are subject to B11 and B12 area specific policies;
- set out design objectives and principles for the identified B11 and B12 areas in the neighbourhood that:
 - document and demonstrate the relationship to the community's value statement as contained in the O'Connor Neighbourhood Plan;
 - identify elements of existing urban fabric, streetscape or landscape which warrant protection or consideration including specific character of the sections and surrounding streets and impacts on parking; and

- contain specific master plan requirements and control plans for identified sections indicating the preferred pattern of any redevelopment in terms of the form of resubdivision, arrangements for vehicular access and parking, landscaping and building siting and development staging.

In addition section master plans may identify off-site works that proponents may be required to undertake or contribute to as part of obtaining development approval.

1.3 Revised Format

The format of Section Master Plans has been simplified from those approved before, and including February 2000. The document now contains:

- Part A identifies the Purpose, Scope, Location and relationship of this document to Neighbourhood Planning;
- Part B sets out the existing policy framework, the rationale and the urban design aims for these areas;
- Part C develops these aims into specific principles and development controls;
- Part D contains specific control plans for each section; and
- Part E explains the statutory basis and legislative background to the Section Master Plan.

1.4 Location

The sections covered by this document are located west of Northbourne Ave, east of Sullivans Creek Open Space corridor, north of David Street and south of Wattle Street. Sections 43, 79 and 80 (residential areas B11) are within 200m of Northbourne Avenue and Sections 40 and 42 are 500m from Northbourne Avenue.

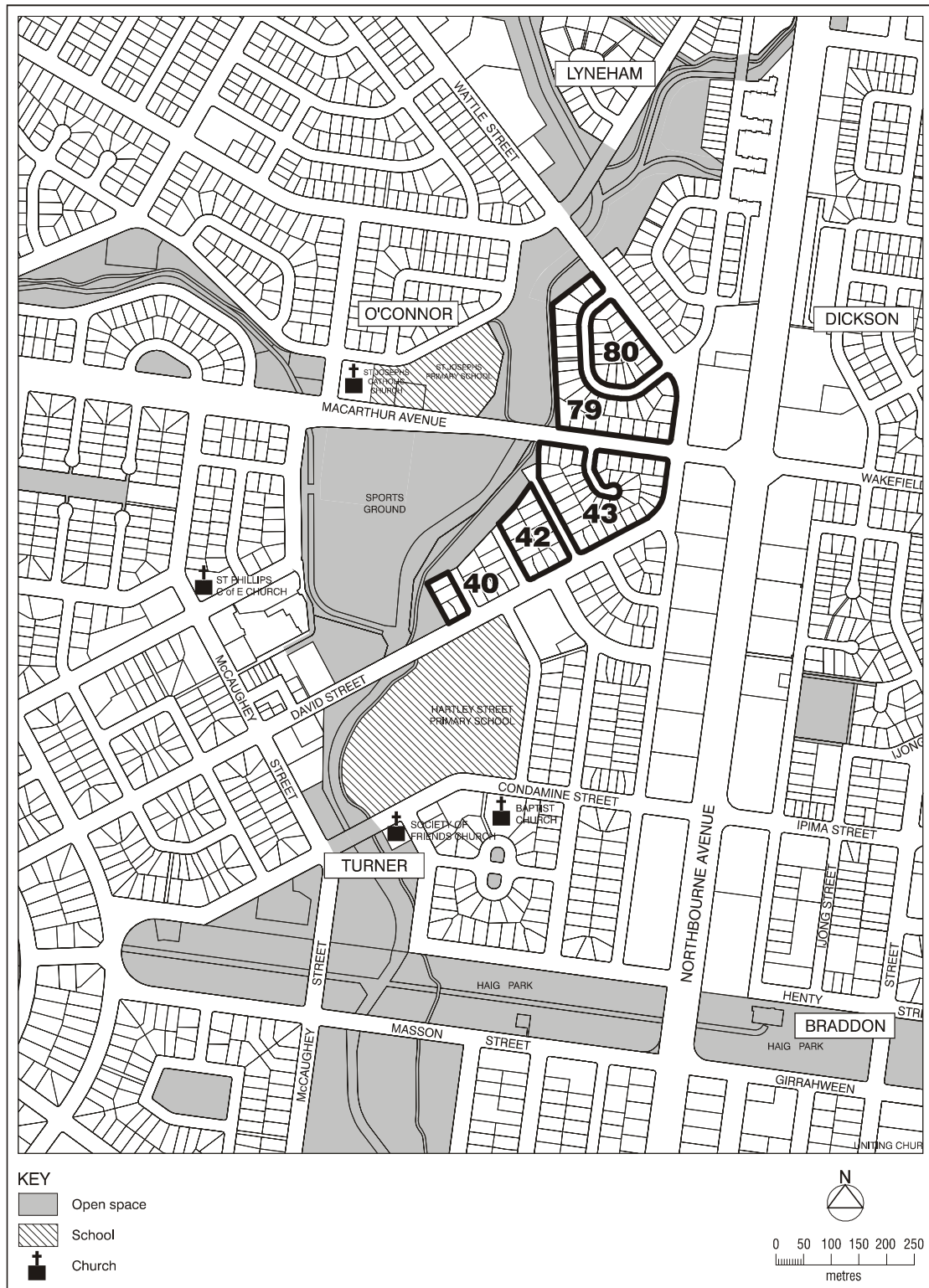
Sections 40 and 42 are rectilinear with a north-east/south-west orientation. Sections 43, 79 and 80 are more irregular in shape with a radial block layout around a cul-de-sac and a crescent.

Buildings are predominantly single storey detached dwellings except for:

- One multi unit site containing 8 units;
- 5 dual occupancy developments; and

- duplex units in Macarthur Place and part of David Street.

O' Connor Context



A map identifying urban elements that warrant protection or consideration is included as Attachment 1. The map identifies existing urban fabric, streetscape and landscape elements that contribute to the character of the area. Specifically the map identifies; street pavement, verge widths, footpaths,

driveway locations, street trees, light poles, visually important trees, urban open space and vistas within the sections covered by this document.

1.5 Relationship to O'Connor Neighbourhood Plan

The O'Connor Neighbourhood Plan has been developed in collaboration with those who live, work, learn, play and invest in the neighbourhood. The Neighbourhood Plan describes the character of O'Connor, identifies the different precincts and establishes a 'vision'. This vision is based on the fulfilment of three inter-related goals:

- **Community**
O'Connor will have a safe, vibrant and diverse community
- **Sustainability**
O'Connor will be a sustainable neighbourhood that lives in harmony with the environment
- **Setting**
O'Connor will be characterised and valued for its natural setting and accessible open spaces

The adopted O'Connor Neighbourhood Plan will be the Community's Value Statement as identified in the Territory Plan.

The plan also contains objectives, principles and recommendations that set out how to achieve the vision at both the 'neighbourhood wide' and local level.

Neighbourhood planning will be ongoing and the recommendations and actions contained in the Plans themselves will be reviewed and revised in response to plans and works completed, partnerships developed and to account for other changes in their context.

Section Master Plans are components of the Neighbourhood Plan and are contained in Part 6 – Additional Resources of the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Section Master Plan for the sections in this precinct, 46, 47, 48, 62 and 63 (B11 and B12 Urban Housing areas) has been prepared in the context of the neighbourhood planning process and addresses particular issues of concern with regard to urban redevelopment.

1.6 Response to Neighbourhood Concerns

The issue of urban redevelopment and the type and form of urban housing is highly significant to the O'Connor Neighbourhood. The layout and character of O'Connor have been influenced by Garden City design principles and it is important that redevelopment of B11 and B12 areas respond to the Garden city principles. This is especially in regard to landscape aspects.

More specifically, the neighbourhood's key concerns included the:

- loss of range in housing opportunities
- reduction of opportunities for substantial tree planting;
- loss of existing substantial trees;
- reduced privacy and sun access along the sides of blocks; and
- narrow front setbacks;

The Section Master Plan responds to these concerns by requiring:

- a variety of dwelling types within developments;
- setbacks and articulation of the front building line on new developments to respond to adjoining development;
- identification of visually important trees on leased land;
- rear setback and site coverage limits to accommodate deep root rear garden planting and ensure privacy; and
- building envelope limits to allow solar access and privacy to neighbouring dwellings.

Additionally, the Section Master Plans identify height and plot ratio restrictions within certain B11 areas to maintain character and amenity of particular streets.

2. Planning Context

2.1 Policy Framework

Inner North Urban Housing Areas

The Inner North Urban Housing Areas are located along the Northbourne Avenue corridor. They are referred to as B11 and B12 areas within the Residential Land Use Policy in the Territory Plan.

The intent of these policies is to create a variety of housing opportunities that benefit from being in the immediate proximity to a key transport corridor and to the commercial areas of Civic and Dickson. This is considered important to improving the overall sustainability of the neighbourhood and Canberra.

Providing a wider range of housing types, close to services and where people can walk, cycle or use public transport to easily access those services, will encourage greater diversity in the community. Residential development that fulfils the needs and expectations of families, older and younger people, can afford members of the established community, whose needs or aspirations may have changed the opportunity to remain in the area. Similarly new residents will be attracted to housing and opportunities that suit their specific needs and lifestyle.

Planning Controls

The controls in part B1 – Residential Land Use Policies of The Territory Plan include building heights and plot ratios for B11 and B12. These are:

- | | |
|------------|--|
| B11 | 12.0m building height and a maximum of 3 storeys with a plot ratio of 0.80 |
| B12 | 8.5m building height and a maximum of 2 storeys with a plot ratio of 0.65 |

It should be noted, that to control the staging of development in the B11 areas, for those sections north of Wakefield and Macarthur Avenue:

‘.....buildings shall be 2 storeys and the maximum plot ratio shall be 0.65, until 23.5 hectares of residential blocks in the B11 areas south of Macarthur and Wakefield Avenues have been developed for multi-unit housing, including dual occupancy’.

Subject to restrictions, other permitted land uses in the B11 areas include business agency, office, restaurant, shops. These have been included so as to add to the level of amenity and vibrancy of these areas.

Urban Housing Code

Design and Siting controls for Urban Housing Areas shall be in accordance with the Urban Housing Code at Appendix III.3. The code groups design aspects of urban residential development into elements. The code is performance based and each element contains an Intent, Performance Criteria, and Acceptable Standards. It is based on the *Australian Model Code for Residential Development (AMCORD) 1995*.

High Quality Sustainable Design

In July 2001 Planning and Land Management (PALM) introduced new measures and processes in the assessment of development applications that are intended:

'.....to ensure that as Canberra develops its unique character is preserved and enhanced. At the same time, a small step will have been taken towards making our city sustainable.'

A significant aim of the new process is that proponents consult with PALM, the community and neighbours at an initial, conceptual stage of the design process. These preliminary discussions help to identify all the relevant concerns and for them to be addressed as the design work is progressed.

For applicants proposing to develop sites for multi-unit and dual occupancy in B11 and B12 areas it is mandatory to undertake the pre-application process. The stages of the pre-application process that are required to be undertaken will depend on the specific nature of the redevelopment. For all new multi-unit developments including dual occupancies it is mandatory for applicants to:

- undertake a site analysis and survey (including existing vegetation);
- submit development and landscape design concept plans;
- present and discuss the proposal with the neighbours and local community (protocol to be developed);
- submit the work to the Design Review Panel (for development of more than five units); and
- prepare a Design Response Report.

Throughout this work, applicants must address the Quality Design Indicators and Residential Sustainability Index identified by PALM in *Designing for High Quality and Sustainability, June 2001*.

However, as part of achieving high quality sustainable design, proponents will also need to demonstrate how proposed developments accord with, and respond to, the approved Neighbourhood Plan and the controls and principles outlined in this Section Master Plan.

Effect of the Garden City Variation

In May 2002 PALM released the Garden City Variation followed by revisions in December 2002. This draft variation proposes policies that aim to:

- protect the residential amenity and character of Canberra;
- direct residential redevelopment to strategic locations;
- promote sustainability; and
- encourage housing choice.

The draft variation would introduce several new provisions and controls aimed at ameliorating and managing the impacts of residential redevelopment on the overall amenity and landscape character of Canberra. Chief among these is defining residential land as 'Suburban Areas' and 'Residential Core Areas'.

The draft variation will also make key changes in regard to Section Master Plans, namely:

- replacing the current provisions of the B11 and B12 Area Specific Policies which require multi-unit development to be in accordance with an approved Section Master Plan, with a provision that Section Master Plans 'may be prepared from time to time and that they have no effect to the extent of any inconsistency with the Territory Plan'; and
- removing any provision 'in the Urban Housing Code that enables a Section Master Plan to specify less onerous standards than the Code itself'.

However, there are other changes proposed to the residential codes in regard to Building Envelope Controls, to which this Section Master Plan responds.

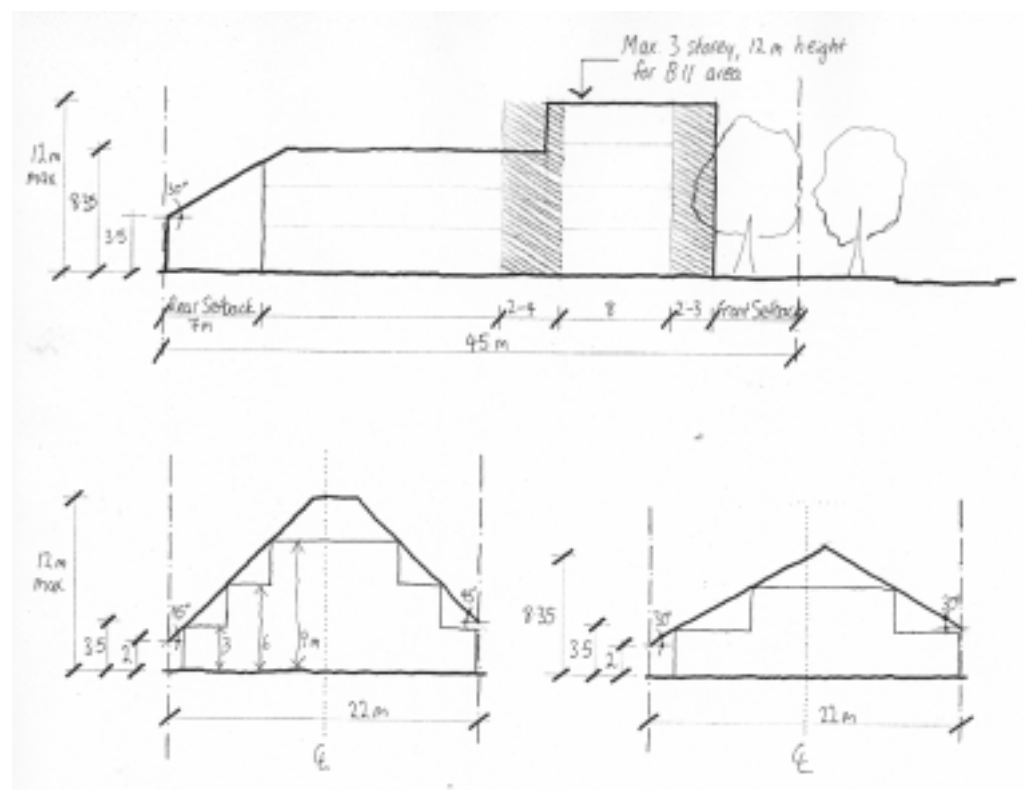
Building Envelope Controls

The draft variation introduces a common set of building envelope controls for residential redevelopment to ensure the residential amenity of adjacent lessees is protected regardless of location.

Developments in the B11 and B12 urban housing areas must account for building envelope requirements. The requirement creates a maximum notional building envelope over the site that limits the setback height in respect to side and rear boundaries ie. setbacks are progressively increased as height of walls increase.

Section Master Plan requirements do allow 100% site coverage in the primary building envelope, that is, building to side boundaries. This can only be achieved however, with the agreement of neighbouring lessees and an integrated plan. Where such an integrated development is not agreed or amalgamation has not taken place the building envelope requirements must be accounted for.

As an example of the effect of building envelope requirements it is unlikely that in B11 areas three storeys can be developed to the rear of the primary building envelope on a typical single block. Block amalgamations will be required to form sites wide enough to accommodate three storey buildings within the envelope.



Building Envelope Requirements

2.2 Urban Design Issues

Garden City Character

Open Space

The Inner Canberra suburbs are generally well endowed with urban open space in addition to the hill and ridge reserves enclosing the inner north. Urban open spaces are valued for their contribution to the Garden City character of Canberra, as well as being activity areas, planted buffer areas and as corridors supporting wildlife.

An average of 70m² of urban open space exists per person in north Canberra. Some areas of urban open space in the inner north are under-utilised as recreation space due to poor access and/or safety. Urban housing adjoining urban open space should enhance the use and character of the open space by achieving a more appropriate balance between human access, activity and wildlife. More importantly, locating urban housing in proximity to open space will provide greater overlooking and passive surveillance.

Streets

Wide tree lined streets are major elements of the public realm that contribute to image, identity and character of residential areas in Central Canberra. The qualities of the streets can be attributed to:

- Formal geometry; through the regular and symmetrical placement of road, footpaths, driveways and street trees;
- Spatial continuity; through the continuity of verges and street trees and general building alignment; and
- Boldness and simplicity of the streetscape design.

The established elements and components that make up the typical old Canberra street are to be protected and maintained. The existing urban elements are identified in Attachment 1 – Urban Elements Map. Where opportunities exist to replace lost elements or supplement existing elements or patterns, these shall be taken.

Culs-de-sac

Culs-de-sac are common in the urban housing areas. Many have an established urban character due to the duplex housing on smaller, narrower blocks. Where such culs-de-sac exist in B11 areas it may be desirable to limit redevelopment to two storey, with a corresponding reduction in plot ratio, in order to maintain the character of these particular streets.

Public Fronts, Private Rear Yards

The clear definition of public fronts and private rear yards is significant to retaining continuity in the existing streetscape. To achieve this continuity, consideration must be given, not just to the building frontage but also side fences, gates, garages, and landscape features.

Encouraging building toward the front portion of blocks establishes a positive garden city form. This allows for space at the rear of blocks to retain or introduce large canopy trees. In turn this adds to the privacy of blocks and creates a treed backdrop to development.

The large amount of tree planting is a significant characteristic in inner north areas and contributes to Canberra's Garden City character. Many established trees can be identified as contributing to the character either by canopy size, species or form. Visually important trees on leased blocks are identified in this Section Master Plan. Retention of these trees is to be determined at pre-application stage and, where appropriate, under the *Tree Protection (Interim Scheme) Act 2001*.

Building setback contributes to streetscape character and the opportunities for front garden planting. The maintenance of generally uniform building alignment will be achieved by responding to the setback of existing adjoining development. The Urban Housing Code provides guidance on determining appropriate setbacks based on adjoining development context. Control Plans for each section include minimum setback distances based on the Urban Housing Code guidance. The minimum setback requirements include design elements (articulation elements) and basement structures either wholly or partially sub ground ie; such design and structural elements must not be forward of the minimum setback line.

Sustainability

Optimising residential land use development

Future development of individual sections in the urban housing areas is based on a concept of developing the perimeter of sections or building primarily to the front portion of blocks.

Walter Burley Griffin recognised the efficiency and advantages of perimeter development when conceiving the subdivision pattern of residential areas and is particularly evident in the 1911 plan.

'The desirability of rectangular blocks and parallel-set buildings, in the interest of economy of construction and restfulness and simplicity in architectural treatment, ...a system of rectangular blocks is preferable ...'

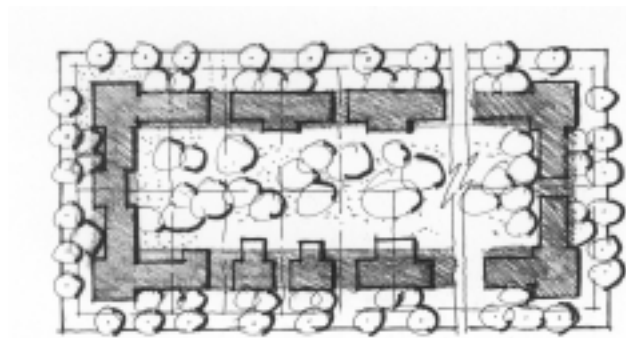
Walter Burley Griffin, Report Explanatory of the Preliminary General Plan, 1913

Similarly the Federal Capital Advisory Committee recognised that development would be progressive and due to economic conditions the aims of the first phase of development would be:

'utilitarian development and economy.... leaving to future decades – perhaps generations – the evolution of the national city....'

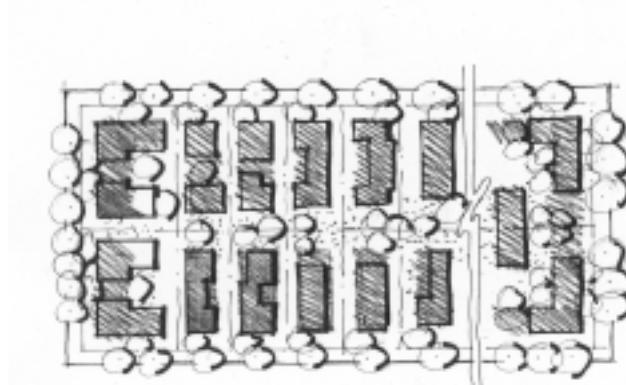
Lining the perimeter of sections and blocks to accommodate increased densities in the urban housing areas has a number of advantages with regard to maintaining the garden city characteristics of the established areas. It maximises the creation of open space and encourages the establishment of positive relationships between private and public realms.

Further, perimeter development allows for increased density to be achieved through low to medium height buildings and for incremental development to occur with the least impact on the established development.



Lining the Perimeter

- Maximises street and rear garden address
- Minimises privacy impacts between adjoining sites
- Optimises possibilities for private and communal open spaces to the rear of blocks that can accommodate soft landscape and large tree planting
- Accommodates a greater diversity of dwelling types
- Enables a variety of treatments to the interior



Building Along the Site

- Privacy impacts to side and rear of site
- Narrow street address
- Entrances to dwellings from side boundary
- Narrow long building footprint inhibits large rear open space
- Poor planting potential to centre of section

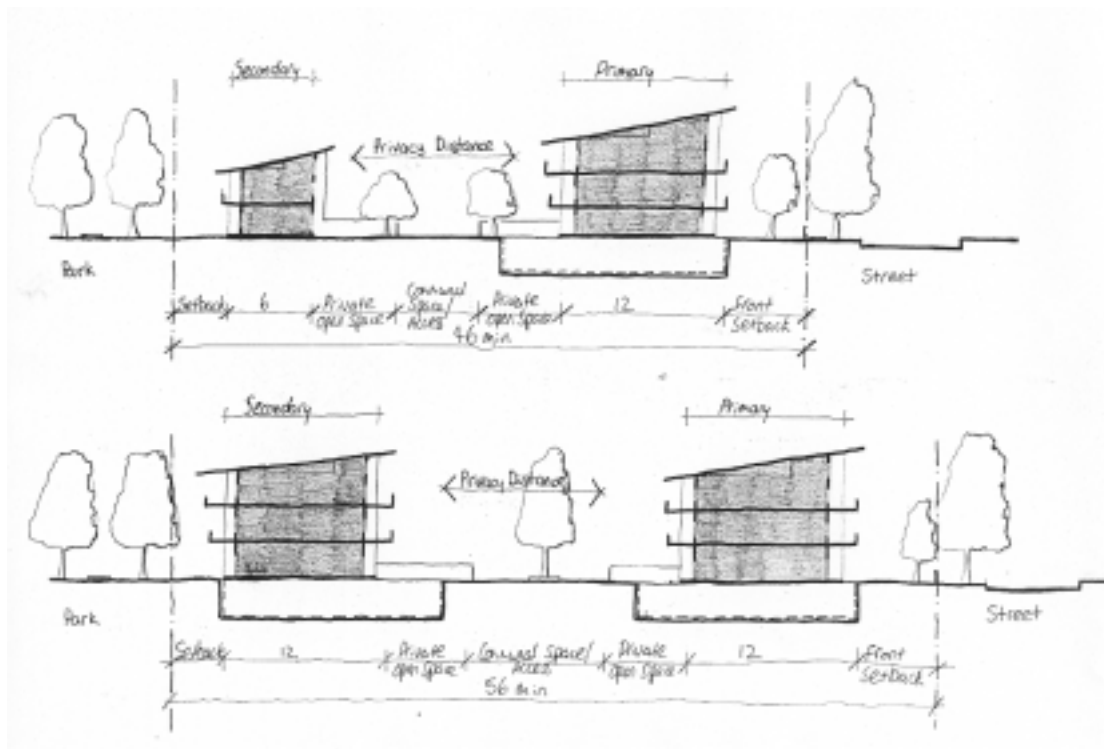
In order to ensure the pattern of rear private gardens and encourage these as predominantly soft landscape zones a requirement is introduced in Section Master Plans that restrict building in the rear portion of blocks to 30% site coverage.

Optimisation of residential development can also be achieved where blocks face a street and have a rear boundary to a park or open space. In these circumstances developing a dual frontage will achieve a beneficial outcome both to the street and to the surveillance of the open space.



Dual Frontage Design

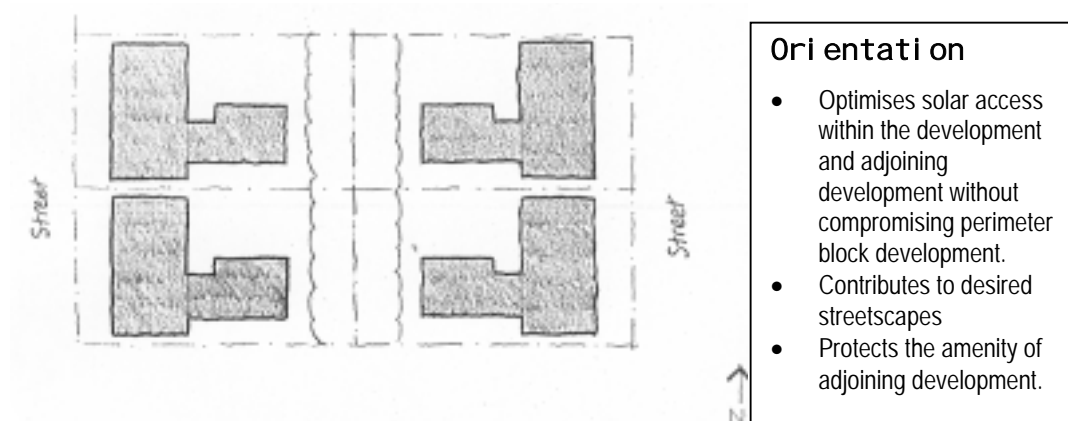
- Maximises building address to both the street and public space
- Provides overlooking and casual surveillance of open space
- Utilises an amenable prospect into open space from within developments
- Promotes increased use of open spaces
- Encourages walking and cycling opportunities for residents within developments



Building Design

Orientation

Buildings should be designed for passive solar gain, without compromising the perimeter development concept. The orientation of most sections within the Northbourne Avenue corridor is east-west and this creates ambiguity between building design in regard to maximising solar access and street frontage. A balance between the objectives of designing for northern aspect and perimeter development must be achieved at the design stage. Opportunities may include variations in building heights, breaks in the building form, increased setback distances from northern side boundaries and L-shaped building layouts.

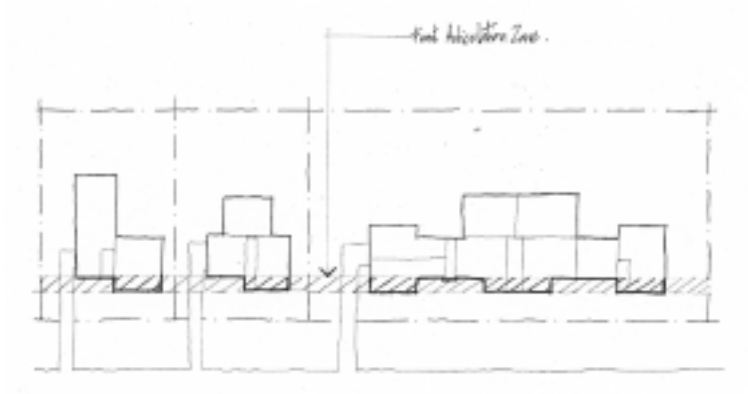


Building depth has a critical impact on the need for artificial lighting and ventilation. The optimum depth of double aspect buildings to allow naturally lit and ventilated spaces is 9-13m. This depth takes account of flexible plan arrangements for house or apartment dwelling types. Single aspect dwellings must be designed to allow daylit rooms and include innovative natural ventilation methods. Building width has an impact on the flexibility of use and the ability to organise space relationships.

The primary building envelope is based on a depth of 12m. In order to avoid the appearance of a continuous wall of development in the street, articulation zones supplementary to the primary building envelope are included in the master plan requirements.

Hand-drawn site plan of a proposed building complex. The plan shows a main building with a central entrance and two side wings. A parking lot is located to the left of the main building. A road is shown at the bottom of the plan. Dimensions are provided for various areas: 7.5 for the parking lot, 20 for the main building, 32 for the side wing, and 38 for the road. Trees are indicated by simple line drawings. Labels include 'Main Building', 'Side Wing', 'Parking Lot', 'Road', 'Main Entrance', 'Side Entrance', 'Main Exit', 'Side Exit', 'Main Gate', 'Side Gate', 'Main Wall', 'Side Wall', 'Main Roof', 'Side Roof', 'Main Foundation', 'Side Foundation', 'Main Structure', 'Side Structure'.

- Prevent continuous walls of development
- Allow architectural detailing to faces of buildings
- Provide visual interest to developments
- Create a variety of spaces in both outside and indoor areas
- Provide opportunities to retain or establish mature trees at the front of the block
- Allow opportunities for solar access into dwellings



Building Address

An identifiable characteristic of existing development is the generally consistent relationship of houses to the streetscape. The attributes of existing buildings include front setbacks but also the spatial continuity between faces of houses. The houses generally address the street, include living spaces and entrances toward the street frontage and include positive relationships to streetscape levels. Buildings with an address frontage to the street are considered beneficial to promoting street security, streetscape character, address and activity. Residential buildings do have a public front that should contribute life and activity to the street. Situations where the main entrance to residential buildings is from the rear or sides of blocks reduce the significance of streets and are out of character. Developments that include significant changes in level throughout relate negatively to the streetscape and contribute to poor internal environment. Elevated ground floor levels provide increased privacy to ground floor rooms and enables better street observation. Notwithstanding convenient access is to be provided for people with mobility problems.

Transport

Access to public transport is fundamental to the design intentions for the urban housing areas. A philosophy of encouraging more sustainable modes of travel (walking, cycling and public transport) and discouraging car use, means that parking levels are to be kept as low as possible in urban housing areas.

Orderly Redevelopment

Generally, the Section Master Plans allow any block in a section to be redeveloped at any time. A number of exceptions to this exist that aim to achieve orderly redevelopment over time.

Corner Sites

Corner sites are visually prominent and special corner treatments can introduce identity and distinction to the streetscape. The importance of corner blocks in consolidating the urban form in urban housing areas is recognised by requiring corner buildings to have substantial returns on both faces, allowing additional uses, and requiring maximum height and minimum setback at corners. A technique such as setting buildings at an angle so that a face of the building addresses the street corner producing a chamfered edge is a characteristic corner treatment common in inner suburbs. In order to achieve positive development of corner sites block amalgamations or integrated developments are often required.

Integrated Plans / Block Amalgamations

In order to achieve orderly development and to prevent residual single block sites being created, a requirement exists to include these single sites in any amalgamation. Alternatively they be developed at the same time as part of an integrated plan. An integrated plan will show how the layout will connect and relate to the planned and committed development on the adjoining site(s).

Integrated developments are also necessary where there are:

- shared walls separate existing dwellings eg. duplexes;
- narrow sites (less than 16m width); and
- corner sites are too small to provide satisfactory open space.

Urban Design Aims

In response to the current policy framework, the urban design issues, and with reference to the goals and objectives identified in the Neighbourhood Plan, the following aims have been defined.

To:

1. Conserve the garden city character of the area;
2. Optimise residential land use adjacent to the Northbourne Avenue corridor, the Sullivans Creek open space corridor and the commercial centre of Civic;
3. Retain and enhance a healthy and attractive residential environment for existing and new residents to the area;

4. Create a safer, more secure environment;
5. Promote non car based movement;
6. Promote streets and open space as places for people; and
7. Ensure the orderly redevelopment of blocks within sections.

3. Urban Design Guidelines and Controls

The following urban design principles and controls have been formulated to achieve the aims. The controls are specific to the Section Master Plan and also come from the Urban Housing Code and Residential Land Use Policies of the Territory Plan.

1. Maintaining the Garden City character of the area

This Section Master Plan will achieve this aim through the following:

Principles

- Development is to respond to the topography of the site
- Maintain grassed nature strips and protect, replace and supplement street trees
- Protect visually important trees that contribute to the canopy cover of the area on leased blocks
- Allow sufficient space for existing and future tree planting at the front of blocks and to the rear of development blocks
- Model building faces to add variation to building alignment
- Maximise permeable surfaces

Controls

Section Master Plan Requirements

Visually Important Trees

Retention or otherwise of visually important trees as identified on the Control Plan, will be determined at the HQSD pre-application stage

Rear Setback

A 7m rear setback applies to most blocks in B11 and B12 sections to allow a deep root planting zone. Nominated corner blocks will have a 7m x 7m space in the corner

Site Coverage

Maximum 30% site coverage to the rear of blocks to achieve a predominantly soft landscape zone

Articulation Zone

All development proposals must maintain the minimum front set back line. Necessary articulation of the frontage is to occur behind this line and the articulation zone has a dimension of 2-3m. Articulation of the front face of the building is mandatory

Basements

The concrete apron created by a basement car park is not to project horizontally into the front setback

Basement car parks projecting into the rear portion of blocks (behind the primary building envelope) shall be included in calculations of site coverage

Urban Housing Code

Element 1 Streetscape and Landscape

Provide attractive streetscapes including appropriate street tree planting

Element 4 Site Planning

Site planning that responds to the environment

Element 5 Street Setbacks

Street setback controls for resident amenity and attractive streetscape

Element 6 Building Envelope and Siting Controls

Building envelopes for sloping sites (as varied by the Garden City Variation)

Element 10 Communal Open Space and Landscaping

Communal open space and landscaping to create a pleasant, safe and attractive environment and streetscape

Tree Protection (Interim Scheme) Act 2001

2. Optimise residential land use adjacent to Northbourne Avenue and areas of urban open space

This Section Master Plan will achieve this aim through the following:

Principles

- Allow increased density development in the vicinity of Northbourne Avenue
- Encourage a variety of residential dwellings in the sections and individual developments and improve choice for smaller households, aged and families
- Take advantage of frontages and prospects into public parks and open spaces and increase the active use of existing public open spaces in close proximity to the sections
- Consolidate the urban composition by developing corner sites to maximum height and minimum set back requirements
- Provide private open space as part of urban dwellings that is useable, compliments the desired urban characteristics of the area as well as the garden city character
- Building height reflects proximity to Northbourne Avenue
- Dual occupancy developments must conform with the concept of building primarily to the front portion of blocks

Controls

Section Master Plan Requirement

Perimeter Block Development

Building primarily on front portion of blocks

Variety of Dwelling Sizes

Redevelopment sites greater than 3000m² shall provide a variety of dwelling sizes within the development. 1, 2 and 3 bedroom dwellings are required

Dwellings of 3 bedrooms or more shall have direct access to ground floor open space

Building Height and Setback to Corners

Building height controls shall be treated as minimum on specified corner sites

Setback controls shall be treated as maximum on specified corner sites

Site Coverage

Maximum 30% site coverage to the rear of blocks to achieve a predominantly soft landscape zone

Rear Setback

A 7m rear setback applies to most blocks in B11 and B12 sections to allow a deep root planting zone. Nominated corner blocks will have a 7m x 7m space in the corner

Dual Occupancy Development

No additional dwelling is permitted in B11 and B12 areas where the additional dwelling is located to the rear of the block behind the original dwelling or where the additional dwelling is located to the rear of a new dwelling

Territory Plan Residential Land Use Policies

Plot Ratio Controls

Plot ratio control for B11 is 0.8

Plot ratio control for B12 is 0.65

Height Controls

Building height control for B11 areas is 12.0m and a maximum of 3 storeys

Building height control for B12 areas is 8.5m and a maximum of 2 storeys

Urban Housing Code

Element 6 Building Envelope and Siting

Building height controls

Element 9 Private Open Space

Provision of private open space to meet user requirements and residential amenity

Element 11 Security

Designing for casual surveillance and overlooking

3. Create and maintain a healthy residential environment for incoming and existing residents

This Section Master Plan will achieve this aim through the following:

Principles

- Safeguard privacy and maximise and maintain light and sun access to dwellings
- Buildings shall primarily be sited across the frontage of the site (not down the length of the site) to optimise street address and physical and visual access to the rear garden, while maximising privacy distances and allowing rear garden planting opportunities
- Restrict plan depths to allow good sun and daylight penetration as well as opportunities for natural ventilation
- Require side and rear setbacks of new developments to account for existing residential amenity of neighbours

Controls

Section Master Plan Requirements

Site Coverage

Maximum 30% site coverage to the rear of blocks to achieve a predominantly soft landscape zone

Rear Setback

A 7m rear setback applies to most blocks in B11 and B12 sections to allow a deep root planting zone. Nominated corner blocks will have a 7m x 7m space in the corner

Urban Housing Code

Element 2 Building Appearance and Neighbourhood Character

Building height to maintain compatible scale

Element 6 Building Envelope and Siting

Building envelope requirements (as varied by the Garden City Variation)

Element 12 Design for Reduced Resource and Energy Consumption

Design to reduce resource and energy consumption including heating, cooling and air movement

4. Create a safer and more secure and attractive environment

The Section Master Plan will achieve this aim through the following:

Principles

- Provide overlooking opportunities within developments ensuring passive surveillance of public and communal areas
- Ensure clear definition between private and public space
- Require building face articulation zones supplementary to the primary building envelope
- Ensure ground floor levels of buildings relate positively to the streetscape

Controls

Section Master Plan Requirement

Articulation Zone

All development proposals must maintain the minimum front set back line. Necessary articulation of the frontage is to occur behind this line and the articulation zone has a dimension of 2-3m. Articulation of the front face of the building is mandatory

Urban Housing Code

Element 2 Building Appearance and Neighbourhood Character

Building adjacent streets are to provide visual interest and surveillance

Element 5 Street Setbacks

Contributing to the safety of public areas

Element 11 Security

Designing for casual surveillance and overlooking
Providing a clear definition of ownership of spaces

5. Promote non-car based movement

The Section Master Plan will achieve this aim through the following:

Principles

- Restrict parking provision
- Maintain street parking restrictions in the area to discourage commuter parking
- Provide facilities for bicycle storage within developments

Controls

Section Master Plan Requirement

Parking

Parking provision rates in the ACT Parking and Vehicular Access Guidelines shall be treated as maximum for all dwellings in Urban Housing areas. Restrict visitor parking and allow visitor parking on street where capacity allows

Urban Housing Code

Element 8 On-site Carparking and Access

Carparking is provided according to projected need

Element 14 Site Facilities

Provide secure and convenient undercover bicycle storage within developments

Roads ACT to administer

6. Promote streets and open spaces as places for people

The Section Master Plan will achieve this aim through the following:

Principles

- Face the street
- Line the perimeter of sections
- Parking facilities are to be designed to reduce visual impact
- Limited on-street parking within a well designed environment is encouraged
- Limited number of basement car parking entries across the nature strip

Controls

Section Master Plan Requirement

Perimeter Block Development

Building primarily to front portion of blocks

On Street Parking

On street parking is limited to visitor parking requirements accounting for progressive capacity, suitable short stay parking controls and necessary safety guidelines

Vehicle Entries to Basements

A maximum of one basement entry per two blocks or 40m of street frontage (which ever is the greater) is permissible

Urban Housing Code

Element 4 Site Planning

Dwellings sited to face streets and public open spaces

Element 8 On-site Carparking and Access

Restricts at-grade parking within the front setback (in the front garden)
Accessible and safe on-site parking and vehicle manoeuvring

Element 13 Dwelling Entry and Interior

Dwelling entries to be clearly visible from the street

7. Ensure the orderly redevelopment of blocks within sections

The Section Master Plan will achieve this aim through the following:

Principles

- Ensure development sites can accommodate urban housing based on perimeter block development
- Ensure compatibility of scale between new and existing developments
- Ensure existing single storey dwellings on single blocks are not isolated by adjoining redevelopment and site amalgamations in B11 areas

Controls

Section Master Plan Requirement

Minimum Block Amalgamation or Integrated Development

Block amalgamations or agreed consolidations of blocks are required where existing block configurations do not allow effective redevelopment

Primary Building Envelope

Section Master Plan controls allow 100% site coverage in the primary envelope ie, building to side boundaries. This can only be achieved with the agreement of neighbouring lessees and an integrated plan

Amenity of Single Storey Dwellings

Where a redevelopment in a B11 area is proposed adjoining (on one side boundary) to an existing single storey dwelling that has an existing or approved redevelopment on the other side, the proposed redevelopment will not be permitted unless the single dwelling site is included in the amalgamation or is developed at the same time as part of an integrated plan

Urban Housing Code

Element 2 Building Appearance and Neighbourhood Character

Regulates height differences between development on adjoining blocks moderating the impact of new developments by stepping down in height towards neighbours

Element 6 Building Envelope and Siting

Increases side and rear setbacks as wall heights increase to minimise overshadowing

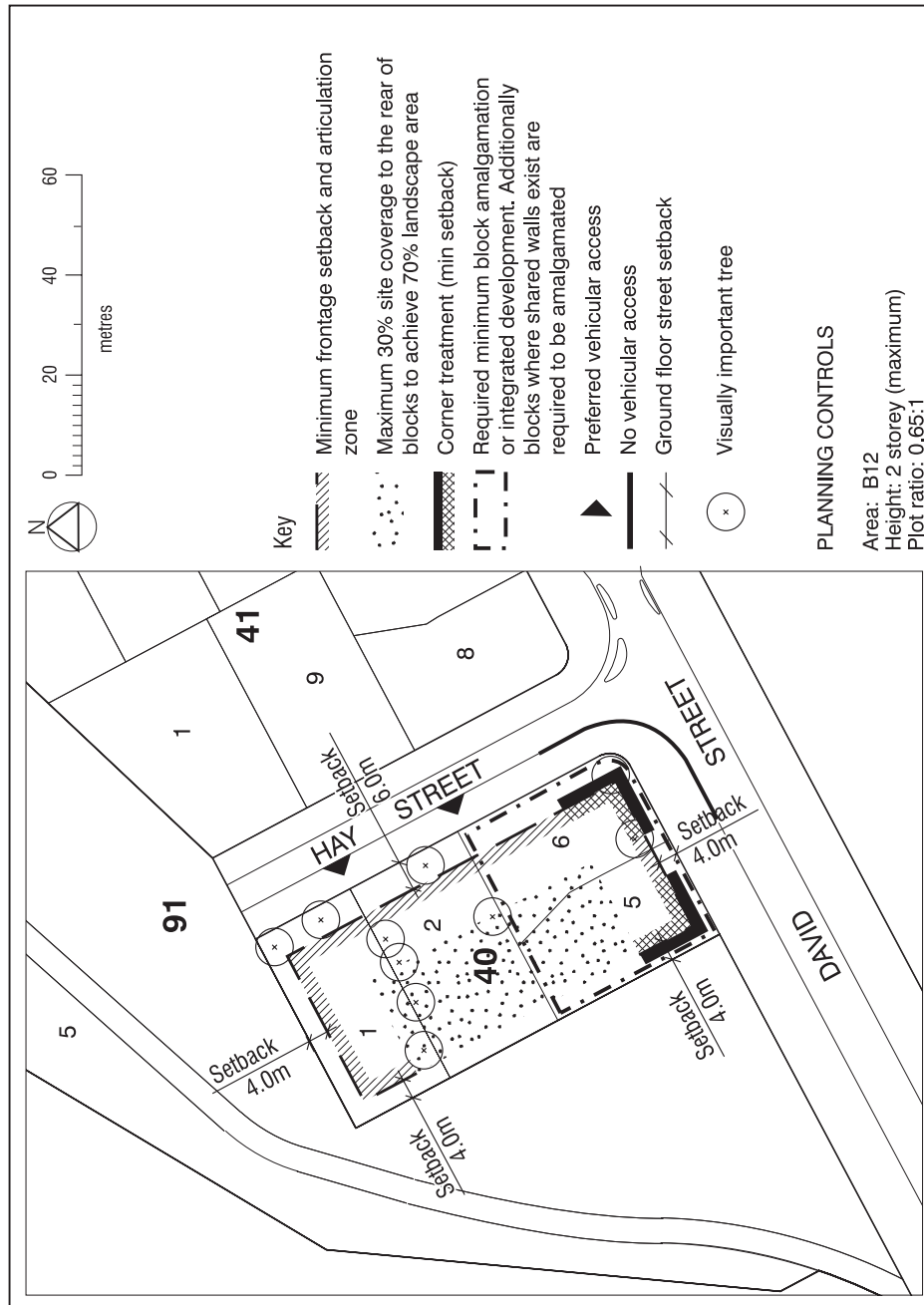
GLOSSARY

The following is a glossary of Section Master Plan terms including requirements under the section master plan.

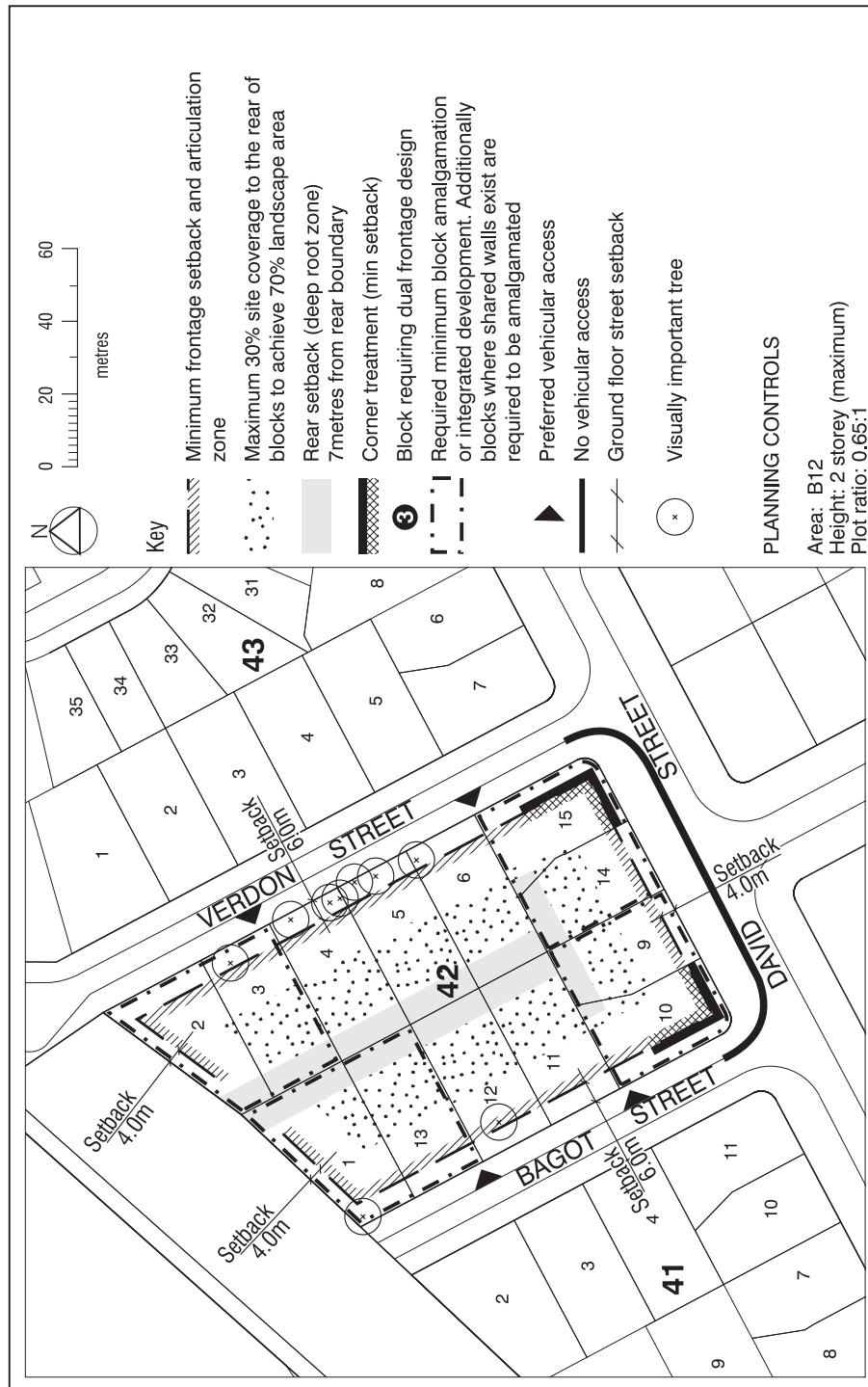
TERM	DEFINITION
Articulation Zone	Area in which additions or subtractions to the primary building envelope of a building must occur. The front articulation zone is behind the minimum front setback. The zones allow architectural elements and façade detailing to be incorporated into the building face as well as allow some variation in building alignment. The zones also allow buildings to respond to existing landscape features.
Block Amalgamation	Means amalgamating two or more blocks into a single block.
Deep Root Planting Zone	Refers to an area of the block that is not to be built within. It reserves an area of the block for deep soil planting, vegetation and is water permeable.
Dual Frontage Development	Development that address two frontages, generally, a frontage to two streets on both front and rear boundaries or a boundary to street and to open space. The building development may be separate or unified.
Dual Occupancy Development	Development of an additional dwelling of similar scale on a block formerly occupied by one single detached dwelling. Dual occupancy development in this context may refer to building an additional dwelling in the rear portion of existing blocks retaining the original detached dwelling, or demolishing the existing house and replacing with two new dwellings on the block.
Dual Occupancy Housing	Means the use of land that was originally used or leased for the purpose of single dwelling housing for two dwellings.
Integrated Development	Means lodging concurrent development applications for neighbouring blocks where the sites are planned in an integrated manner with the consent of the affected lessees.
Maximum Building Site Coverage	The maximum allowable site coverage of a building in the rear block area (behind the <i>primary building envelope</i>) expressed as a percentage of building footprint area to rear block area (including any nominated rear setback).
Primary Building Envelope	A three dimensional shape within which the primary or main building must be contained. It defines the limits for the siting including setbacks and height of building.
Rear Setback	Means the minimum horizontal distance between the rear boundary of a site and the external wall of a building.
Section	Means an area of land comprising of a logical grouping of individual blocks identified as a Section pursuant to the <i>Districts Act 1966</i> .
Section Master Plan	Means a plan of a section and surrounds indicating a development context for individual development proposals and providing guidance on how sites in the section may logically be developed.
Setback	The minimum horizontal distance between a building wall or the outside face of a balcony, deck or supporting posts of a carport or verandah roof and the relevant block boundary
Street Trees	Street trees are trees that are located in nature strips and are the responsibility of Canberra Urban Parks and Places.
Visually Important Trees	Visually important trees are trees that are deemed to contribute to landscape character of an area due to the size, species and form. Retention of these trees is to be determined at pre-application stage and, where appropriate, under the <i>Tree Protection (Interim Scheme) Act 2001</i> . The health and location of trees should be considered.

4. Control Plans

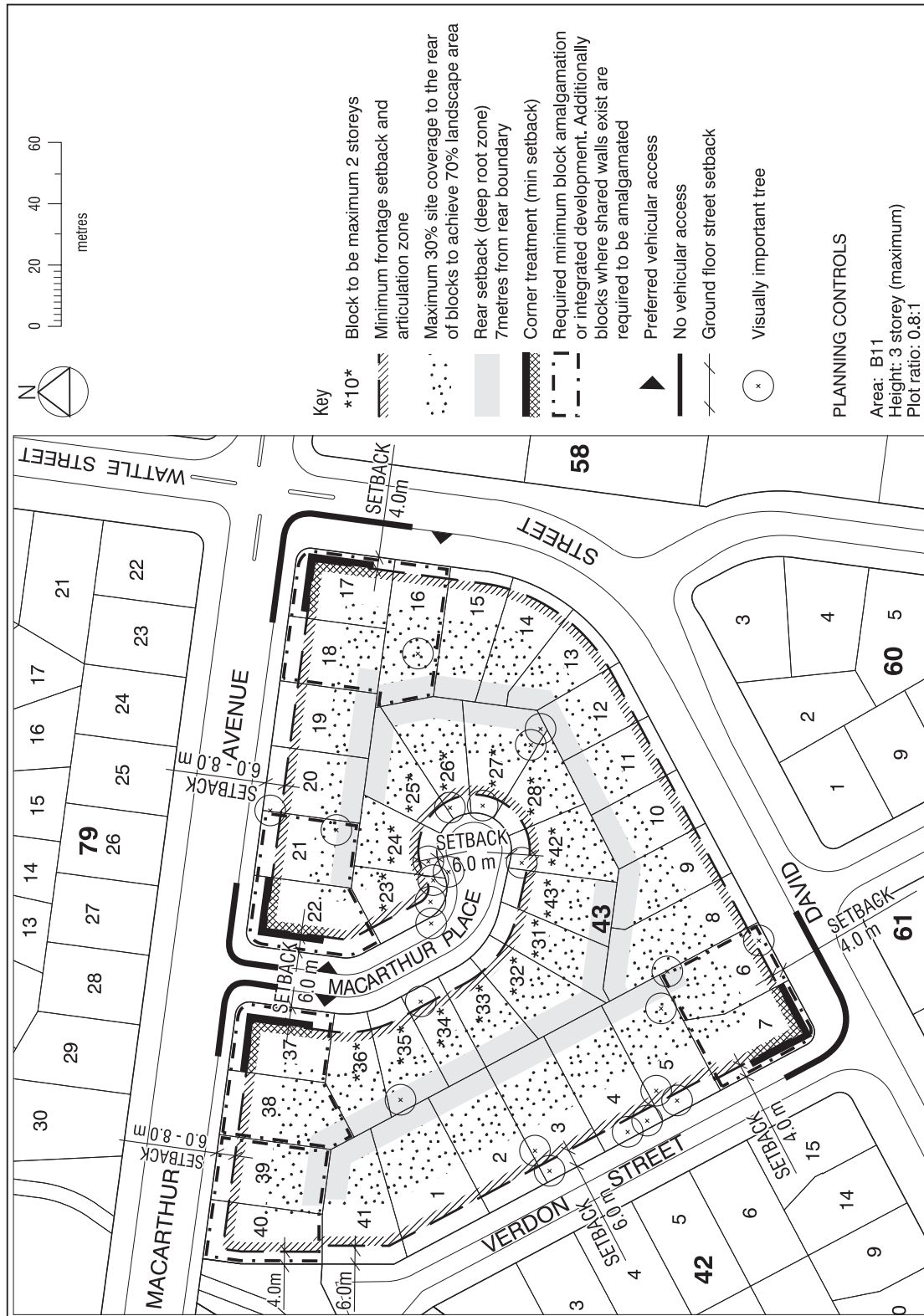
4.1 Section 40



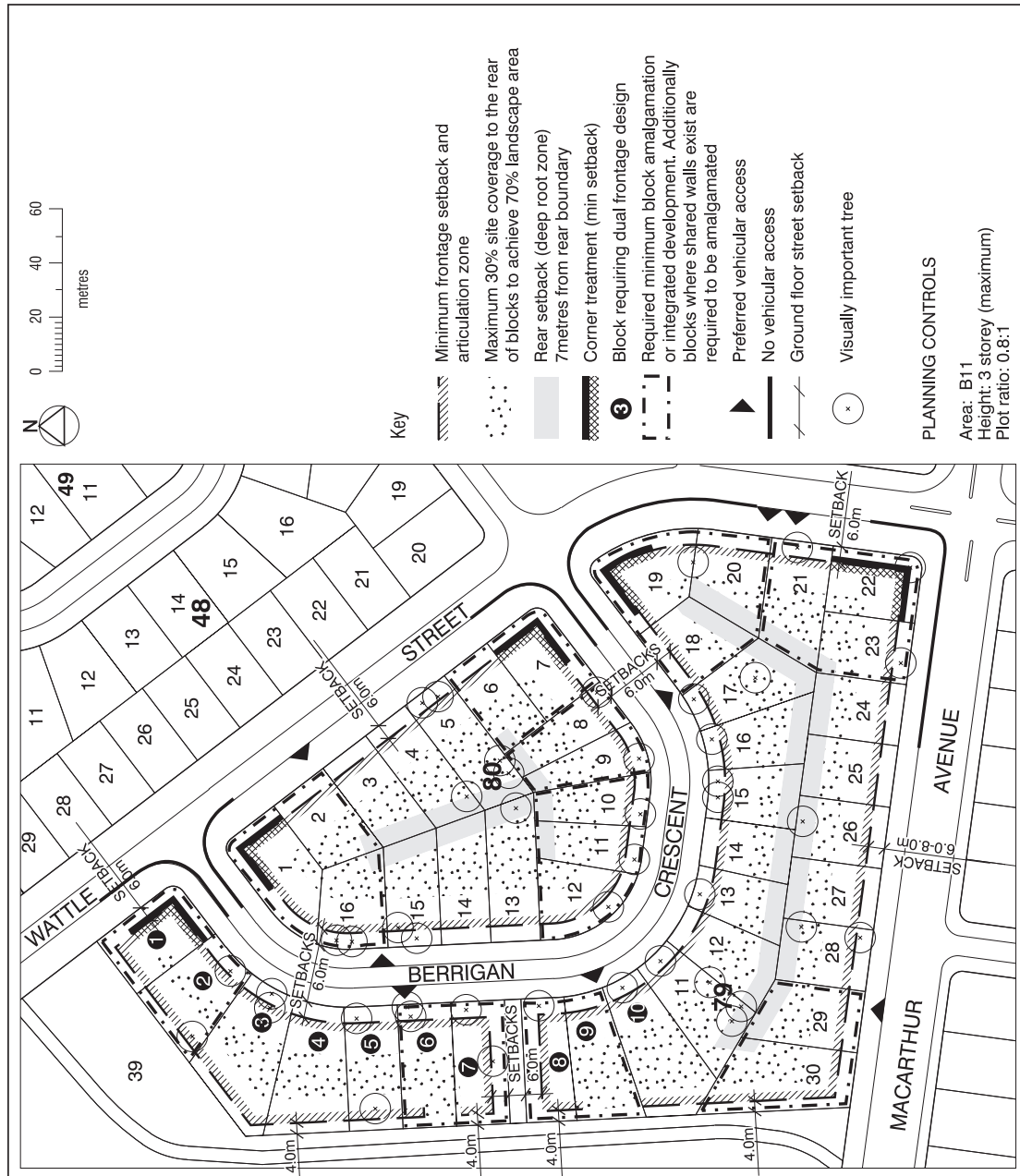
4.2 Section 42



4.3 Section 43



4.4 Sections 79 and 80



5. Statutory Basis for Master Plans

5.1 Statutory Basis

The Territory Plan specifies, in relation to the B11 and B12 Urban Housing Areas, that multi-unit redevelopment consisting of more than two dwellings shall be in accordance with an approved Section Master Plan. Therefore a Section Master Plan is required before an application for multi-unit redevelopment (other than for dual occupancies) can be approved in the areas.

In any case, Under Section 8 of the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991* (the Act) the Territory, the Executive, a Minister or a Territory authority shall not do any act or approve the doing of any act that is inconsistent with the Territory Plan.

5.2 Background

The Standing Committee on Planning and Environment, of the ACT Legislative Assembly recommended in November 1997 that Section Master Plans should be prepared for B11 and B12 Areas of north Canberra in consultation with the community.

As part of Variation to the Territory Plan No.109 April 1999 introducing the B11 and B12 residential land use policies and the Urban Housing Code the requirement for Section Master Plans was established. The procedure for the drafting, notification and approval of master plans was established in Practice Direction 6/98. This practice direction was superseded by Practice Direction 3/00.

The Garden City Variation May 2002 proposes changes to Part A3 of the Plan by inserting procedures for the preparation and approval of Master Plans and also includes changes to Part B1. The part B1 changes allow Section Master Plans to be prepared from time to time at the discretion of the Authority. Currently, and until the Variation is approved, the Territory Plan provision requiring multi-unit development to accord with a Section Master Plan remains a requirement.

The Garden City Variation also requires that Section Master Plans must be consistent with the Territory Plan including the Urban Housing Code. Section Master Plans may be reviewed at any time in the future, however, any amendment resulting from a review will be subject to the consultation, notice and approval process as required by Territory Plan Part A3 – Plan Administration Policies, Section 7 Master Plans (as varied in the Garden City Variation).

5.3 Effect

In considering a proposal for multi-unit redevelopment for more than two dwellings in the B11 and B12 areas, PALM will assess the development against the relevant approved Section Master Plan for the area (as provided for by Section 9.2, Part A3 of the Territory Plan).

Similarly, in assessing dual occupancy proposals, any existing approved Section Master Plan for that area will be treated as a matter for consideration under Section 9.2 Part A3 of the Territory Plan.

5.4 Notification

Draft Section Master Plans are publicly notified and comments on the drafts are taken into consideration before any approval of the Section Master Plan is granted.

Notification will take the form of a notice published in the legislation register and in a daily newspaper, and as far as practicable give written notice by post to lessees of the place to which the draft Master Plan relates and of adjoining places, stating that:

- a) copies of the draft Section Master Plan are available during a specified period of not less than 21 days at specified places; and
- b) persons are invited to submit written comments about the draft Master Plan to the Authority at a specified address and within a period of less than 21 days.

5.5 Specified Off-Site Improvement

Proponents may be required to contribute and/or undertake relevant off-site works as part of obtaining development approvals in the sections including the following:

- street light upgrade;
- footpath renewal;
- installation of parking control devices with the approval and agreement of relevant authority;
- street tree replacement where gaps exist or proposals for new trees where opportunities exist or become available as a result of redevelopment;
- removal of obsolete driveway pavements;
- removal of inappropriate verge treatments; and
- service and supply infrastructure capacity confirmation and necessary upgrades/changes to be undertaken including re-routing visually intrusive infrastructure.

6. Attachment 1: Urban Elements Map

