



ACT
Government

Part E

Zone Policies

E1 – Residential Zones
Policy

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Application

The Residential Zones Policy applies to all development in a residential zone (RZ1 to RZ5 inclusive).

Land Use Table

The following table identifies permissible land uses and development types (marked 'Y') in residential zones.

The uses listed require development approval unless they meet the 'exempt development' definition of the *Planning Act 2023*. Development and land use types listed are defined in the Territory Plan Dictionary.

Uses not listed in the table are prohibited. Development of prohibited uses may be considered under certain limited circumstances as outlined under Part 7.3 of the *Planning Act 2023*.

District policies specify additional types of development and land uses that are permissible or prohibited in specific locations.

Land Use / Development Type	RZ1	RZ2	RZ3	RZ4	RZ5
Ancillary use	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Boarding house	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Co-housing	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Community activity centre	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Community garden	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Community housing	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Consolidation	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Demolition	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Early childhood education and care	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Guest house	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Health facility	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Home business	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Home occupation	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Minor road	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Minor use	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Multi-unit housing	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Parkland	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Land Use / Development Type	RZ1	RZ2	RZ3	RZ4	RZ5
Residential care accommodation	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Retirement village	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Secondary residence	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Service reticulation	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Sign	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Single dwelling housing	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Social enterprise	-	-	-	Y	Y
Subdivision	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Supportive housing	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Temporary use	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Varying a lease	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Veterinary clinic	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Policy Outcomes

These policy outcomes describe the high-level objectives for each zone.

Policy outcomes inform assessment outcomes and assessment requirements. Where a development is consistent with the assessment outcomes and assessment requirements, it is considered to be consistent with the policy outcomes.

All residential zones

1. Residential zones are primarily for residential developments but permit other development that complements residential uses and streetscapes.
2. Development should be of a scale and nature that recognises and responds to the zone hierarchy.
3. Facilitate development that is resilient to climate change, is sensitive to biodiversity, has reasonable solar access, is energy efficient and promotes sustainable water use and water sensitive urban design, as well as encouraging active living and active travel.

RZ1 – Suburban Zone

1. Provide for a range of housing choices in a suburban setting which is primarily low density and low rise.
2. Housing development meets changing household and community needs and demonstrates good design outcomes.
3. Provide opportunities for redevelopment by enabling some change to residential density and subdivision pattern.
4. Development respects valued features of the neighbourhood and landscape character of the area and does not have unreasonable negative impacts on neighbouring properties.

RZ2 – Suburban Density Zone

1. Facilitate development or redevelopment of sites that are generally in reasonable proximity to local services and amenities.
2. Achieve a mix of low and medium density housing in a manner that demonstrates good design outcomes.
3. Provide for a range of housing choice that is primarily low rise multi-unit housing or more compact single dwelling housing.
4. Provide opportunities for redevelopment by enabling change, including to residential density and subdivision pattern.

RZ3 – Residential Transition Zone

1. Facilitate urban development or redevelopment to achieve primarily medium density, low-mid rise housing within close proximity to local services and amenities in a manner that demonstrates good design outcomes.
2. Provide for a range of housing choices, which are predominately multi-unit housing of various dwelling types or more compact single dwelling housing.
3. Provide opportunities for redevelopment by enabling change, including to the residential density and the original pattern of subdivision.

RZ4 – Urban Residential Zone

1. Facilitate urban development or redevelopment of sites to achieve medium to high density, midrise housing in a manner that demonstrates good design outcomes.
2. Provide for a range of housing choices, which are predominately medium to high density multi-unit housing of various dwelling types.
3. Provide opportunities for redevelopment by enabling change, including to residential density and the original pattern of subdivision.

RZ5 – Urban Density Zone

1. Facilitate urban development or redevelopment of sites to achieve higher density, mid and medium rise housing in a manner that demonstrates good design outcomes.
2. Provide opportunities for the establishment and maintenance of residential housing that is generally high density.
3. Provide housing in areas with very good access to facilities and services and/or frequent public transport services.
4. Provide for a range of high density and larger scale housing choices of various dwellings types.
5. Provide opportunities for redevelopment by enabling changes, including to the original pattern of subdivision

Assessment Outcomes

Consistent with the zone policy outcomes, development proposals in residential zones must demonstrate that they are consistent with the assessment outcomes stated below.

In demonstrating compliance with the assessment outcomes, consideration is to be given to the relevant design guides and may be given to planning technical specifications which may serve as a benchmark. While all assessment outcomes are to be met, not all outcomes are covered by design guidance and/or planning technical specifications.

Where a proposed development complies with relevant provisions in the design guide and/or planning technical specification and the development comprehensively addresses the assessment outcome, further assessment regarding that assessment outcome will not be required.

Where a design guide applies to a development, the proposal must demonstrate that it is consistent with the relevant guidance. More information is available in the design guide. Given the nature of the design guides, different design responses are possible to meet the same assessment outcomes.

The Territory Planning Authority may consider advice or written support from a referral entity to demonstrate compliance with a relevant assessment outcome. Where endorsement from an entity is noted as a planning technical specification, entity referral may be required.

The assessment outcomes for proposed development in residential zones are:

Assessment outcomes – Residential Zones	
Urban Structure and Natural Systems	1. Biodiversity connectivity is maintained across the landscape. 2. Loss of native habitat and biodiversity is avoided and/or minimised. 3. The health and functionality of waterways and catchments is maintained, including through application of water sensitive urban design principles
Site and Land Use	4. The functionality and usability of the development is appropriate for its intended purpose/use. 5. The proposed use and scale of development are appropriate to the site and zone, noting the desired zone policy outcomes and the streetscape character. 6. Adverse impacts of development on surrounding uses (within a site, on adjoining sites or to the public domain) is minimised and residential amenity protected. This includes between residential uses and between non-residential and residential uses.
Access and Movement	7. The functionality and layout of the development is accessible and adaptable, while achieving good connections with the surrounding area. This includes consideration of traffic flow and passive surveillance. 8. The development encourages active travel through safe and convenient access to the active travel network. 9. Access to, from and within the site permits safe and legible movement while catering for all users (including pedestrians). This includes consideration of vehicle maneuverability and access routes.

Assessment outcomes – Residential Zones

Public Space and Amenity

10. The development (including the design of outdoor spaces) achieves reasonable solar access and microclimate conditions to public areas and streets to support their use by the community.
11. Private open space and communal open space provides sufficient space and facilities for residents and visitors to recreate and relax, as well as providing area for service functions. Spaces are readily accessible for a range of activities.
12. Reasonable levels of active ground floor interface and passive surveillance to public spaces and streets is achieved.
13. Any advertising or signs are suitable for their context and do not have a detrimental impact on the surrounding area (for instance due to size or light emission).

Built Form and Building Design

14. The height, bulk and scale of the development is appropriate, noting the desired zone policy outcomes and the streetscape. This includes consideration of building envelope and setbacks.
15. Reasonable solar access to dwellings and private open space within a block and on adjoining residential blocks is achieved. This includes solar access into main living spaces within a dwelling and existing rooftop solar collectors and solar hot water services.
16. Reasonable levels of privacy to dwellings and private open space within a block and on adjoining residential blocks is achieved.
17. The dwelling mix and the internal size, scale and layout of dwellings in multi-unit housing provide for a comfortable living environment that meets the changing needs of residents. This includes consideration of cross-ventilation and energy efficiency.
18. Courtyard walls and fences do not have an adverse impact on the streetscape.

Sustainability and Environment

19. Sufficient planting area, canopy trees, deep soil zones and water sensitive urban design measures are provided to enhance living infrastructure, support healthy tree growth and minimise stormwater runoff.
20. Urban heat island effects are reduced through limiting impervious surfaces and provision of canopy trees and plants.
21. Threats to biodiversity such as noise, light pollution, invasive species incursion or establishment, chemical pollution, or site disturbance are avoided or minimised through good design.
22. Minimise cut and fill to protect natural hydrological function and limit soil erosion and site disturbance.
23. The development considers and addresses site characteristics, including heritage, natural features, topography, infrastructure and utilities.
24. Environmental risks, including noise, bushfire, flooding, contamination, air quality or hazardous materials are appropriately considered for the development on the site.

Parking, Services and Utilities

25. The development provides electric vehicle parking and access to charging locations in multi-unit housing.
26. The development provides appropriate end-of-trip facilities in multi-unit housing which includes secure bicycle parking.
27. Vehicle and bicycle parking sufficiently caters for the development while minimising visual impacts from the street or public space. This includes consideration of parking location, dimensions and number of spaces provided.
28. Waste is appropriately managed on site without having a detrimental impact on residents and the surrounding area.
29. The site is appropriately serviced in terms of infrastructure and utility services and any associated amenity impacts are minimised.

Assessment Requirements

Assessment requirements set the mandatory development controls within specific zones or for specific development types.

District policies also contain assessment requirements. Assessment requirements in district policies will prevail where inconsistencies occur.

Development proposals in residential zones must meet the following requirements:

Control	Assessment requirement
Secondary residences	1. A secondary residence is developed only in association with single dwelling housing. 2. The maximum dwelling size* of a secondary residence is 90m². *For the purpose of this requirement, dwelling size is the floor area measured to the outside face of external walls (including internal walls between the living areas and garage) but excludes the garage. 3. Maximum of one secondary residence per block.
Home business	4. At least 1 worker who genuinely lives on the lease is employed at any one time by the home business operating from the lease. 5. A home business does not, or is unlikely to, cause pollution, create a health hazard or present danger which is prohibited under any relevant Territory legislation and/or Code of Practice (as may vary from time to time).
Number of storeys	6. Maximum number of storeys is: a) RZ1 – 2 storeys b) RZ2 – i) for single dwelling housing and secondary residence – 2 storeys ii) for multi-unit housing – 3 storeys c) RZ3 – i) for secondary residence – 2 storeys ii) for single dwelling housing – 3 storeys iii) for multi-unit housing – 4 storeys d) RZ4 – i) for secondary residence – 2 storeys ii) for single dwelling housing – 3 storeys iii) for multi-unit housing – 6 storeys e) RZ5 – i) for secondary residence – 2 storeys ii) for single dwelling housing – 3 storeys iii) for multi-unit housing – 7 storeys

Control	Assessment requirement
Site coverage – single dwellings	7. Site coverage for single dwellings is a maximum of: a) For large blocks: 40% of the block area. b) For mid-sized blocks*: 60% of the block area. c) For compact blocks: 70% of the block area. * Includes blocks identified in a district technical specification as being subject to mid-size block provisions. For single dwellings on blocks created through the subdivision of an original residential block, site coverage is a maximum of: a) In RZ1 and RZ2: 45% of the block area. b) In RZ3, RZ4 and RZ5: 50% of the block area. Note: Single dwelling includes all secondary residences and associated roofed Class 10 buildings.
Site coverage – multi-unit housing	8. Site coverage for multi-unit housing is a maximum of: a) RZ1 and RZ2 – 45% of the original block area. b) RZ3, RZ4 and RZ5 – 50% of the original block area.
Redevelopment	9. Where a lawfully constructed building already exceeds the maximum set by an assessment requirement (such as site coverage, building height or number of storeys), a new building or additions / alterations may be permitted to the same maximum as the existing building provided there are no additional adverse impacts on adjoining properties including, but not limited to, solar access.
Gas connections	10. No new gas network connections are allowed to all new or existing developments including redevelopments.