Australian Capital Territory

**Planning** **(Exempt Development) Single Dwelling Housing Development Control Declaration 2024 (No 1)\***

**Notifiable instrument NI2024-147**

made under the

**Planning (Exempt Development) Regulation 2023, s 14 (Territory planning authority may declare development controls)**

**1 Name of instrument**

This instrument is the *Planning* *(Exempt Development) Single Dwelling Housing Development Control Declaration 2024 (No 1)*.

**2 Commencement**

This instrument commences the day after notification.

**3 Declaration**

I declare the development control at schedule 1 for the development of single dwelling housing in residential zones.

**4 Revocation**

I revoke the *Planning (Exempt Development) Single Dwelling Housing Development Control Declaration 2023 (No 2)* (NI2023‑742).

Freya O’Brien

Delegate of the Territory planning authority

15 March 2024

**Residential Zones - Single Dwelling Housing Development Control**

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## Application

The Residential Zones - Single Dwelling Housing Development Control enables a single dwelling development, including alterations and extensions, to be exempt from requiring development approval where it meets all the requirements set out in this control declared under section 14 (1) (a) of the *Planning (Exempt Development) Regulation 2023* (the Regulation), and where it meets the relevant development exemption criteria as set out in theRegulation. Where a requirement for a specific block is contained within a District Specific single dwelling housing development control for exempt development declarations, that requirement supersedes the corresponding requirement in the Residential Zones – Single Dwelling Housing Development Control.

This category of exempt development allows compliant single dwellings to be built without development approval.

An exemption declaration is a minor approval that can be issued by the Territory Planning Authority that allows a single dwelling, which would be exempt from development approval other than for one or more minor encroachments, to continue to be dealt with as exempt development. In all cases, the departures from the requirements in this control must be consistent with the exemptions for minor non-compliance as set out in the *Planning (Exempt Development) Regulation 2023* and the Territory Planning Authority is satisfied that the departures are minor and will not cause an adverse effect to neighbours.

Adding a secondary residence is not exempt development and would require development approval.

Terms used in this development control have the same meaning that they have in the Territory Plan Part G Dictionary and in the *Planning (Exempt Development) Regulation 2023*.

| **Control** | |
| --- | --- |
| Site coverage | Site coverage is a maximum of:   1. For large blocks: 40% of the block area 2. For mid-sized blocks: 60% of the block area 3. For compact blocks: 70% of the block area. |
| Plot ratio | Plot ratio on a large block is a maximum of 50%. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Pedestrian access | For blocks with a boundary to a rear lane, pedestrian access is provided from the main street frontage. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Private open space | Minimum private open space for single dwellings is:   * + 1. For large blocks:        1. 60% of the block area        2. Have a minimum dimension of 6m for an area not less than 10% of the block area.     2. For mid*-*sized blocks:        1. 40% of the block area        2. Have minimum dimensions as follows:        - For blocks less than 360m2 – 5m for an area not less than 10% of the block area        - In all other cases – 6m for an area not less than 10% of the block area.     3. For compactblocks:        1. 30% of the block area.   Note: Private open space includes principal private open space. | |
| Principal private open space | At least one area of principal private open space on the block complies with all of the following:   * + 1. minimum area and dimensions specified in the table below     2. at ground level     3. directly accessible from, and adjacent to, a habitable room other than a bedroom     4. screened from adjoining public streets and public open space     5. located behind the building line, except where enclosed by a courtyard wall     6. is not located to the south, south-east or south-west of the dwelling, unless it achieves not less than 3 hours of direct sunlight onto 50% of the minimum principal private open space area between the hours of 9am and 3pm on the winter solstice (21 June).   Note: Overshadowing from vegetation is not considered when assessing solar access.   | **Zone** | ***Block* type** | ***Dwelling* Size\*** | **Minimum Area** | **Minimum Dimension** | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **all** | Compact | all | 16m2 | 4m | | **RZ1**  **RZ2** | Mid sized  Large | up to 105m2 | 28m2 | 4m | | Mid sized  Large | 105m2 or greater | 36m2 | 6m | | **RZ3**  **RZ4** | Mid sized  Large | all | 24m2 | 4m |   \* For the purpose of this table, *dwelling* size is defined as the sum of all floor area measured to the outside face of externals walls including internal walls between the living areas and *garage* (but excluding the *garage*). | |
| Height of building | Maximum height of building above datum ground level is:  RZ1 and RZ2, - 8.5m  RZ3 – 9.5m  RZ4 – 12.5m | |
| Number of storeys | RZ1 and RZ2: Maximum 2 storeys.  RZ3 – Maximum 2 storeys.  RZ4 – Maximum 3 storeys. | |
| Building envelope | Buildings are sited wholly within the building envelope formed by planes projected over the subject block at 45° to the horizontal from a height of 3.5m above each side and rear boundary, except for side or rear boundaries where solar building envelope requirements apply.  This provision does not apply to:   * + 1. Single dwellings on compact blocks     2. Building exceeding 3 storeys in RZ5.     Encroachments outside the building envelope are permitted for flues, chimneys, antennae, aerials, cooling appliances and heating appliances.  Notes:   * This does not apply to any part of a building that is required to be built to a boundary of the block by a district policy or specification. * The reference to a building with more than 3 storeys is a reference to the whole building, not just that part of the building over 3 storeys. * For the purposes of this control all height measurements are taken from datum ground level. | |
| Front boundary setbacks | Front setbacks comply with minimum dimensions in Schedule 1.  Notes:   * Minimum boundary setbacks for corner blocks apply only to the street frontage nominated as a secondary street frontage. If street frontages on corner blocks are of equal length, the minimum setbacks apply only to one secondary street frontage. * Public open space refers to unleased land that is accessible by the public. * On a vacant block or a block with no residual buildings the minimum boundary setbacks for corner blocks apply only to one street frontage nominated by the applicant or nominated in a district policy as a secondary street frontage. * On a block with existing buildings the minimum boundary setbacks are determined by existing buildings.   Chamfers may be included in the secondary street frontage, but only if the length of the chamfer is less than the length of the front boundary. | |
| Side and rear setbacks | Side and rear setbacks comply with minimum dimensions in Schedule 2.  For walls within 900mm of a side and rear boundary:   * + 1. Single dwelling garages and carports on large blocks - maximum length of all walls facing the boundary is 8m.     2. No windows are permitted within any part of the wall.     3. Single dwellings on mid sized blocks – wall        1. Is no more than 13m in length        2. extends no more than 2.5m into the rear zone.   Notes:   * On a vacant block or a block with no residual buildings the minimum side boundary setbacks are nominated by the applicant or nominated in a district policy. * On a block with existing buildings the minimum side boundary setbacks are determined by existing buildings. * Minimum setback and wall length requirements do not apply to the part of the building that is specified in a district technical specification to be built to the boundary. | |
| Allowable setback encroachments | Encroachments into the minimum setback are permitted for:   * + 1. an eave or roof overhang with a horizontal width of not more than 600mm.     2. fascias, gutters, downpipes, light fittings and sun blinds.     3. landings, steps or ramps, none of which are more than 1m above finished ground level.     4. for side and rear setbacks only - rainwater tanks, chimneys, flues, domestic fuel tanks, cooling or heating appliances, electricity and gas meters, aerials, antennae, unroofed pergolas, solar inverters and batteries.   Note: noise from appliances must comply with the noise standards. | |
| Solar building envelope | Buildings are sited wholly within the solar building envelope formed by planes projected over the subject block at 31 o to the horizontal from the height of the ‘solar fence’ on any northern boundary of an adjoining residential block.  The height of the solar fence is:   * + 1. For single dwellings on large blocks:        1. In the primary building zone – 2.4m        2. All other parts of the boundary – 1.8m.     2. For single dwellings on mid-sized and compact blocks:        1. In the primary building zone – 3m        2. All other parts of the boundary – 2.3m.   For the purposes of this control all height measurements are taken from datum ground level.  Notes:   * This does not apply to those parts of a boundary where the adjacent part of the adjoining residential block comprises only an access driveway (i.e., a “battle-axe handle”). * This does not apply to the part of the building that is specified in a residential exempt development control to be built to the boundary.     **31°** | |
| Solar access | This provision applies to new dwellings or additions and alterations, only if the addition or alteration affects a habitable room (item a) or a habitable room other than a bedroom (item b):   1. Where the front boundary of the block is the northern boundary:   A habitable room is provided with a minimum of 4m² of transparent vertical glazing that:   * + - 1. is oriented between 45° east of north and 45° west of north; and       2. is not overshadowed at noon on the winter solstice (21 June) by buildings and structures on the subject block, excluding the eaves of the building.  1. For all other blocks:   A habitable room other than a bedroom is provided with a minimum of 4m² of transparent vertical glazing that:   * + - 1. is oriented between 45° east of north and 45° west of north; and       2. is not overshadowed at noon on the winter solstice (21 June) by:   1. buildings and structures on the subject block, excluding the eaves of the building   2. the ‘solar fence**’** on the northern boundary of the subject block.   For this specification:   1. The height of the ‘solar fence’ is:    * + 1. in the primary building zone – 3m        2. all other parts of the boundary – 2.3m. 2. A roofed outdoor area (e.g. an alfresco area) is not considered to be an eave.   Note: Overshadowing from vegetation is not considered when assessing solar access. | |
| Front fences and walls | | Fences or walls are not permitted forward of the building line except where:   * + 1. it has been previously approved under an estate development plan or subdivision design application.     2. is permitted in a relevant District Policy.     3. satisfies the courtyard wall provisions below.     4. is exempt under the Planning Act 2023 or Planning Regulation. |
| Courtyard walls | | Courtyard walls forward of the building line comply with all the following:   * + 1. total length complies with one of the following:        1. not more than 50% of the width of the block        2. not more than 70% where the width of the block at the line of the wall is less than 12m.     2. a 50% minimum front setback.     3. a maximum height of 1.8m above datum ground level.     4. constructed of brick, block or stonework, any of which may be combined with timber or metal panels that include openings not less than 25% of the surface area of the panel and clearly distinguishes itself from a panel or timber fence.     5. incorporate shrub planting between the wall and the front boundary.     6. do not obstruct sight lines for vehicles and pedestrians on public paths on driveways in accordance with Australian Standard AS2890.1- Off-Street Parking. |
| Planting area | | Planting area achieves the following minimum area. To be included in planting area, the area must have a minimum dimension of 2.5m.   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  |  | % of block area | | Single dwelling | Large block | 30% | | Mid sized block | 20% | | Compact block | 15% |   Note: Structures, such as retaining walls, are not to be within the 2.5m area |
| Tree Planting | | Development provides a minimum level of tree planting in deep soil zones associated with the requirements in Table A, consistent with the following:   1. For compact blocks, at least one small tree. 2. For mid-sized blocks, at least two small trees. 3. For large blocks less than or equal to 800m2, at least one small tree and one medium tree (or equivalent existing tree/s – see Table B 4. For large blocks more than 800m2, at least one medium tree and one large tree (or equivalent existing tree/s – see Table B); and one additional large tree or two additional medium trees for each additional 800m2 block area or part thereof (or equivalent existing tree/s – see Table B)   All new trees proposed are in accordance with utilities requirements.  For existing trees on the site, Table B provides tree size equivalents. |
| **Table A: Tree sizes and associated planting requirements**   |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Tree size | Mature height | Minimum canopy diameter\*\*\* | Minimum soil surface area dimension | Minimum pot size (litres)\* | Minimum soil volume | | Small Tree | 5-8m | 4m | 3m | 45\*\* | 18m3 | | Medium Tree | 8-12m | 6m | 5m | 75\*\* | 42m3 | | Large Tree | >12m | 8m | 7m | 75\*\* | 85m3 | | Notes:  For the purposes of this table, a tree is defined as a woody perennial plant suitable for the Canberra climate. Any new trees cannot be a plant described in schedule 1 of the Pest Plants and Animals (Pest Plants) Declaration 2015 (No 1) or any subsequent declaration made under section 7 of the Pest Plants and Animals Act 2005, unless the tree is included on the ACT tree register.  \*Minimum pot size refers to the container size of new trees prior to planting.  \*\*The maximum pot size for small, medium and large *eucalyptus sp*. trees if selected is 45 litres, with maximum height at planting of 2.5m and maximum trunk caliper of 3cm.  \*\*\*Provided the minimum canopy diameter of the respective tree size can be met, this can be counted as meeting the tree size requirement. | | | | | |   **Table B: Tree sizes – equivalents for existing trees**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Tree size | Tree sizes - Equivalent | | Small Tree | An existing tree of a larger size category can also substitute for a planting requirement for a smaller tree | | Medium Tree | 2 small existing trees or  1 large existing tree | | Large Tree | 4 existing small trees or  2 existing medium trees or  1 existing medium tree plus 2 existing small trees | | | |
| Water sensitive urban design | | Option A  All new singledwellings and extensions and alterations (except extensions of a size 50% or less of existing gross floor area, or development where no new plumbing is proposed), meet one of the following options:   * + 1. on compact blocks:        1. no minimum water storage requirement        2. minimum 🟊🟊🟊 WELS rated plumbing fixtures.     2. on mid-sized blocks:        1. minimum on-site water storage of water from roof harvesting is 2,000 litres        2. 50% or 75m2 of roof plan area, whichever is the lesser, is connected to the tank        3. the tank is connected to at least a toilet, laundry cold water and external taps that are attached to the house. The connection will require a pump where it cannot be elevated sufficiently to give adequate pressure.     3. on large blocksup to 800m2:        1. minimum on-site water storage of water from roof harvesting is 4,000 litres        2. 50% or 100m2 of roof plan area, whichever is the lesser, is connected to the tank        3. the tank is connected to at least a toilet, laundry cold water and external taps that are attached to the house. The connection will require a pump where it cannot be elevated sufficiently to give adequate pressure.     4. on large blocks800m2 or greater:        1. minimum on site water storage of water from roof harvesting is 5,000 litres        2. 50% or 125m2 of roof plan area, whichever is the lesser, is connected to the tank        3. the tank is connected to at least a toilet, laundry cold water and external taps that are attached to the house. The connection will require a pump where it cannot be elevated sufficiently to give adequate pressure.   Option B:  A greywater system capturing all bathroom and laundry greywater and treating it to Class A standard. The treated greywater is connected to all laundry cold water, toilet flushing and all external taps.  Option C:   * 1. Evidence is provided that the development achieves a minimum 40% reduction in mains water consumption compared to an equivalent development constructed in 2003, using the on-line assessment tool or another tool. The 40% target is met without any reliance on landscaping measures to reduce consumption.   **Note:** The online Single Residential Waterways Calculator can be found at: <https://www.planning.act.gov.au/build-buy-renovate/for-industry/requirements-and-responsibilities/water-efficiency/single-residential-waterways-calculator>. |
| Minimisation of cut and fill | | The total change in ground level resulting from cut or fill does not exceed 1.5m within 1.5m of a side or rear boundary. This does not include a cut associated with a basement.  Note: The change in ground level is the cumulative total of all level changes within 1.5m of the boundary taken from the Datum Ground Level (DGL) to the new Finished Ground Level (FGL). |
| Noise management and acoustic treatment - dwellings | | Where a block is located adjacent to a road carrying or forecast to carry traffic volumes greater than 12,000 vehicles per day:   * + - 1. dwellings are designed and constructed to comply with *AS/NZS 3671 - Acoustics – Road Traffic Noise Intrusion Building Siting and Design;* and       2. a noise management plan, prepared by a suitably qualified person, is endorsed by the government department responsible for road transport planning.   Where a block is identified as being potentially noise affected in a district policy/specification:   * + - 1. dwellings are designed and constructed to comply with the relevant sections of *AS/NZS 2107:2000 - Acoustics – Recommended design sound levels and reverberation times for building interiors (the relevant satisfactory recommended interior design sound level);* and       2. a noise management plan, prepared by a suitably qualified person, is endorsed by the EPA. |
| Number of car parking spaces | | At least 2 car parking spaces are provided on site, unless the development is a single bedroom dwelling on a compact block, in which case at least 1 car parking space is provided. |
| Dimensions of car parking spaces | | Dimensions\* of car parking spaces are not less than the following:   * + - 1. single roofed space - 6m x 3m       2. double roofed space - 6m x 5.5m       3. single unroofed space - 5.5m x 3m       4. multiple unroofed spaces side by side - 5.5m x 2.6m       5. parallel parking spaces - 6.7m x 2.3m       6. 2.1m minimum clearance to any overhead structure.   \*Dimensions for roofed spaces are internal dimensions. |
| Location of car parking spaces | | Car parking spaces are provided to meet the following:   * + 1. are not located in the front zone; except on:        1. compact blocks        2. any part of a driveway in tandem with another car parking space that is located behind the front building line.     2. one car space per dwelling is roofed.     3. can be in tandem only where they belong to the same dwelling.     4. do not encroach block boundaries. |
| Basement carparking | | For basement car parking:   * + 1. Ramps comply with the relevant requirements in Australian Standard AS2890.1- Parking facilities.     2. In RZ1 and RZ2, where the block is less than 30m wide as measured at the street frontage on standard blocks, ramps accessing basement car parking are not located within 50% of the minimum front setbacks.     3. The maximum total width of an entry and/or exit facing the street is 8m. |
| Garage and carport openings | | The maximum total width of garage door openings and external width of carports facing a street is 50% of the total length of the building façade facing that street.  This does not apply to frontages to rear lanes. |
| Verge crossings | | Verge crossings comply with the following:   * + 1. A single verge crossing per block is provided.     2. No additional verge crossings are permitted.     3. redundant driveway verge crossings are removed, and the verge and kerb restored.     4. Changes to driveway verge crossings are endorsed by Transport Canberra and City Services. |
| Servicing and infrastructure | | Proposed development can be sufficiently serviced in terms of infrastructure and utility services.  Endorsement is obtained from relevant utility providers (electricity, water, gas, sewerage and stormwater) to confirm that the location and nature of earthworks, utility connections, proposed buildings, pavements and landscape features comply with utility standards, access provisions and asset clearance zones. |

# Schedule 1 – Front boundary setbacks

## Table 1: Single dwelling front boundary setbacks – blocks in subdivisions approved originally before 18 October 1993

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **block size** | **front boundary setback** | **exceptions** | | |
| **front boundary setback to *secondary street frontage*** | **front boundary setback to public open space or pedestrian paths wider than 6m at the widest point** | **front boundary setbacks to public open space or pedestrian paths of 6m or less at the widest point** |
| ***lower floor level*** | Large | 6m | 4m | 4m | 1.5m |
| Mid-sized | 3m |
| Compact |
| ***upper floor level*** | Large | 6m | 6m | 4m | 1.5m |
| Mid-sized | 3m |
| Compact |
| ***garage or carport*** |  | 6m | 5.5m | 4m | 0m |

## Table 2: Single dwelling front boundary setbacks –blocks in subdivisions approved on or after 18 October 1993 but before 31 March 2008

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **block size** | **front boundary setback** | **exceptions** | | |
| **front boundary setback to *secondary street frontage*** | **front boundary setback to public open space or pedestrian paths wider than 6m at the widest point** | **front boundary setbacks to rear lane, public open space or pedestrian paths of 6m or less at the widest point** |
| ***lower floor level*** | Large | 4m | 4m | 4m | 1.5m |
| Mid-sized | 3m |
| Compact |
| ***upper floor level*** | Large | 6m | 6m | 4m | 1.5m |
| Mid-sized | 3m |
| Compact |
| ***garage or carport*** |  | 5.5m with a minimum of 1.5 m behind the front building line | 5.5m | 4m | 0m |

## Table 3: Single dwelling front boundary setbacks – blocks in subdivisions approved on or after 31 March 2008

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **block size** | **front boundary setback** | **exceptions** | | |
| **front boundary setback to *secondary street frontage*** | **front boundary setback to public open space or pedestrian paths wider than 6m at the widest point** | **front boundary setbacks to rear lane, public open space or pedestrian paths of 6m or less at the widest point** |
| ***lower floor level*** | Large | 4m | 3m | 4m | 0m |
| Mid-sized | 4m\* | 3m |
| Compact | 3m |
| ***upper floor level*** | Large | 6m | 3m | 4m | 0m |
| Mid-sized | 4m | 3m |
| Compact | 3m |
| ***garage or carport*** |  | 5.5m with a minimum of 1.5m behind the front building line except where there is a courtyard wall in the *front zone* | | 4m | 0m |

\*Articulation elements can extend up to 1m into the front setback. Elements can include verandahs, porches, awnings, shade devices, pergolas and the like (a carport is not considered an articulation element)

# Schedule 2 – Side and rear boundary setbacks

## Table 4: Single dwelling side and rear setbacks – large blocks

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **minimum side boundary setback within the *primary building zone*** | **minimum side boundary setback within the *rear zone*** | **minimum rear boundary setback** |
| **side boundary** | **side boundary** |
| ***lower floor level – external wall*** | 1.5m | 1.5m | 3m |
| ***upper floor level – external wall*** | 3m | 6m | 6m |
| ***upper floor level – unscreened element*** | 6m | 6m | 6m |
| ***garage or carport*** | 0m\* | 0m\* | 3m |

\* A 0m setback is only permitted on one boundary

## Table 5: Single dwelling side and rear setbacks – mid sized blocks in subdivisions approved before 2 October 2009

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **minimum side boundary setback within the *primary building zone*** | | **minimum side boundary setback within the *rear zone*** | | **minimum rear boundary setback** |
| **side boundary 1** | **side boundary 2** | **side boundary 1** | **Side boundary 2** |
| ***lower floor level*** | 3m | >15m frontage 1.5m <15m frontage  0m | 3m | 1.5m | 3m |
| ***upper floor level – external wall*** | 3m | 3m | 6m | 6m | 6m |
| ***upper floor level – unscreened element*** | 6m | 6m | 6m | 6m | 6m |
| ***garage or carport*** | 3m | 0m | 3m | 0m | 3m |

## Table 6: Single dwelling side and rear setbacks – mid sized blocks in subdivisions approved on or after 2 October 2009

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **minimum side boundary setback within the *primary building zone*** | | **minimum side boundary setback within the *rear zone*** | | **minimum rear boundary setback** |
| **side boundary 1** | **side boundary 2** | **side boundary 1** | **side boundary 2** |
| ***lower floor level*** | 1.5m | 0m | 3m | 0.9m | 3m  0m\* |
| ***upper floor level –* *external wall*** | 3m | 1.5m  0m\* | 6m | 6m | 6m  0m\* |
| ***upper floor level – unscreened element*** | 6m | 6m | 6m | 6m | 6m |

\*only where specifically permitted under a district policy/specification.

## Table 7: Single dwelling side and rear setbacks – compact blocks

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **minimum side boundary setback** | | | **Minimum rear boundary setback** |
| **side boundary 1 or longer side boundary of a corner block** | **side boundary 2** | **shorter side boundary of a corner block** |  |
| **lower floor level – *external wall*** | 0m | 0m | 3m | 3m  0m\* |
| **lower floor level – *unscreened element*** | 1.5m | 1.5m | 3m | 3m |
| **upper floor level – *external wall*** | 0m\*\* | 0m\*\* | 3m | 4m  0m\* |
| **upper floor level – *unscreened element*** | 1.5m | 1.5m | 3m | 4m |
| **garage or carport** | 0m | 0m | 0m | 3m  0m\* |

\* only where specifically permitted under a district policy/specification.

\*\* only where the lower floor level is built to the boundary