

**57.02**  
Historic  
31/03/2025  
VC267

## Neighbourhood character

**57.02-1**  
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VC282

### Street setback objective

To ensure that the setbacks of buildings from a street respond to the existing or preferred neighbourhood character and make efficient use of the site.

#### Standard E2-1

Walls of buildings should be set back from streets the distance specified in Table E2-1.

Porches, pergolas and verandahs that are less than 3.6 metres high and eaves should not encroach more than 2.5 metres into the setbacks of this standard.

**Table E2-1 Street setback**

Development context	Minimum setback from front street	Minimum setback from a side street
There is an existing building on both the abutting allotments facing the same street, and the site is not on a corner.	The same distance as the lesser front wall setback of an existing building on the abutting allotments facing the front street or 6 metres, whichever is the lesser.	Not applicable
There is an existing building on one abutting allotment facing the same street and no existing building on the other abutting allotment facing the same street, and the site is not on a corner.	The same distance as the setback of the front wall of the existing building on the abutting allotment facing the front street or 6 metres, whichever is the lesser.	Not applicable
There is no existing building on either of the abutting allotments facing the same street, and the site is not on a corner.	6 metres for streets in a Transport Zone 2 and 4 metres for other streets.	Not applicable
The site is on a corner.	<p>If there is a building on the abutting allotment facing the front street, the same distance as the setback of the front wall of the existing building on the abutting allotment facing the front street or 6 metres, whichever is the lesser.</p> <p>If there is no building on the abutting allotment facing the front street, 6 metres for streets in a Transport Zone 2 and 4 metres for other streets.</p>	<p>Front walls of new development fronting the side street of a corner site is set back at least the same distance as the setback of the front wall of any existing building on the abutting allotment facing the side street or 3 metres, whichever is the lesser.</p> <p>Side walls of new development on a corner site is set back the same distance as the setback of the front wall of any existing building on the abutting allotment facing the side street or 2 metres, whichever is the lesser.</p>

### Decision guidelines

Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider:

- Any relevant neighbourhood character objective, policy or statement set out in this scheme.
- The design response.

- Whether the siting of the building is constrained by the shape, dimensions, slope or other conditions of the site.
- Whether a different setback would be more appropriate taking into account the prevailing setbacks of existing buildings on nearby lots.
- The visual impact of the building when viewed from the street and from adjoining properties.
- Whether a different setback affects the ability to retain or plant canopy trees.

**57.02-2**  
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### **Building height objective**

To ensure that the height of buildings respond to the existing or preferred neighbourhood character.

#### **Standard E2-2**

The maximum building height should not exceed the maximum height specified in the zone, schedule to the zone or an overlay that applies to the land.

If no maximum height is specified in the zone, schedule to the zone or an overlay, the maximum building height should not exceed 9 metres, unless the slope of the natural ground level at any cross section wider than 8 metres of the site of the building is 2.5 degrees or more, in which case the maximum building height should not exceed 10 metres.

#### **Decision guidelines**

Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider:

- Any relevant neighbourhood character objective, policy or statement set out in this scheme.
- Any maximum building height specified in the zone, a schedule to the zone or an overlay applying to the land.
- The design response.
- The effect of the slope of the site on the height of the building.
- The relationship between the proposed building height and the height of existing adjacent buildings.
- The visual impact of the building when viewed from the street and from adjoining properties.

**57.02-3**  
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### **Side and rear setbacks objective**

To ensure that the height and setback of a building from a boundary responds to the existing or preferred neighbourhood character and limits the impact on the amenity of existing dwellings or small second dwellings.

#### **Standard E2-3**

A new building not on or within 200mm of a boundary should be set back from side or rear boundaries in accordance with either E2-3.1 or E2-3.2.

Either standard E2-3.1 or E2-3.2 should apply rather than applying both in full or part:

- E2-3.1:  
The building is set back at least 1 metre, plus 0.3 metres for every metre of height over 3.6 metres up to 6.9 metres, plus 1 metre for every metre of height over 6.9 metres.
- E2-3.2:  
If the boundary is not to the south of the building, the building is set back at least 3 metres up to a height not exceeding 11 metres and at least 4.5 metres for a height over 11 metres.  
If the boundary is to the south of the building, the building is set back at least 6 metres up to a

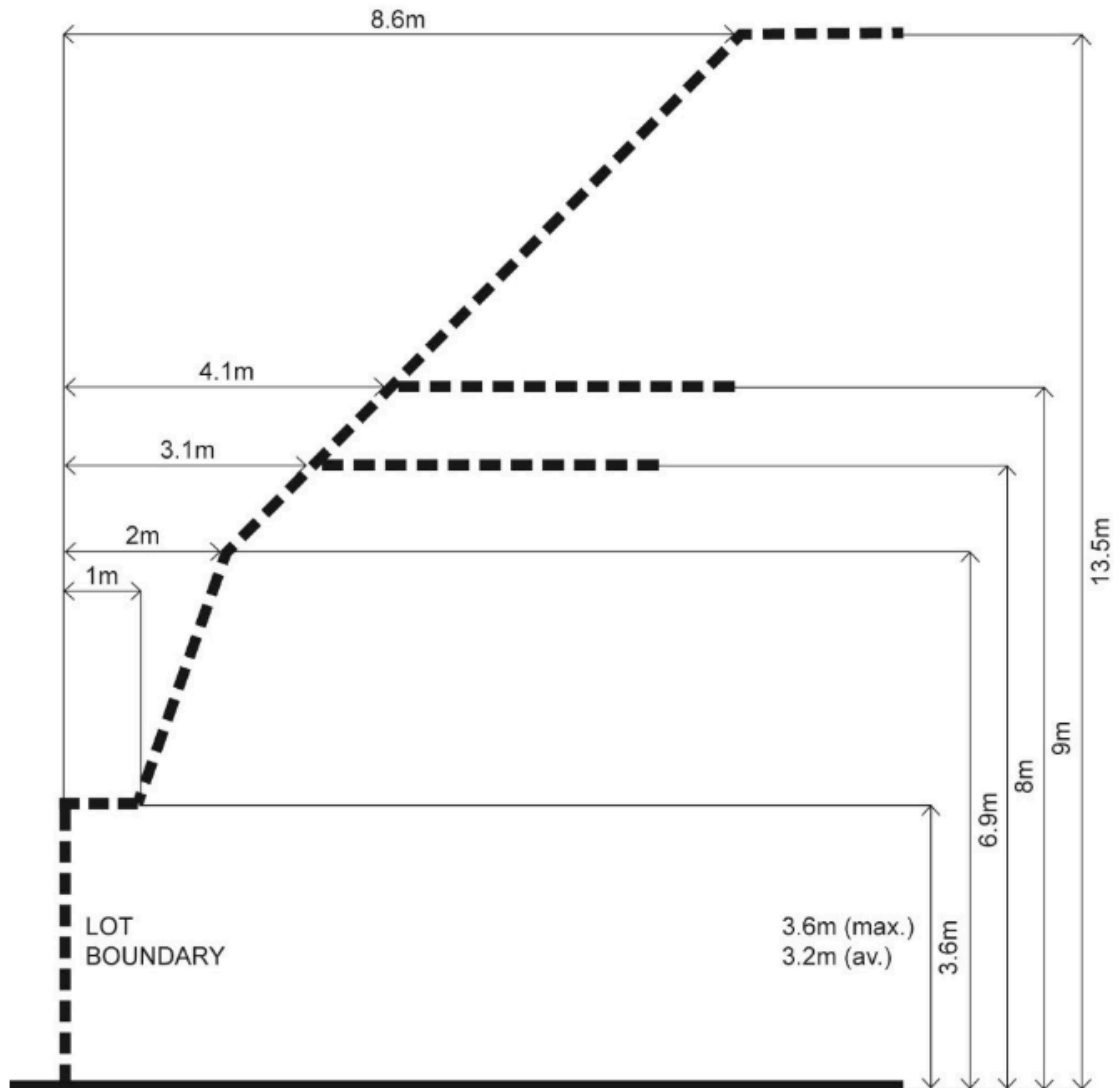
## HOBSONS BAY PLANNING SCHEME

height not exceeding 11 metres and at least 9 metres for a height over 11 metres between south 30 degrees west to south 30 degrees east.

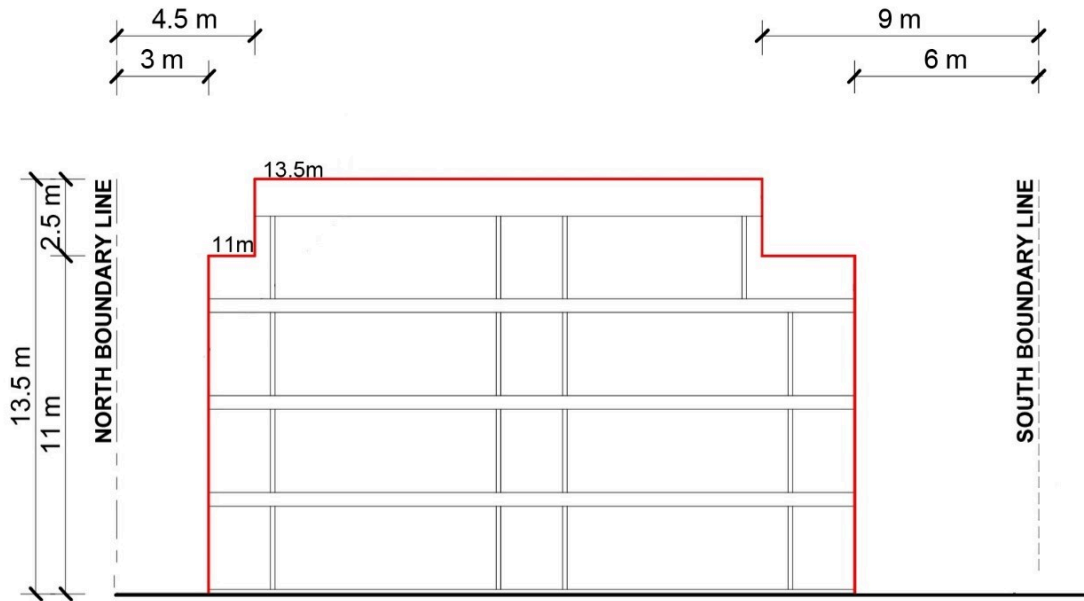
Sunblinds, verandahs, porches, eaves, fascias, gutters, masonry chimneys, flues, pipes, domestic fuel or water tanks, and heating or cooling equipment or other services should not encroach more than 0.5 metres into the side and rear setbacks.

Landings that have an area of not more than 2 square metres and less than 1 metre high, stairways, ramps, pergolas, shade sails and carports may encroach into the side and rear setbacks.

**Diagram E2-3.1 Side and rear setbacks**



**Diagram E2-3.2 Side and rear setbacks**



**Decision guidelines**

Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider:

- Any relevant neighbourhood character objective, policy or statement set out in this scheme.
- The design response.
- The impact on the amenity of the habitable room windows and private open space of existing dwellings or small second dwellings.
- Whether the wall is opposite an existing or simultaneously constructed wall built to the boundary.
- Whether the wall abuts a side or rear lane.
- Whether a different setback in a rear yard affects the ability to retain or plant canopy trees.

**57.02-4**  
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**Walls on boundaries objective**

To ensure that the location, length and height of a wall on a boundary responds to the existing or preferred neighbourhood character and limits the impact on the amenity of existing dwellings and small second dwellings.

**Standard E2-4**

A new wall constructed on or within 200mm of a side or rear boundary of a lot or a carport constructed on or within 1 metre of a side or rear boundary of a lot should not abut the boundary for a length that exceeds the greater of the following distances:

- 10 metres plus 25 per cent of the remaining length of the boundary of an adjoining lot, or
- The length of existing or simultaneously constructed walls or carports abutting the boundary on an abutting lot.

A new wall or carport may fully abut a side or rear boundary where slope and retaining walls or fences would result in the effective height of the wall or carport being less than 2 metres on the abutting property boundary.

A building on a boundary includes a building set back up to 200mm from a boundary.

The height of a new wall constructed on or within 200mm of a side or rear boundary or a carport constructed on or within 1 metre of a side or rear boundary should not exceed an average of 3.2 metres with no part higher than 3.6 metres unless abutting a higher existing or simultaneously constructed wall.

**Decision guidelines**

Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider:

- Any relevant neighbourhood character objective, policy or statement set out in this scheme.
- The design response.
- The extent to which walls on boundaries are part of the neighbourhood character.
- The impact on the amenity of existing dwellings or small second dwellings.
- The opportunity to minimise the length of walls on boundaries by aligning a new wall on a boundary with an existing wall on a lot of an adjoining property.
- The orientation of the boundary that the wall is being built on.
- The width of the lot.
- The extent to which the slope and retaining walls or fences reduce the effective height of the wall.
- Whether the wall abuts a side or rear lane.
- The need to increase the wall height to screen a box gutter.

**57.02-5**  
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**Site coverage objective**

To ensure that the site coverage responds to the existing or preferred neighbourhood character and responds to the features of the site.

**Standard E2-5**

The site area covered by buildings should not exceed the percentage specified in Table E2-5.

**Table E2-5 Site coverage**

Zone	Area of site covered by buildings
Neighbourhood Residential Zone	60 per cent
Township Zone	
General Residential Zone	65 per cent
Residential Growth Zone	70 per cent
Mixed Use Zone	
Housing Choice and Transport Zone	

**Decision guidelines**

Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider:

- Any relevant neighbourhood character objective, policy or statement set out in this scheme.
- The design response.
- The existing site coverage and any constraints imposed by existing development or the features of the site.

- The site coverage of adjacent properties.
- The effect of the visual bulk of the building and whether this is acceptable in the neighbourhood.
- Whether a different area of site coverage affects the ability to retain or plant canopy trees.

**57.02-6**

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**Access objective**

To ensure the number and design of vehicle crossovers responds to the neighbourhood character.

**Standard E2-6**

The width of accessways or car spaces (other than to a rear lane) should not exceed:

- 33 per cent of the street frontage; or
- 40 per cent of the street frontage if the width of the street frontage is less than 20 metres.

The number of access points to a road in a Transport Zone 2 or a Transport Zone 3 should not be increased.

The location of a vehicle crossover or accessway should not encroach the tree protection zone of an existing tree, that is proposed to be retained in a road by more than 10 per cent.

**Decision guidelines**

Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider:

- Any relevant neighbourhood character objective, policy or statement set out in this scheme.
- The design response.
- The reduction of on-street car parking spaces.
- Whether a different accessway width, number of access points or encroachment of an existing tree affects the ability to retain or plant canopy trees on the site or footpath.

**57.02-7**

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**Tree canopy objectives**

To provide tree canopy that responds to the neighbourhood character of the area and reduces the visual impact of buildings on the streetscape.

To preserve existing canopy cover and support the provision of new canopy cover.

To ensure new canopy trees are climate responsive, support biodiversity, wellbeing and amenity, and help reduce urban heat.

**Standard E2-7**

A minimum canopy cover as specified in Table E2-7.1 should be provided.

**Table E2-7.1 Canopy cover**

Site area	Canopy cover
1000 square metres or less	10% of site area
More than 1000 square metres	20% of site area

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Existing trees to be retained meet all of the following:

- Have a height of at least 5 metres,
- Have a trunk circumference of 0.5 metres or greater at 1.4 metres above ground level,
- Have a trunk that is located at least 4 metres from proposed buildings.

The minimum canopy cover is met using any combination of trees specified in Table E2-7.2.

Existing trees that are retained can be used in calculating canopy cover.

**Table E2-7.2 Tree type, canopy cover, deep soil and planter requirements**

Tree type	Minimum canopy diameter at maturity	Minimum height at maturity	Minimum mature canopy cover	Tree in deep soil Area of deep soil	Tree in planter Volume of planter	Minimum depth of planter soil
<b>A</b>	4 metres	6 metres	12.6 sqm	12 square metres  (min. plan dimension 2.5 metres)	12 cubic metres  (min. plan dimension 2.5 metres)	0.8 metre
<b>B</b>	8 metres	8 metres	50.3 sqm	49 square metres  (min. plan dimension 4.5 metres)	28 cubic metres  (min. plan dimension 4.5 metres)	1 metre
<b>C</b>	12 metres	12 metres	113.1 sqm	121 square metres  (min. plan dimension 6.5 metres)	64 cubic metres  (min. plan dimension 6.5 metres)	1.5 metre

Provide at least one new or retained tree in the front setback and the rear setback.

Trees are located in either:

- An area of deep soil as specified in Table E2-7.2; or
- A planter as specified in Table E2-7.2.

Any trees proposed to be planted should be of species to the satisfaction of the responsible authority, having regard to the location and relevant geographic factors.

### Decision guidelines

Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider:

- Any relevant neighbourhood character objective, policy or statement set out in this scheme.
- The site context and design response.
- The extent to which the existing and proposed canopy trees contribute to a greener environment and reduce urban heat.
- Whether the growth characteristics of existing trees and proposed canopy trees will provide the required canopy cover.
- The suitability of the planting location, deep soil areas and planter soil volume for proposed canopy trees.

- Whether the species of canopy tree is suited to the soil conditions of the site.

**57.02-8**

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**Front fences objective**

To encourage front fence design that responds to the existing or preferred neighbourhood character.

**Standard E2-8**

A front fence within 3 metres of a street should not exceed the maximum height specified in Table E2-8.

**Table E2-8 Maximum front fence height**

Street context	Maximum front fence height
Streets in a Transport Zone 2	2 metres
Other streets	1.5 metres

**Decision guidelines**

Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider:

- Any relevant neighbourhood character objective, policy or statement set out in this scheme.
- The design response.
- The setback, height and appearance of front fences on adjacent properties.
- The extent to which slope and retaining walls reduce the effective height of the front fence.
- Whether the fence is needed to minimise noise intrusion.