

PLANNING COMPLIANCE



Common planning compliance issues when developing land

Fact sheet

Planning and building permit compliance

Building permit plans must match planning permit plans for development. While building permit plans will have more technical and structural detail than planning permit plans, they must be consistent with the endorsed planning permit plans.

Council will enforce compliance with the endorsed planning permit plans, even in cases where an error in the building permit plans causes an inconsistency.

The layout of the site and the size, levels, design and location of buildings and works shown on the endorsed plans associated with the planning permit must not be modified for any reason without the prior written consent of the Responsible Authority (Council).

Expired planning permits

You must pay careful attention to any conditions relating to the expiration of your planning permit. Once the permit expires you may no longer be able to lawfully commence or continue any building and works allowed by the permit.

You can apply to extend your planning permit by contacting Council's Planning Department. This must be done while the permit is still valid; within six months of the permit's expiry date if the development has not commenced; or within 12 months of the permit's expiry date to complete the development.

Additional reports and documents

Most planning permits require you to submit additional documentation to Council prior to commencing the development allowed by the permit. These documents must be endorsed by Council by the times specified.

Typical examples of documents still required after the issue of a planning permit include revised plans, demolition method statements, arborist reports, sustainable design statements and acoustic reports.

Please pay careful attention to the conditions of your permit, as failure to comply with the requirements of these conditions can result in enforcement action being taken with no notice to you.

Demolition with heritage Overlay sites

Heritage Overlays are used to protect sites that have heritage significance, and are contained within Council's planning schemes.

Much of the municipality is covered by a Heritage Overlay, and as such, many planning permits deal with partial demolition of protected heritage buildings.

It is essential that you take particular care not to exceed the extent of any demolition that has been allowed by the planning permit. You should ensure that you are familiar with the Demolition Method Statement and the plans indicating the extent of demolition permitted.

Council takes illegal demolition very seriously and offenders may be referred to the Magistrates' Court for prosecution.

Landscaping

Landscaping must be completed in accordance with the permit, usually before or within a set period of time after the occupation of the building.

➤ Please turn over for more information.

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Tree protection

Some planning permits require you to take special measures to protect trees located on your land or on neighbouring properties.

If your planning permit includes conditions regarding tree protection, you must ensure you comply with these conditions. This often means installing protective fencing around trees, and maintaining the fence during construction.

You may also be required to employ the services of a qualified arborist to supervise areas of construction near protected trees.

Building heights and setbacks

Floor levels and parapets must comply with the approved heights indicated on the endorsed plans. Over-height buildings are considered a serious breach and can be very expensive to rectify.

Any changes to the height of a building must be approved prior to carrying out any building works, even if these changes are required for technical reasons.

Screening – windows and decks

All privacy screening must be installed as approved prior to occupation of the building. Screening must comply with the conditions outlined in the approved permit and plans including materials, heights and design.

Generally, windows that require screening must not be able to be opened below a height of 1.7 metres above floor level.

Screening materials must not be altered from those approved without first gaining further planning approval for the alternative screening proposal.

Domestic services

Domestic services shown on the endorsed plans form part of your planning permit, including any proposed screening, and must not be altered without the written consent of the Responsible Authority unless otherwise permitted by the planning permit.

If the associated land being developed is covered by a heritage overlay, domestic services including air conditioners, solar panels, heaters and hot water services require planning approval if visible from a street (front, back or side) or public park.

Please note a further condition on the planning permit may also restrict domestic services except with further Council consent. Consideration should be given to any noise issues that may result for neighbours from the placing and operation of these types of units.

Finishes on boundary walls

Finishes must be completed to an acceptable standard in accordance with the conditions of the planning permit, prior to occupation.

Brick boundary walls must have any excess mortar removed and the brick face cleaned with joints tooled to a consistent finish, prior to occupation of the building.

For more information contact

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