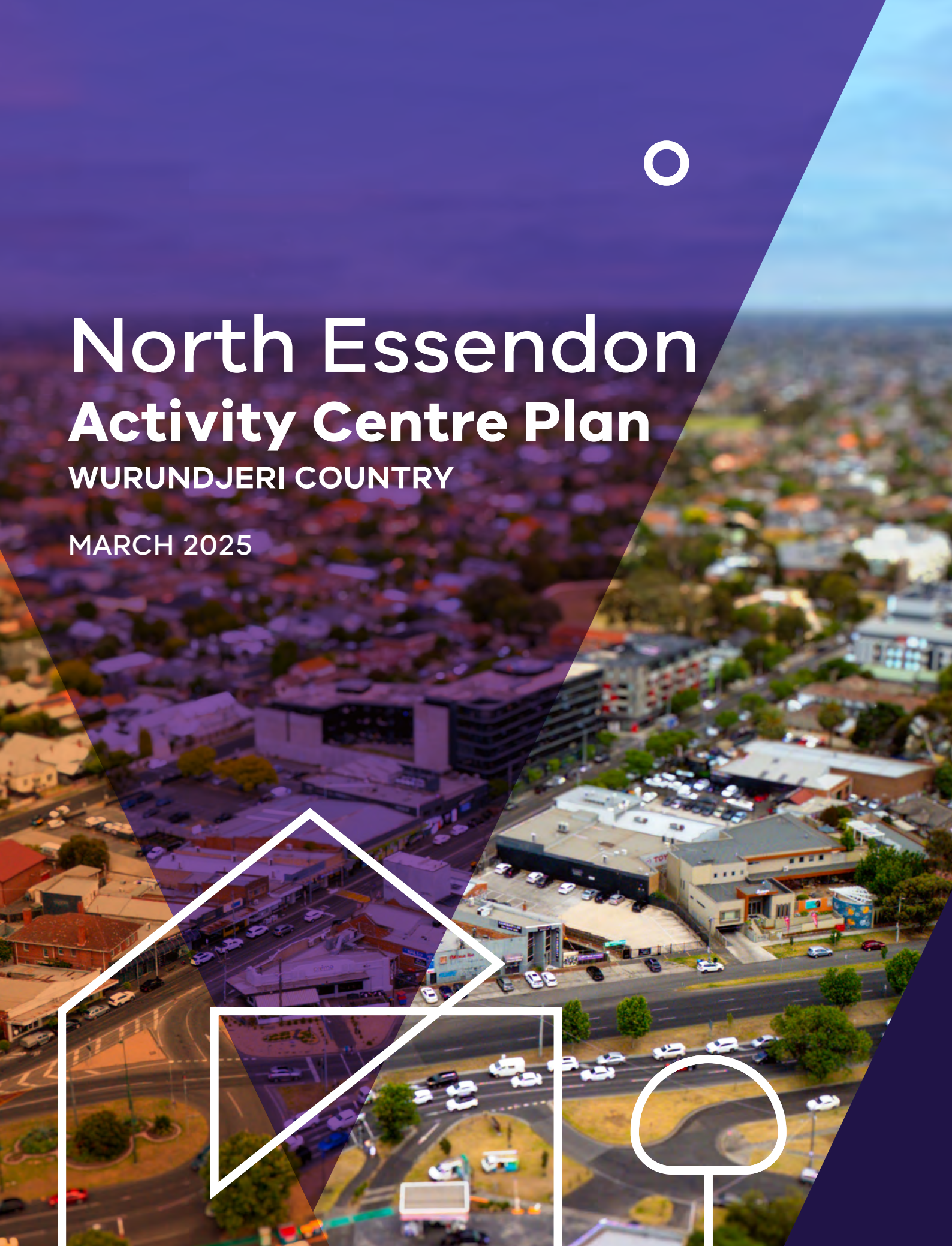




# North Essendon Activity Centre Plan

WURUNDJERI COUNTRY

MARCH 2025



## Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians

We proudly acknowledge Victoria's First Peoples and their ongoing strength in practising the world's oldest living and continuous culture.

The North Essendon activity centre is located on the lands of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung People and we acknowledge them as Traditional Owners. We pay our respects to their Elders both past and present, and we acknowledge that they have never ceded their sovereign rights to lands and waters.

We recognise their unbroken connection to Country, we celebrate their culture and history, and we honour their rights as custodians.

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# 1 A network of activity centres

## 1.1 Strategic context

In September 2023, the Victorian Government released *Victoria's Housing Statement – The Decade Ahead 2024–2034*<sup>\*</sup> which identified 10 activity centres and their surrounds as key locations for a pilot program. This builds on existing policy encouraging more homes and increased housing diversity in activity centres in *Plan Melbourne 2017–2050*<sup>\*\*</sup> and in *Plan for Victoria*<sup>\*\*\*</sup>. North Essendon is one of the 60 Housing Choice and Station centres with sufficient public transport, facilities and services to be the location for large numbers of new homes. The distribution of the centres is shown at [Plan 1 Regional Context](#).

**The pilot program's seven objectives aim to facilitate increased housing supply through:**



**Built form controls tailored to place with guidance for ensuring place identity (public realm, amenity and heritage)**

The Activity Centre Program delivers a coherent, clear and consistent planning approach. This includes implementing a tailored suite of tools and planning controls to ensure local areas of significance are recognised and enhanced.



**A new and simplified approach to infrastructure contributions**

A simple developer contribution approach will be introduced commencing on 1 January 2027 providing funding for infrastructure such as open space improvements, parks, walking, cycling and transport infrastructure.



**Focus on catchments, encouraging new housing types and diversity**

As well as providing clearer controls to facilitate more homes in the activity centre areas, the program provides guidance for the catchment of the centre, supporting greater housing diversity and choice in areas that are within close distance of jobs, services and amenities.



**Transparent plans that set out place objectives, local values, built form requirements, growth expectations and future vision**

An activity centre plan has been prepared for each activity centre and has clear planning controls that provide certainty of the built form outcomes. This will drive investment into the centres and provide the community with certainty of the long-term development expected. Introducing deemed to comply standards provides greater certainty on the supported built form outcomes for each centre. These built form outcomes have been tailored to the local context and ensure development expectations are known.

<sup>\*</sup> State of Victoria (Department of Premier and Cabinet), *Victoria's Housing Statement – The Decade Ahead 2024–2034*, 2023.

<sup>\*\*</sup> State of Victoria (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning), *Metropolitan Planning Strategy: Plan Melbourne 2017–2050*, 2017.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> State of Victoria (Department of Transport and Planning), *Plan for Victoria: A plan by Victorians, for Victorians*, 2025.



### Shorter amendment pathway and streamlined approvals

Streamlined planning scheme amendment processes ensure development-ready land is made available as soon as possible. Coupled with efficient planning permit processes, this means more homes for Victorians sooner.



### Affordable housing

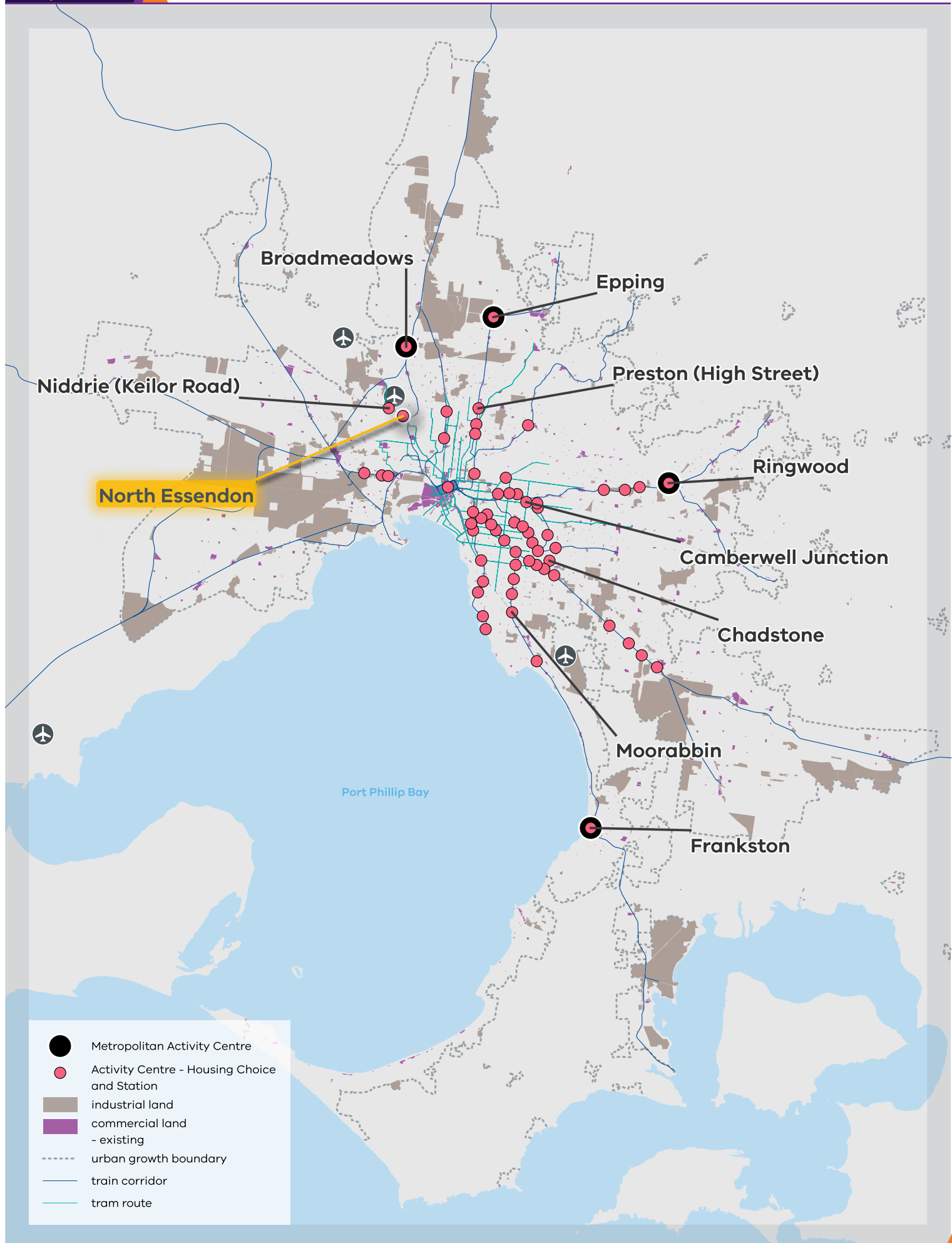
Activity centre planning improves housing affordability by increasing the supply and diversity of homes.

Under *Plan for Victoria*, the Victorian Government will consider developing locally specific targets for social and affordable housing and explore simpler rules for obtaining a fair and equitable affordable housing contribution from new development as part of the review of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.



### Using State Government landholdings to showcase new approaches and deliver housing and services

Utilising existing State Government landholdings within the centres provides an opportunity for the government to lead the sector in innovative ways to provide greater housing choice and services.



## 2 Purpose of this Activity Centre Plan

The *North Essendon Activity Centre Plan* addresses development outcomes within the North Essendon Activity Centre and surrounding catchment areas, shown in [Figure 1 North Essendon Activity Centre and catchment area](#).

### 2.1 The Activity Centre Program

The purpose of the Activity Centre Program, as identified in *Victoria's Housing Statement – The Decade Ahead 2024–2034*, is to unlock 60,000 new homes by 2051. These homes are to be located in 10 pilot activity centres that have been identified as having great access to services, jobs and transport.

The Activity Centre Program forms part of Victoria's commitments under the *National Housing Accord 2022\** (the Accord). The Accord is an agreement across all levels of government, institutional investors and the construction sector to address housing supply and affordability. As part of the Accord, all states and territories committed to undertaking expedited zoning, planning and land release to deliver the joint commitment on social and affordable housing in well-located areas.

This activity centre plan outlines how the North Essendon Activity Centre and catchment area can contribute **at least 5,100 new homes**.

### 2.2 North Essendon activity centre & catchment area

Encouraging more homes in and around the commercial and community cores of activity centres is a longstanding state policy. Government is now seeking to give clearer direction on the amount of homes needed in these locations in alignment with our housing needs as identified in *Victoria's Housing Statement*.

The *North Essendon Activity Centre Plan* guides development outcomes within the North Essendon Activity Centre and in the associated catchment areas, shown in [Figure 1 North Essendon Activity Centre and catchment area](#).

The activity centre plan provides the built form outcomes supported within the North Essendon Activity Centre, as specified in [6 Activity centre built form standards](#). The North Essendon Activity Centre commercial core is described at [7 Catchment area](#).

The changes to land use and development controls on affected land are described at [8 Implementation](#).

Surrounding the North Essendon Activity Centre, the catchment area is made up of predominantly residential neighbourhoods including parts of North Essendon, Essendon and Niddrie. The extent of the catchment is described at [7 Catchment area](#).

\* Australian Government (The Treasury), *National Housing Accord 2022*, 2022.



**Figure 1** North Essendon Activity Centre and catchment area



## 3 North Essendon activity centre

### 3.1 Activity centre local context

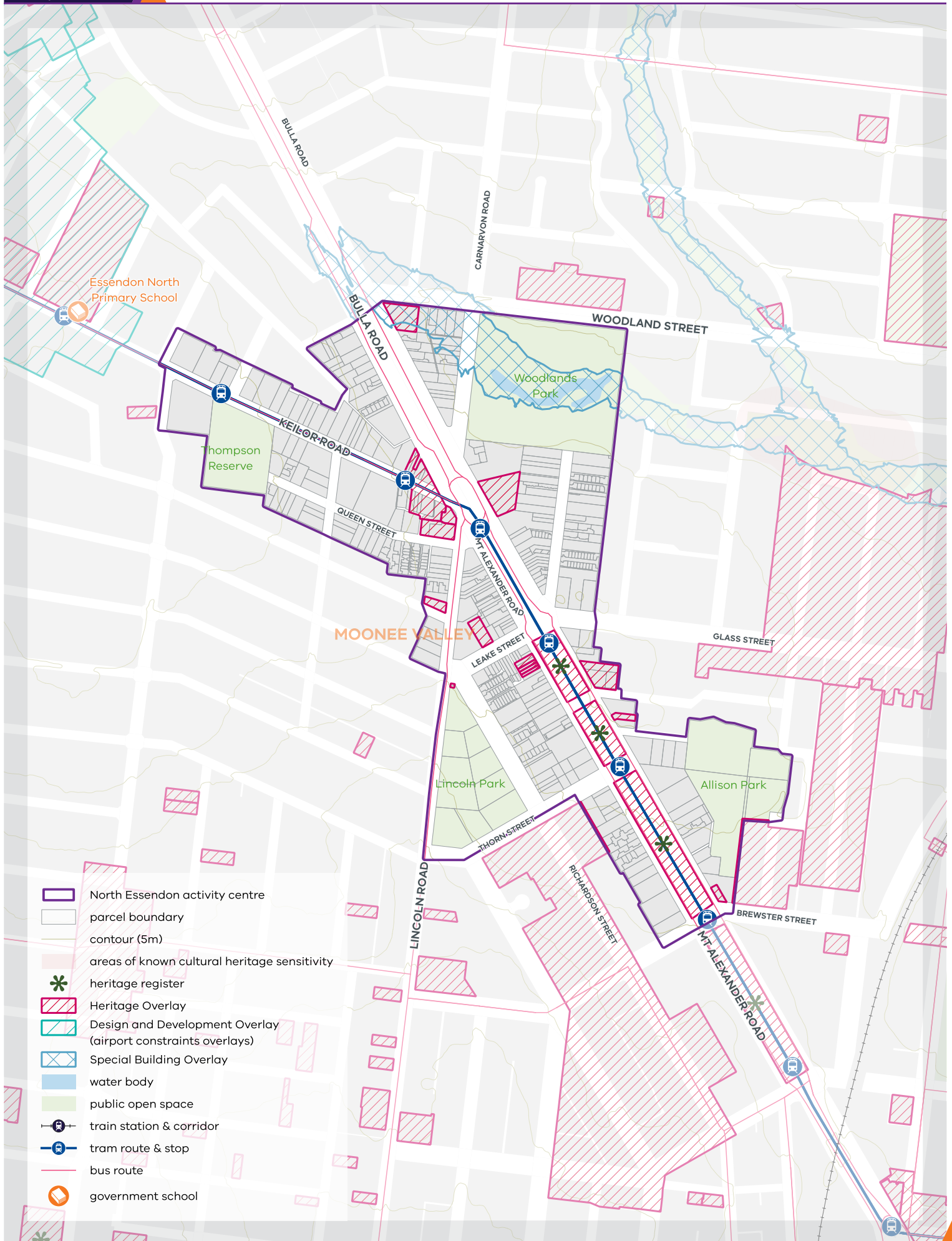
The North Essendon Activity Centre is located 8 kilometres north-west of the Melbourne Central Business District, within the City of Moonee Valley. The activity centre and catchment comprises approximately 293 hectares and the activity centre is serviced by Mount Alexander Road. A mix of commercial, civic and residential uses are the predominant functions of the centre.

The activity centre is recognised as a regionally significant commercial area, strengthened by its proximity to the Essendon Fields Airport and connections to the Tullamarine and Calder Freeways. Access to jobs and services are offered by the Craigieburn train line, route 59 tram line, multiple bus routes and direct access to the principal road network.

Key attributes of the centre are shown on [Figure 1 North Essendon Activity Centre and catchment area](#) and the local planning context on [Plan 2 Local Planning Context](#).

Land use in the North Essendon Activity Centre comprises a mix of activities providing a focus for commercial activity and growth, including restaurants, retail premises and other places for wellbeing and health, car servicing and other uses. There are new developments which typically comprise commercial tenancies on the ground floor with residential on the upper floors. A number of key community facilities exist in the precinct and surrounds, including Cooper Street Community Centre as well as Essendon North Primary School and Essendon Primary School.

The introduction of this activity centre plan generally does not propose land use change to the North Essendon Activity Centre as a broad range of uses are already allowed. Changes to the zoning in limited areas of the activity centre are described in [8 Implementation](#).



## 3.2 Stakeholder and community engagement

The Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) in partnership with the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) undertook engagement as part of the Activity Centres Program in March to May 2024\* ('Phase 1') and August to September 2024\*\* ('Phase 2') for the North Essendon Activity Centre.

The overall purpose of the VPA/DTP broad public community engagement was to build community understanding about what will change in local neighbourhoods and the new planning controls, and also to learn from the community to inform our plans.

Phase 1 sought to build understanding about what the community can influence and ensure the community's knowledge of local places of significance, localised information about the centre and ideas for its future informed our plans. This feedback informed [Plan 4 North Essendon Policy & Existing Conditions](#) which in turn contributed to the local variations described in [4.3 Responding to local context](#).

Phase 2 sought to understand community and stakeholder views on the draft Activity Centre Plan to inform updated planning controls.

During community engagement, we heard from the community on what was important to them and their feedback on the draft activity centre plan. We also received feedback from key stakeholders including the council, government agencies, community and trader groups, landowners and peak industry bodies. This feedback was collated, analysed and informed updates to the final activity centre plan.

Following phase 2 community engagement, DTP referred specific matters to the Activity Centres Standing Advisory Committee for advice. The Standing Advisory Committee considered key issues raised across key stakeholder submissions relating to all activity centre plans and then prepared recommendations for the Minister for Planning. These recommendations were considered, and the activity centre plans were updated accordingly.

Refer to *Community Consultation Phase 1 Engagement Summary Report* and *Community Consultation Phase 2 Engagement Summary Report* on the VPA website: <https://vpa.vic.gov.au/project/niddrie-northessendon/>

## 3.3 Vision for North Essendon

North Essendon Activity Centre will be a vibrant, attractive and walkable urban village, with safe and convenient access to jobs, services and amenities. The centre will accommodate increased housing density, through diverse and high-quality homes, enabling the community to live locally and age in place.

The distinctive boulevard of palm trees, heritage buildings and local parks will be protected and enhanced to showcase a cohesive built form, creating an attractive public realm with superb environmental outcomes. High-quality transport infrastructure, cycling lanes, and green pedestrian connections will make it easy and pleasant to move around sustainably.\*\*\*

\* Victorian Planning Authority, *Broadmeadows Activity Centre Program, Community Consultation Phase 1 Engagement Summary Report*, August 2024.

\*\* Victorian Planning Authority, *Broadmeadows Activity Centre Program, Community Consultation Phase 2 Engagement Summary Report*, December 2024.

\*\*\* **Note:** The North Essendon Activity Centre vision was informed by [Moonee Valley Vision 2040](#), findings of Phase 1 community engagement and discussions with key stakeholders to establish an aspirational framework for this activity centre plan



### 3.4 North Essendon activity centre objectives

#### OBJECTIVES

- 01** To deliver increased capacity for housing, employment, and services.
- 02** To facilitate development of high-quality architecture with height ranges of 21 metres to 34 metres (six to 10 storeys) and transitioning the scale of development to the activity centre catchment.
- 03** To facilitate the delivery of key infrastructure including:
  - Transport improvements
  - Community infrastructure improvements, including to open spaces.
- 04** To enable development that enhances the public realm through high quality design.
- 05** To ensure development appropriately responds to built heritage and environmental constraints.
- 06** To facilitate the delivery of affordable housing in the activity centre to meet projected future demand.



## 4 Activity centre built form typologies

### 4.1 Urban design principles

The following **nine urban design principles** were developed to guide the built form outcomes described in the *North Essendon Activity Centre Plan*. The principles reflect research of best practice urban design, and the *Urban Design Guidelines for Victoria*\*.



#### Urban consolidation

*Facilitate growth*



#### Heritage & character streetscapes

*Respect significant heritage & character streetscapes*



#### Skyline

*Avoid a 'wall' of taller forms*



#### Street wall & human scale

*Contribute to an inviting, visually interesting & vibrant public realm at walking pace*



#### Sunny streets

*Maintain solar access to main streets*



#### Sky views

*Maintain a relatively open streetscape with sky view between buildings*



#### Residential interfaces

*Maintain reasonable amenity in adjacent residential areas*



#### Equitable development

*Consider development opportunities on adjacent properties*



#### High quality architecture

*Deliver a high quality architectural response*

To implement the principles, a typology-based approach to the application of the planning controls has been developed. The typologies have been designed to facilitate the future growth of Melbourne's activity centres and uphold each of the urban design principles. The application of typologies facilitates a broader and faster roll out of more consistent planning controls, without compromising on the urban design principles.

\* State of Victoria (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning), *Urban Design Guidelines for Victoria*, 2017.

## 4.2 Built form typologies

The built form typologies represent the 'typical' built form envelope which meet the outcomes sought. These typologies have been identified for each part of the North Essendon Activity Centre as described below, and shown on [Plan 3 Building Typologies](#).\*

The preferred built form outcome for North Essendon is for moderate to high scale development, with buildings ranging from six to 10 storeys in the activity centre.

### NON-HERITAGE MAIN STREET CORE

Non-Heritage Main Street Core is located at the commercial main street at Mount Alexander Road.

The existing urban structure is characterised by narrow frontages, and commercial tenancies at ground floor.

Future urban form is to be characterised by commercial development at the ground floor, with commercial or residential development above, with floor to ceiling heights that support commercial tenancies at the ground and first floor to achieve activation at the street.



Redevelopment with taller built form is supported with street wall heights typically of 11 metres/three storeys.

New buildings should be medium-rise (up to 27 metres/eight storeys) with modest setbacks at upper levels to balance amenity to the public realm, with opportunities for growth.

Any vehicle access should be provided off the main street and be from the rear of the property where possible.

**132–144 Springvale Road, Nunawading  
8 storeys**



### FRINGE

Fringe is generally located at the outside edges of the North Essendon Activity Centre and adjacent residential properties.



The existing subdivision pattern is typically fine-grain and reflects a mix of commercial and residential land use.

New development should be medium-rise (up to 21 metres/six storeys). If setbacks are provided these should balance amenity to the public realm with opportunities for future growth.

Additional setbacks and landscaping controls also apply to ensure an appropriate interface to more sensitive land uses at residential interfaces.

**46–50 Marlborough Street, Balaclava  
6 storeys**



\* Cull, Danielle; Sheppard, Mark, *City of Centres: Development of typology-based built form controls*, 2024. Victorian Planning Authority, *Urban Design Draft Background Summary Report*, 2024.



## LIMITED SENSITIVITIES

Generally located at the periphery of the Main Street Core and Fringe areas. The existing subdivision pattern of this typology is typically larger lots developed with built form that reflects historic low-rise commercial and light industrial land use.

A mixture of commercial and residential built form is supported in the typology.

New development will be expected to provide an active frontage to the public realm. However, activation of the street is expected to be less in comparison to the Heritage Main Street Core typology(s).



New buildings should be medium-rise (up to 27 metres/eight storeys) with podiums and upper-level setbacks that relate to the width of the street to provide a comfortable public realm. Larger Limited Sensitivities sites will be able to accommodate taller form, particularly where setback standards are maintained.

**94 Buckley Street, Footscray\***

**10 storeys**

## RESIDENTIAL

Residential typology is generally located on the outer edge of the activity centre. These areas are characterised by urban form that reflects their historic residential land use. Streets are often more narrow than main streets and



existing built form is typically one-two storey detached or semi-detached dwellings.

Future built form in this typology will be taller (up to 21 metres/six storeys) with upper level setbacks. These typologies will have landscape setbacks to the front and larger side and rear setbacks.



**167 Lower Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe\***

**3 storeys**

\* Cull, Danielle; Sheppard, Mark, *City of Centres: Development of typology-based built form controls*, 2024.



## LARGE OPPORTUNITY SITES

Large Opportunity Sites typically comprise a single large parcel (generally over 5,000 square metres) or multiple smaller parcels in single ownership that can accommodate multiple buildings in a variety of configurations. These sites are of strategic importance and may require master planning.

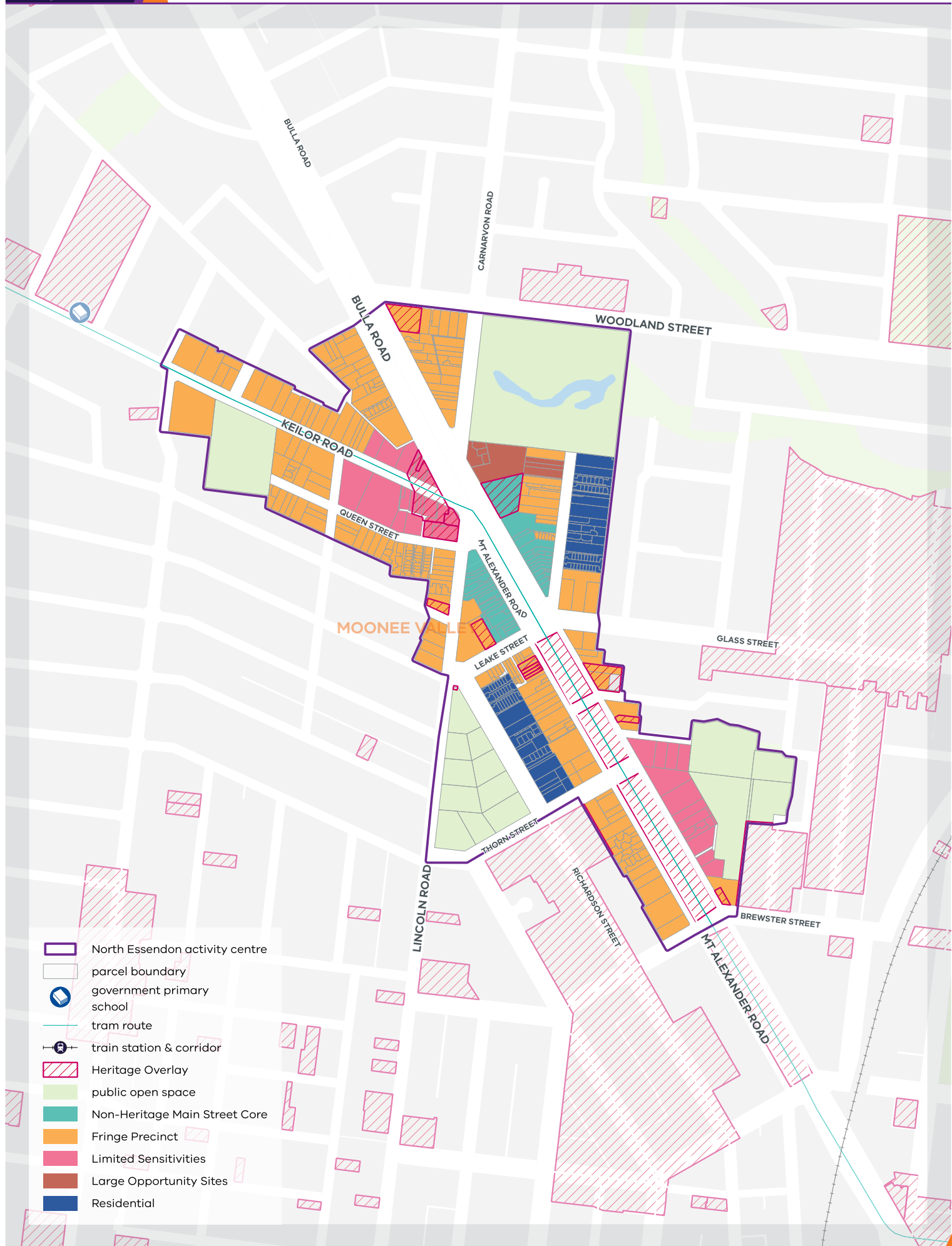
New buildings should be medium-rise (up to 27 metres/eight storeys) and high-rise (up to 34 metres/10 storeys) with podiums and upper-level setbacks that relate to the width of the street to provide a comfortable public realm in terms of wind conditions and access to sunlight.



Development of taller built form on these sites is supported and may exceed the building height standards where supported in a master plan for the precinct and where balanced with other considerations including provision of public spaces, pedestrian connections and internal streets/laneways.

**14–16 The Esplanade, St Kilda\***  
**8 storeys, 3 towers**

\* Cull, Danielle; Sheppard, Mark, *City of Centres: Development of typology-based built form controls*, 2024.



### 4.3 Responding to local context

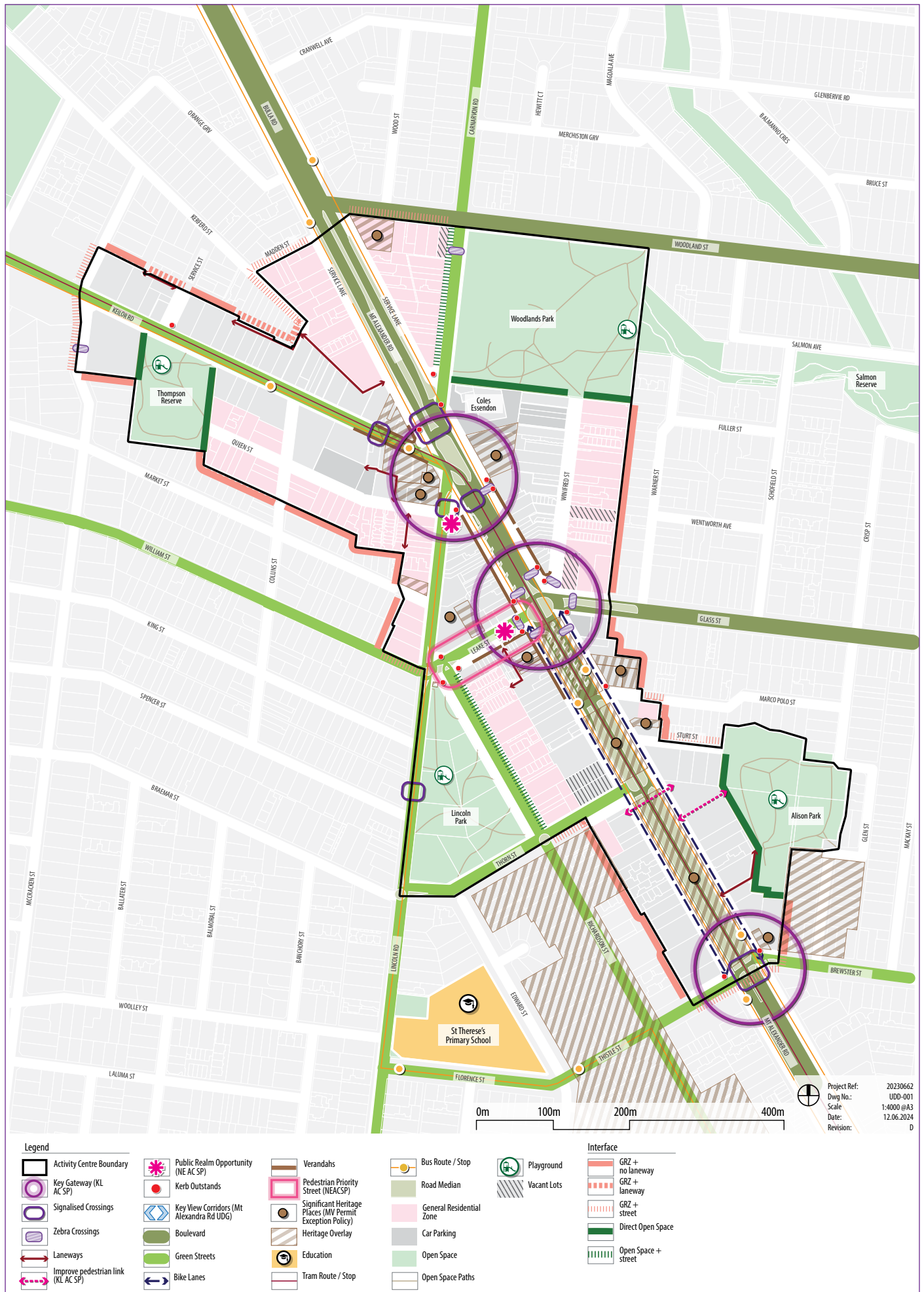
The 'typical' built form response (or typology) may not be appropriate in every context and in these cases a local variation has been applied.

Local variations of the built form typologies described in [4 Activity centre built form typologies](#) have been informed by consideration of council strategic work, community consultation and input from key stakeholders. The built form standards respond to the place and will deliver quality outcomes for residents, shoppers and workers in the centre

[Plan 4 North Essendon Policy & Existing Conditions](#) identifies the key local features of North Essendon, both in context and those in other strategic planning documents. These are considered 'foundations' of the activity centre and have informed the local variations to the built form controls.



# Plan 4 North Essendon Policy & Existing Conditions



Source: Hansen Partnership and Victorian Planning Authority, 2024.



## 5 Activity centre built form outcomes

### 5.1 Built form standards

The built form controls, introduced via the new Built Form Overlay, include standards that are:

- Mandatory (standards that must be met), or
- Discretionary (standards that should be met).

These standards are identified in the Built Form Overlay and will be specified as 'deemed to comply' or not.

#### 5.1.1 Introducing deemed to comply

Proposals in the activity centre that meet the relevant building height, street wall height and setback requirements will be assessed against a 'deemed to comply' pathway. Under the deemed to comply pathway, if an application meets the deemed to comply standard, then an application cannot be refused based on that standard.

Deemed to comply controls provide developers and the community with greater certainty about the likely expected scale and intensity of future development, while still allowing for a more innovative design response on a case-by-case basis if the deemed to comply standards are not met.

A deemed to comply pathway is limited to built form standards. Standards may be specified as a range. For example, buildings that are above or below a specified 'deemed to comply' height range will not be deemed to comply.

## 6 Activity centre built form standards

### 6.1 Building height, floor to floor height and street wall/podium height

Preferred building heights are shown on [Plan 5 Maximum Building Height and Street Wall/Podium Height](#), [Plan 6 Minimum Building Height](#) and at [Table 1 Building height standards](#).

**Table 1** Building height standards

MINIMUM BUILDING HEIGHT	MAXIMUM BUILDING HEIGHT	MANDATORY (M) OR DISCRETIONARY (D)	DEEMED TO COMPLY
<b>Fringe typology</b>			
13.0 metres or four storeys, whichever is lesser	21.0 metres or six storeys, whichever is lesser	D	Yes
<b>Residential typology</b>			
9.6 metres or three storeys, whichever is lesser	21.0 metres or six storeys, whichever is lesser	D	Yes
<b>Non-Heritage Main Street Core typology Limited Sensitivities typology</b>			
13.0 metres or four storeys, whichever is lesser	27.0 metres or eight storeys, whichever is lesser	D	Yes
<b>Large Opportunity Sites typology</b>			
None specified	34.0 metres or 10 storeys, whichever is lesser	D	No

Preferred floor to floor heights are shown on [Table 2 Floor to floor height standards](#). Above-ground car parking should have a minimum floor to floor height of 4.0 metres for the ground floor and 3.5 metres for other floors. Car parking facing streets and open spaces should be sleeved with active frontages. Car parking above ground level should be sleeved.

**Table 2** Floor to floor height standards

FLOOR TYPE	MINIMUM FLOOR TO FLOOR HEIGHT	MANDATORY (M) OR DISCRETIONARY (D)	DEEMED TO COMPLY
Commercial Ground	4.5 metres	D	Yes
Commercial Upper	4.0 metres	D	Yes
Residential (all)	3.2 metres	D	Yes

### 6.1.1 Street wall/podium height\*

Preferred street wall heights are shown on [Plan 5 Maximum Building Height and Street Wall/Podium Height](#) and at [Table 3 Street wall/podium height standards](#).

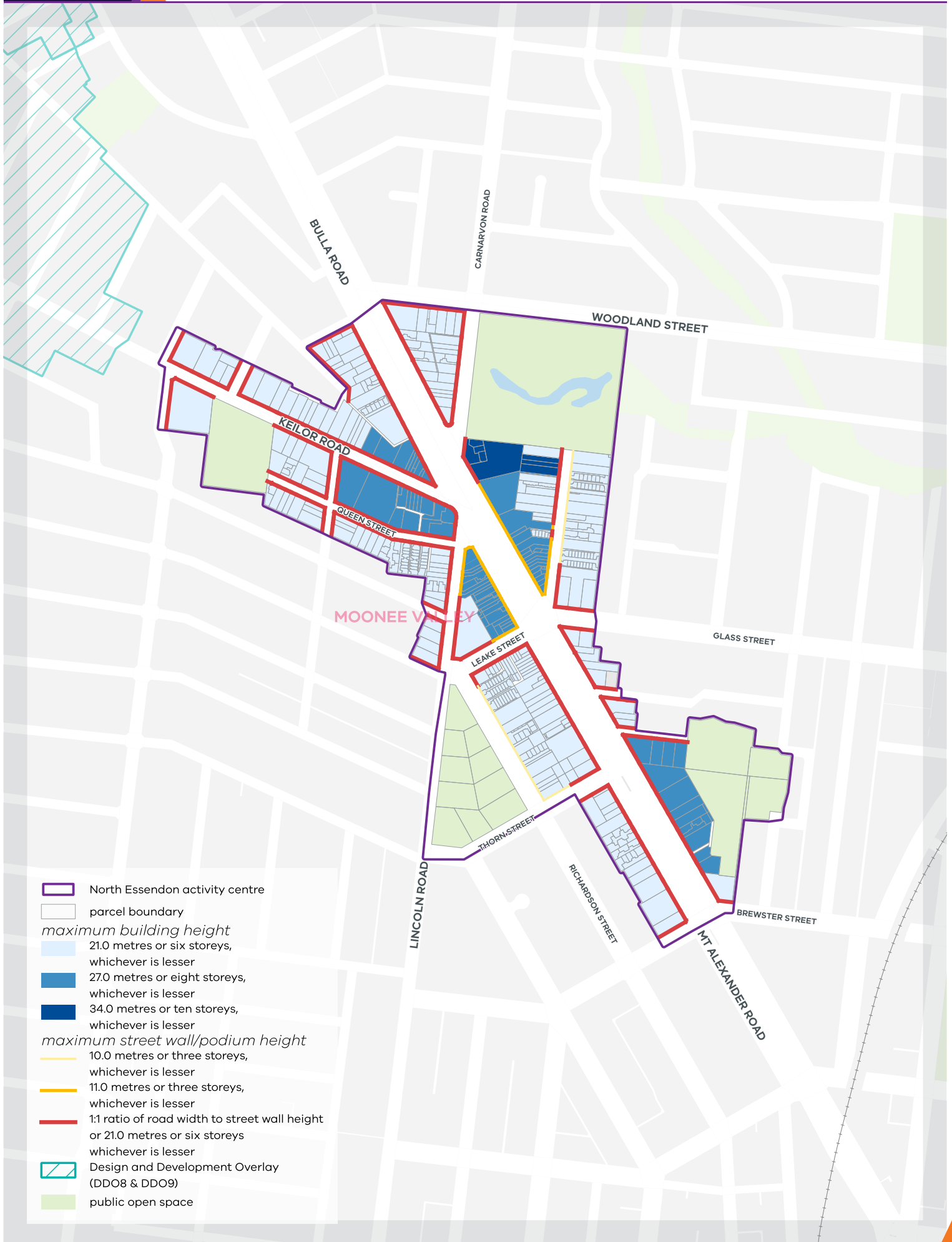
The predominant street wall in North Essendon Activity Centre is 11.0 metres (three storeys) to protect the human-scale streetscape.

**Table 3** Street wall/podium height standards

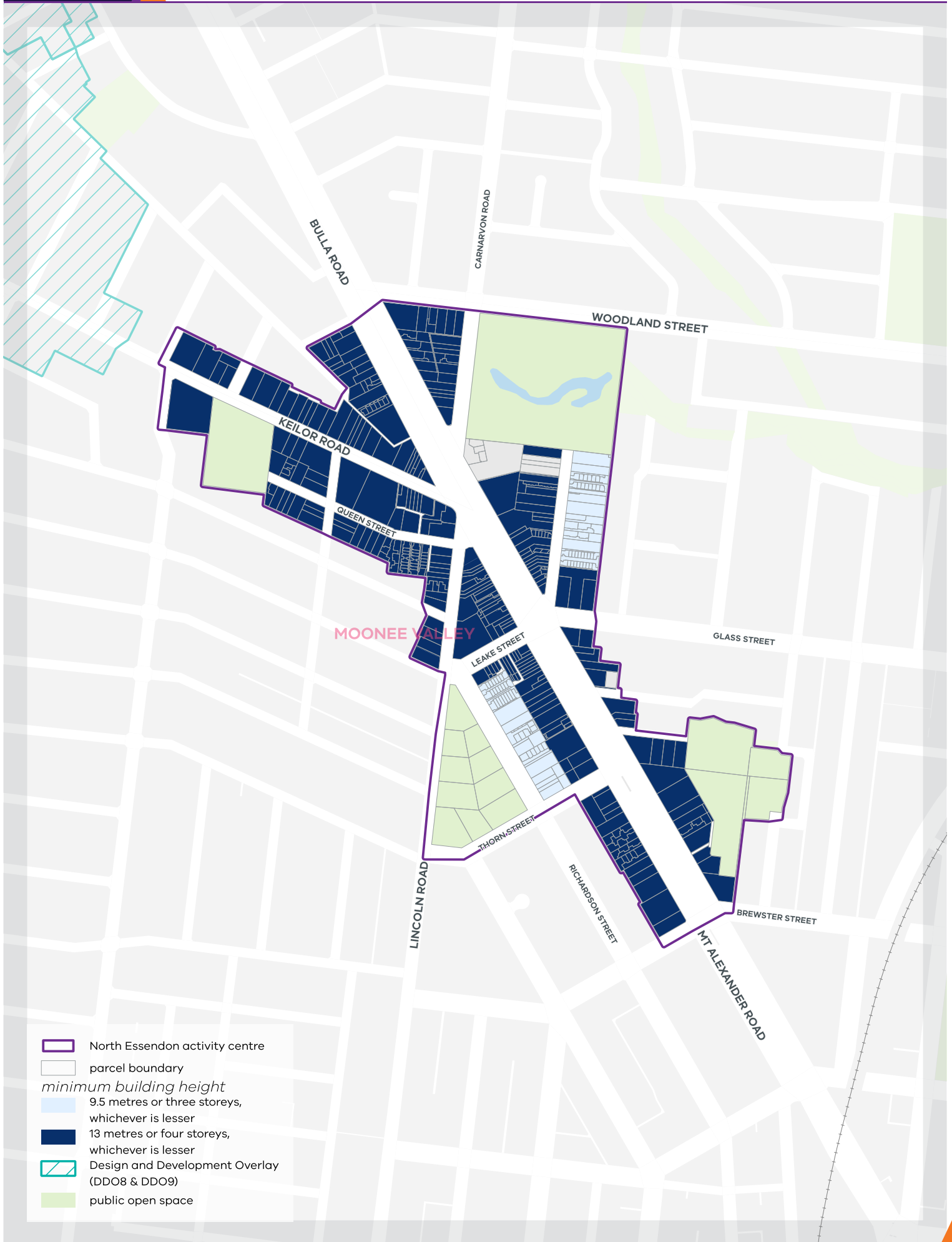
MAXIMUM STREET WALL/PODIUM HEIGHT	MANDATORY (M) OR DISCRETIONARY (D)	DEEMED TO COMPLY
11.0 metres or three storeys, whichever is lesser	D	Yes
1:1 ratio of road width to street wall height or 21m or six storeys whichever is lesser	D	Yes (except for Large Opportunity Sites)
10.0 metres or three storeys, whichever is lesser	D	Yes

See [Plan 3 Building Typologies](#) for building typologies.

\* The terms 'street wall' and 'podium' are used to describe heights in this standard. This is to provide clarity that these heights apply to front walls built on a boundary or setback from a boundary (e.g. where there is a landscape setback).







## 6.2 Setbacks

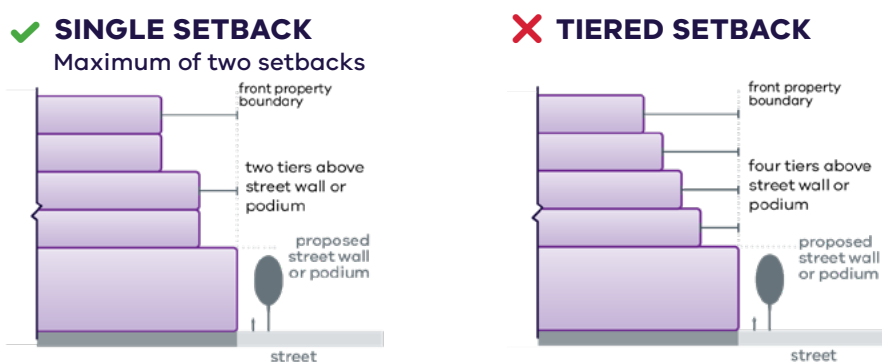
Setback standards are described in [6.2.1 Front setback above street wall or podium](#), [6.2.2 Side and rear setbacks \(except Residential Typology and sensitive interfaces\)](#) and [6.2.3 Side and rear setbacks for Residential Typology and sensitive interfaces](#). A deemed to comply setback may only be achieved where other standards such as sun access standards are also met.

### 6.2.1 Front setback above street wall or podium

Front setback above the street wall or podium height are tailored by typology and shown on [Plan 7 Front Setback Above Street Wall/Podium by Typology](#).

Front setbacks above the street wall or podium height should incorporate a maximum of two setbacks to avoid a tiered built form (see [Figure 2 Side elevation showing front setback above street wall/podium](#)).

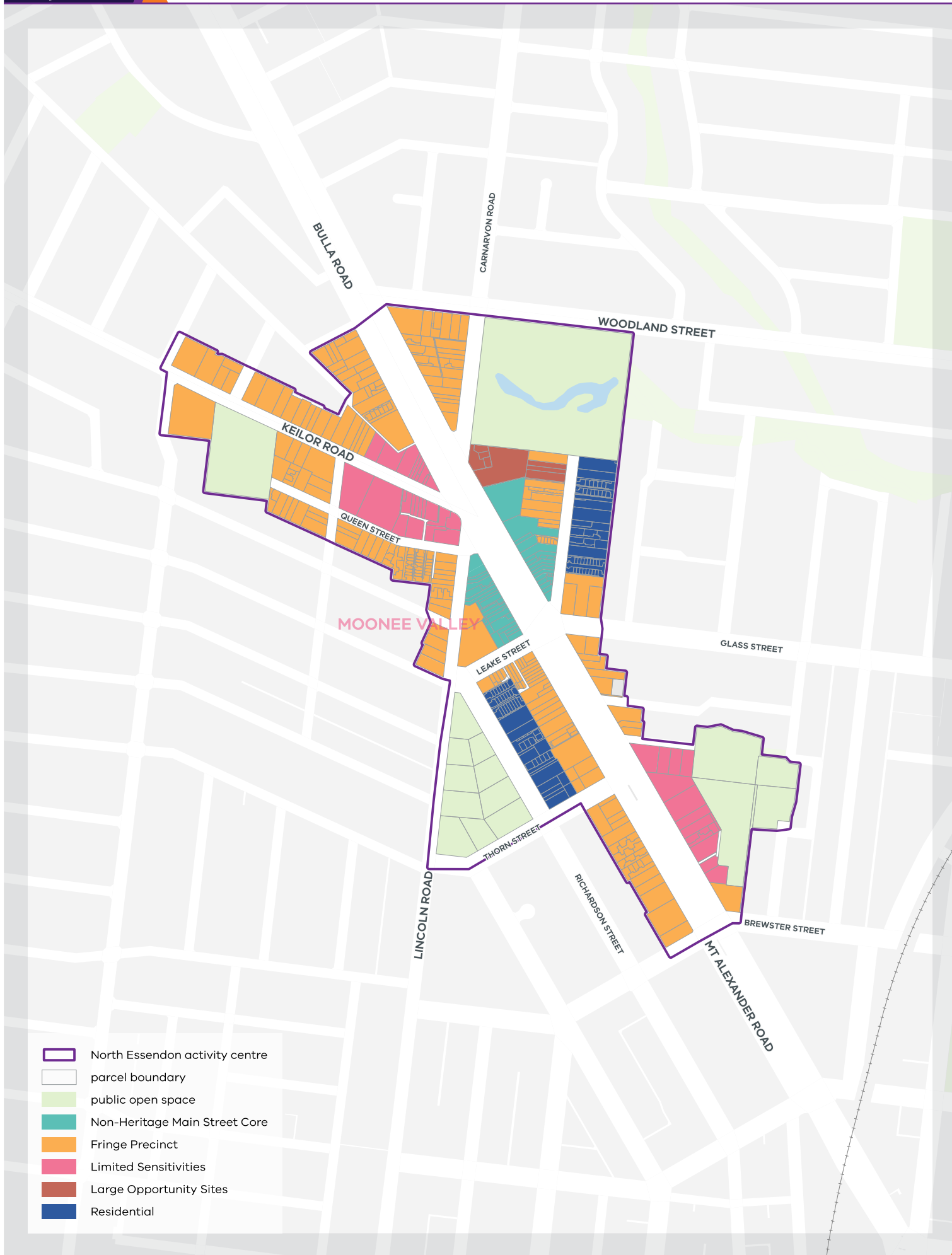
**Figure 2** Side elevation showing front setback above street wall/podium



Ground floor awnings, architectural features, sunshades and artworks may encroach into the front setback.

**Table 4** Front setback above street wall or podium

PART OF THE BUILDING	MINIMUM SETBACK	MANDATORY (M) OR DISCRETIONARY (D)	DEEMED TO COMPLY
<b>Non-Heritage Main Street Core typology</b>			
<b>Fringe typology</b>			
Above the proposed street wall, up to 21.0 metres	3.0 metres		
>21.0 metres	3.0 metres + 1.0 metre per additional 1.0 metre in height	D	Yes
<b>Limited Sensitivities typology</b>			
Above maximum street wall height	1.0 metre per additional 1.0 metre in height	D	Yes
<b>Large Opportunity Sites typology</b>			
Above maximum street wall height	1.0 metre per additional 1.0 metre in height	D	No
<b>Residential typology</b>			
Above the proposed podium height	5.0 metres	D	Yes





## 6.2.2 Side and rear setbacks (except Residential Typology and sensitive interfaces)

Side and rear setback standards are provided in [Table 5 Side and rear setbacks \(except Residential Typology and sensitive interfaces\)](#) and [Table 6 Residential Typology and sensitive interfaces side and rear setback](#). Setback standards are the same for all built form typologies except for Residential Typology and for sensitive interfaces (see [Plan 8 Residential Typology and Location of Sensitive Interfaces](#)). Side and rear setbacks controls for Residential Typology and for sensitive interfaces, are identified in [Table 6](#).

**Table 5** Side and rear setbacks (except Residential Typology and sensitive interfaces)

HABITABLE ROOM/ BALCONY OUTLOOK TO BOUNDARY LINE MINIMUM SETBACK	NON-HABITABLE OUTLOOK TO BOUNDARY LINE MINIMUM SETBACK	OTHER INTERFACE TO BOUNDARY LINE MINIMUM SETBACK	MANDATORY (M) OR DISCRETIONARY (D)	DEEMED TO COMPLY
Building height up to 11.0 metres (three storeys)				
4.5 metres	3.0 metres	0 metres (party wall)	D	Yes (except for Large Opportunity Sites and Enclosed Shopping Centres)
Building height above 11.0 metres (three storeys) up to 27.0 metres (eight storeys)				
4.5 metres	4.5 metres	Where the average width of the site* is less than 22.0 metres:  0 metres (party wall) on both side boundaries	D	Yes (except for Large Opportunity Sites and Enclosed Shopping Centres)
		Where the average width of the site* is at least 22.0 metres and up to 30.0 metres:  0 metres (party wall) on one side boundary		
		Where the average width of the site* is more than 30.0 metres:  4.5 metres		
Building heights above 27.0 metres (eight storeys) to 40.0 metres (12 storeys)				
6.0 metres	6.0 metres	6.0 metres	D	Yes (except for Large Opportunity Sites and Enclosed Shopping Centres)

\* Measured parallel to the frontage.

See [Plan 3 Building Typologies](#) for building typologies.

Where the neighbouring property is separated by a side or rear laneway, the setback requirement should be measured from the centreline of the laneway.

Setback standards vary, dependent on whether habitable or non-habitable rooms are proposed to face the boundary line and depending on the width of the site. Development on narrow sites can be built with walls on both boundaries. Development on wider sites require walls to be set back from one boundary and development on the widest sites require setbacks from both boundaries (see [Figure 3](#)).

[Figure 3 Front elevation showing side setbacks for lots of different widths](#) shows the deemed to comply side and rear setbacks (and party wall) for lots of varied widths.

**Figure 3** Front elevation showing side setbacks for lots of different widths



Side and rear setbacks above the street wall or podium height should incorporate a maximum of two setbacks to avoid a tiered built form. A single setback is preferred.

### 6.2.3 Side and rear setbacks for Residential Typology and sensitive interfaces

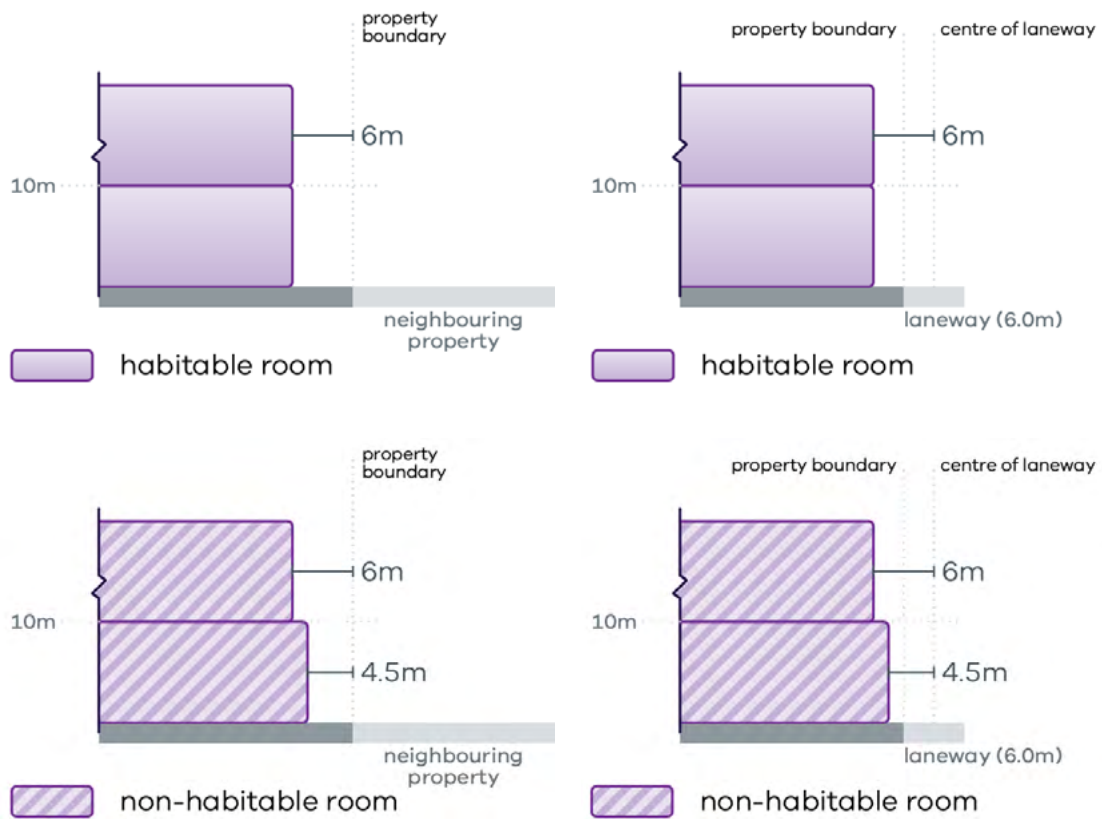
Sensitive interfaces and the Residential Typology are mapped on [Plan 8 Residential Typology and Location of Sensitive Interfaces](#). Standards for side and rear setbacks above street walls adjacent to a sensitive interface and in the Residential Typology are provided in [Table 6 Residential Typology and sensitive interfaces side and rear setback](#) and shown in [Figure 4 Front elevation showing side and rear setbacks at Residential Typology and sensitive interfaces](#).

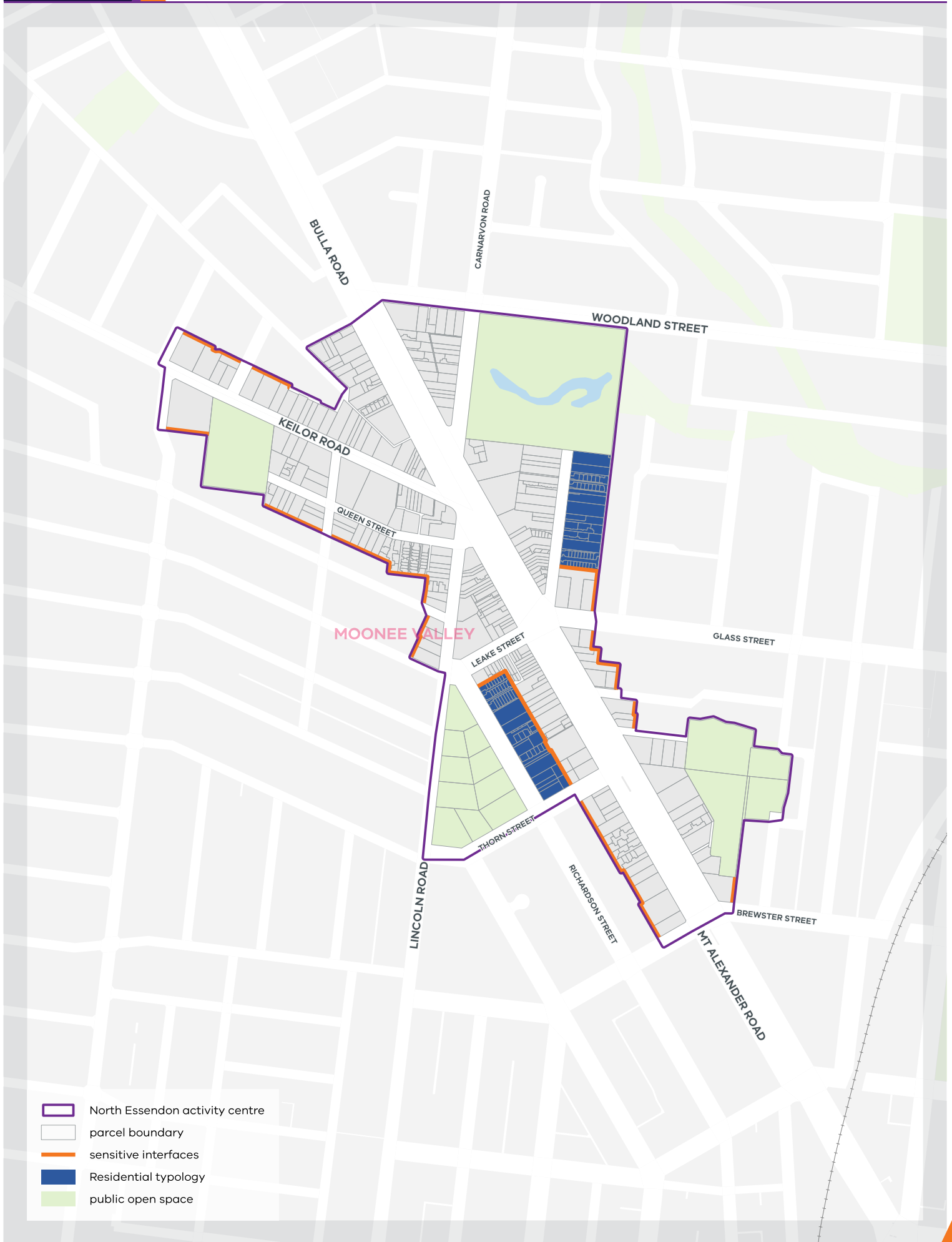
**Table 6** Residential Typology and sensitive interfaces side and rear setback

HABITABLE ROOM/ BALCONY OUTLOOK TO BOUNDARY LINE MINIMUM SETBACK	NON-HABITABLE OUTLOOK TO BOUNDARY LINE MINIMUM SETBACK	MANDATORY (M) OR DISCRETIONARY (D)	DEEMED TO COMPLY
Building height up to 10.0 metres (three storeys)			
6.0 metres	4.5 metres	D	Yes
Building height above 10.0 metres (three storeys)			
6.0 metres	6.0 metres	D	Yes

Where the neighbouring property is separated by a laneway, the setback requirement should be measured from the centreline of the laneway.

**Figure 4** Front elevation showing side and rear setbacks at Residential Typology and sensitive interfaces





- North Essendon activity centre
- parcel boundary
- sensitive interfaces
- Residential typology
- public open space



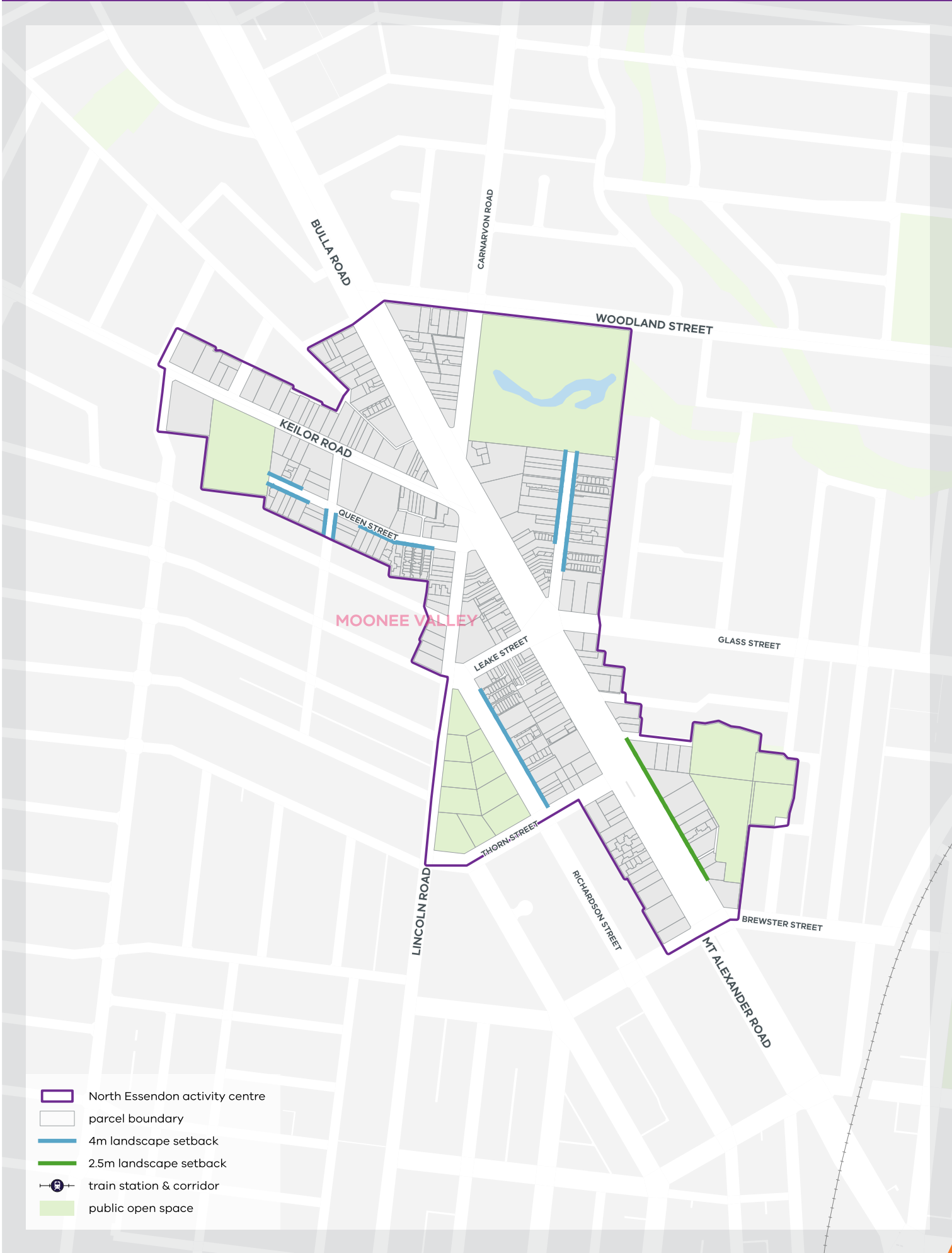
## 6.3 Landscape setbacks

Landscape setbacks support urban greening and in particular tree canopy, softening of edges and ensure an appropriate transition to the public realm.

Areas required to provide a landscape setback are shown on [Plan 9 Landscape Setbacks](#), and the relevant standards are provided in [Table 7 Landscape setbacks](#).

**Table 7** Landscape setbacks

MINIMUM LANDSCAPE SETBACK	MANDATORY (M) OR DISCRETIONARY (D)	DEEMED TO COMPLY
4.0 metres	D	Yes
2.5 metres	D	Yes



- North Essendon activity centre
- parcel boundary
- 4m landscape setback
- 2.5m landscape setback
- train station & corridor
- public open space

## 6.4 Sun access and wind management

Given the importance of the open space network for an increasing population, sun access and protection against adverse wind impacts to public spaces and the open space network is vital. Therefore, sun access and wind controls are mandatory and cannot be varied.

### 6.4.1 Sun access

As the centre develops, the impact of overshadowing from new buildings on public spaces needs to be considered.

#### Streets

Sun access requirements to streets were investigated in the context of the *Movement and Place Framework*\* and the different purposes and uses of streets. Streets with highest pedestrian activity have been identified as requiring the highest protection from additional overshadowing.

#### Parks and open spaces

Sun access requirements for parks and open spaces including waterbodies/ waterways were investigated and considered existing overshadowing from current and recent developments. Sunlight plays a vital role in preserving the health and ecological integrity of parks and open spaces, making them inviting destinations for residents and visitors. Parks that are not heavily impacted by overshadowing from existing developments are identified with the highest level of protection. In applying the most appropriate standard to public open space, consideration must be made to the size, use, and shadows in existing parks, as well as adjacent development outcomes.

No waterbodies/waterways have been identified in the North Essendon Activity Centre.

The sun access protection areas are shown on [Plan 10 Sun Access and Solar Protection](#), and the relevant standards for sun access are provided in [Table 8 Sun access standards for streets, parks and open spaces](#).

\* State Government of Victoria (Department of Transport), *Movement and Place in Victoria*, 2019.

**Table 8** Sun access standards for streets, parks and open spaces

TYPES	SOLAR ACCESS REQUIREMENTS	MANDATORY (M) OR DISCRETIONARY (D)	DEEMED TO COMPLY
<b>SUN ACCESS STANDARDS – STREETS</b>			
<b>Boulevards</b>	Maintain sun access to the central median between 10am and 2pm on 22 September	M	Yes
<b>Key pedestrian streets/green streets</b>	Maintain sun access to the opposite footpath measured at least 5 metres from the property boundary between 10am and 2pm on 22 September	D	Yes
<b>All other streets</b>	<p>Buildings should minimise additional overshadowing of opposite footpaths between 10am and 2pm on 22 September.</p> <p>This does not apply to buildings that meet all of the following discretionary standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Table 1 Building height standards</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Table 3 Street wall/podium height standards</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Table 4 Front setback above street wall or podium</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Table 7 Landscape setbacks</a></li> </ul>	D	No
<b>SUN ACCESS STANDARDS – PARKS &amp; OPEN SPACES</b>			
<b>High protection</b>	No additional overshadowing between 10am and 3pm on 21 June	M	Yes
<b>Moderate protection</b>	No additional overshadowing beyond the theoretical shadow cast by the maximum street wall/podium height between 10am and 3pm on 21 June	M	Yes
<b>All other parks and open spaces (including waterways, any future parks and open spaces)</b>	<p>Buildings should minimise additional overshadowing beyond shadow cast by the existing buildings between 10am and 3pm on 21 June.</p> <p>This sun access standard does not apply to buildings that meet all of the following discretionary standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Table 1 Building height standards</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Table 3 Street wall/podium height standards</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Table 4 Front setback above street wall or podium</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Table 7 Landscape setbacks</a></li> </ul>	D	No





- North Essendon activity centre
- parcel boundary
- boulevards
- key pedestrian streets/green streets
- high protection
- moderate protection
- public open space

### 6.4.2 Wind

The wind impacts from new buildings will need to be managed as the centre develops. The impact of wind on public and open spaces must be managed to meet the requirements of [Table 9](#).

Development of five or more storeys, excluding a basement:

- Must not cause unsafe wind conditions as specified in [Table 9 Wind control specifications](#) in publicly accessible areas, including spaces identified with solar protection, within the assessment distance from all façades
- Should achieve comfortable wind conditions as specified in [Table 9 Wind control specifications](#) in publicly accessible areas within the assessment distance from all façades.

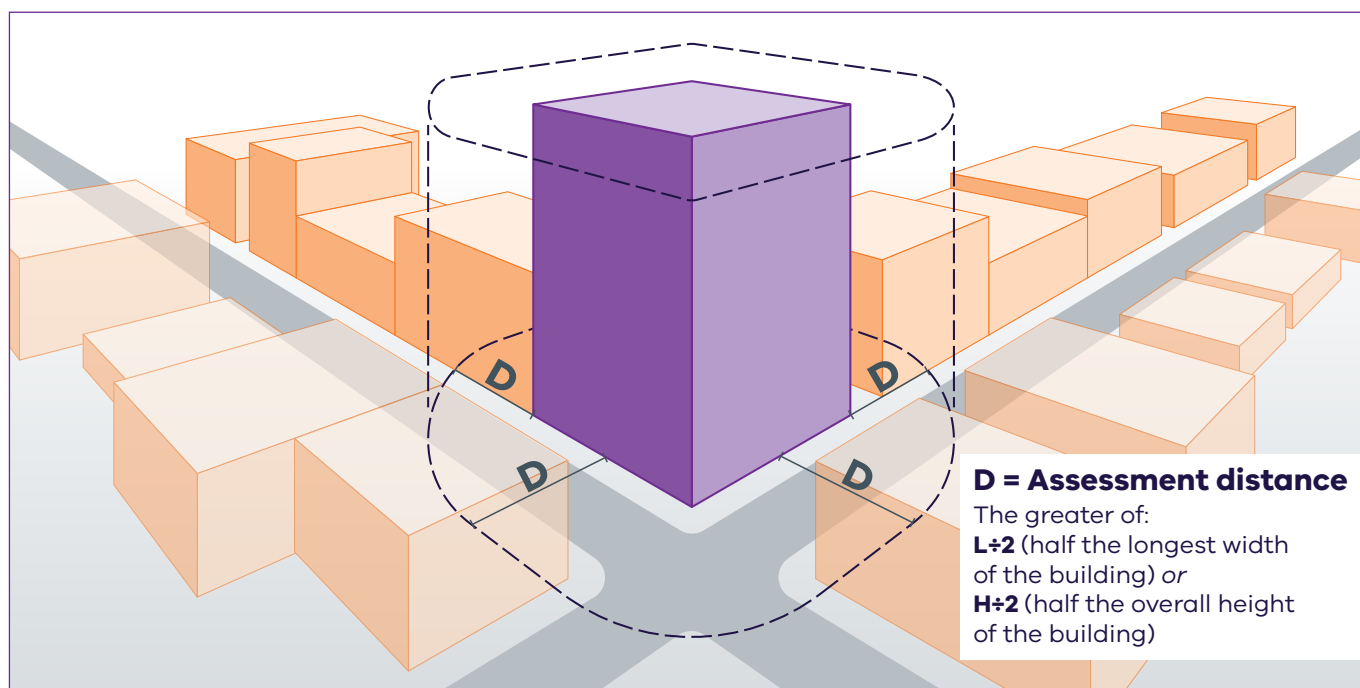
**Table 9** Wind control specifications

WIND CONDITION	SPECIFICATION
Comfortable wind conditions	Hourly mean wind speed or gust equivalent mean speed (3 second gust wind speed divided by 1.85), from all wind directions combined with probability of exceedance less than 20 per cent of the time, equal to or less than: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 metres per second for sitting areas</li> <li>• 4 metres per second for standing areas</li> <li>• 5 metres per second for walking areas</li> </ul>
Unsafe wind conditions	Annual maximum 3 second gust wind speed exceeding 20 metres per second with a probability of exceedance of 0.1% considering at least 16 wind directions

The assessment distance is shown in [Figure 5 Wind assessment distance](#) below and is the greater of:

- Half the longest width of the building, or
- Half the total height of the building.

**Figure 5** Wind assessment distance



## 6.5 Active frontages

Public interfaces should be designed to contribute to the use, activity, safety and interest of the public realm. They should also provide continuity of ground floor activity along streets (and laneways where relevant).

Active frontages should be made up a combination of glazing, entries, and commercial activities such as dining areas. Retail will be a key component of the activation. However, other land uses will also contribute including restaurants with street dining, residential development with balconies fronting the street, and other uses which provide passive surveillance such as gyms, banks and post offices. Areas required to provide an active frontage are shown on [Plan 11 Active Frontages](#). The relevant requirements for active frontages are provided in [Table 10 Active frontages](#). Active frontages are discretionary.

**Table 10** Active frontages

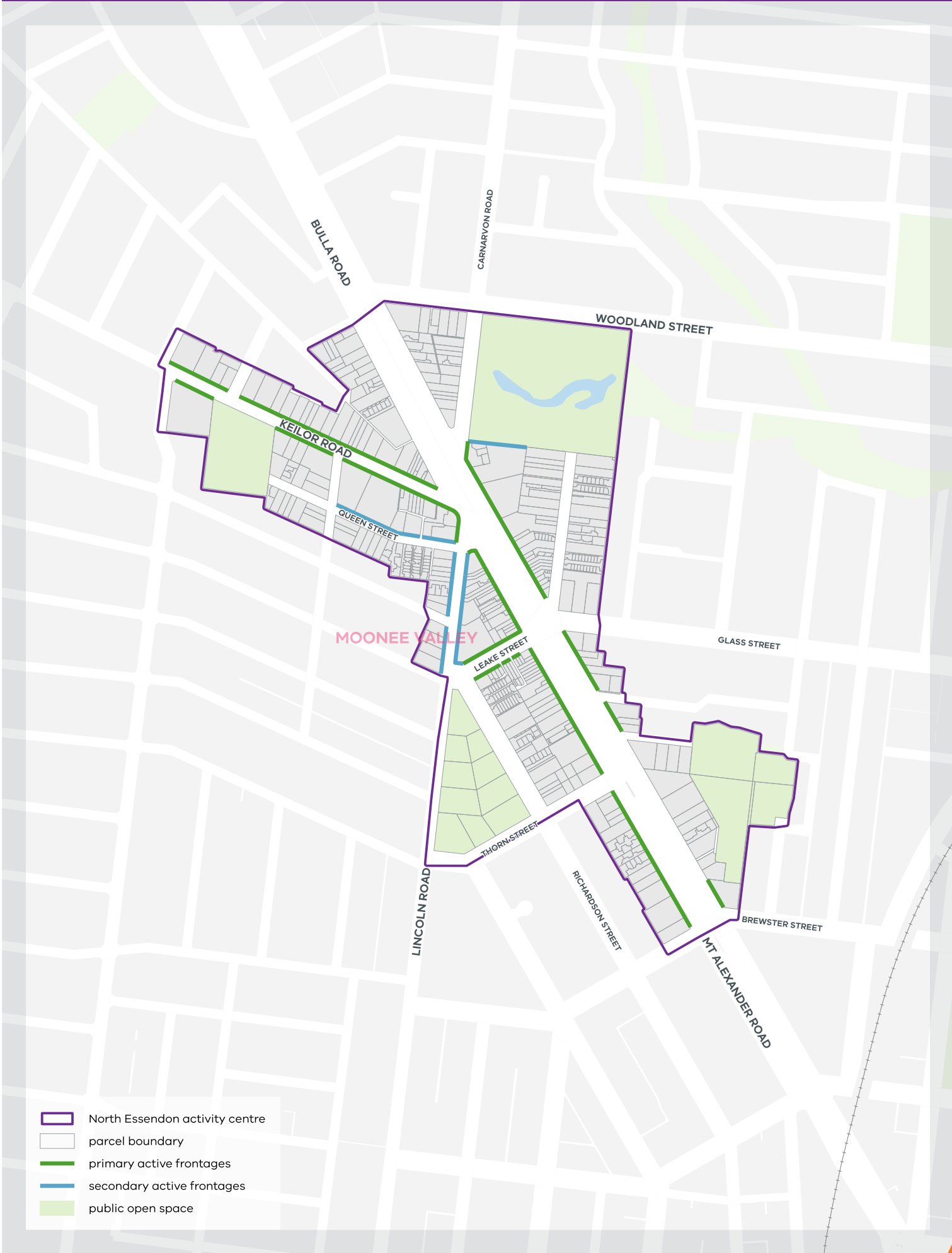
STREETS OR AREAS ON <a href="#">PLAN 11</a>	CLEAR GLAZING	MANDATORY (M) OR DISCRETIONARY (D)	DEEMED TO COMPLY
<b>Primary active frontage</b>	At least 80 per cent clear glazing along the ground level frontage to a height of 2.5 metres, excluding any solid plinth or base	D	No
<b>Secondary active frontage</b>	At least 60 per cent clear glazing along the ground level frontage to a height of 2.5 metres, excluding any solid plinth or base	D	No

Developments with primary active frontages should:

- Prioritise ground level functions with public offering and access.
- Have ground levels built to the street edge. Ground level setbacks should only be provided where they support on-street activity, footpath widening or landscaping opportunities.
- Prioritise frequency in direct building entrances to ground level functions.
- Ensure the composition of fenestration and architectural facade detailing maximises grain, depth, tactility and preserves streetscape rhythm.
- Minimise the presence of building services and cabinets presented to the frontage where possible. Where they are present, ensure they are integrated within the architectural response, and positioned no more than 500mm from the street edge.
- Avoid the location of vehicle access and loading bays on sites with narrow frontages, or where a secondary access point is available, to minimise impact on public realm activation and safety.

Developments with secondary active frontages should:

- Maximise visual interest of non-glazed frontage segments through textured materials and architectural facade detailing that is integrated with upper levels.
- Minimise the presence of building services and cabinets presented to the frontage where possible. Where they are present, ensure they are integrated within the architectural response, and positioned no more than 500mm from the street edge.
- Minimise the location of vehicle access and loading bays where a secondary access point is available.
- Where secondary access is unavailable, minimise the cumulative presence of vehicle entries and building services.



- North Essendon activity centre
- parcel boundary
- primary active frontages
- secondary active frontages
- public open space

## 6.6 Heritage

A heritage place refers to a place within a Heritage Overlay. Sites currently under a Heritage Overlay are shown on [Plan 2 Local Planning Context](#).

Deemed to comply standards discussed in earlier sections do not apply to any heritage places and to the sites adjacent to any heritage places.

## 6.7 Large Opportunity Sites

In addition to the planning controls identified at [6 Activity centre built form standards](#), it is recognised that sites over 5,000 square metres may require additional controls to manage the built form outcome. Sites of this size are identified as Large Opportunity Sites shown on [Plan 12 Large Opportunity Sites](#).

The controls that are to be unique to these sites may include:

- Master planning
- Tower floor plate size
- Building separation
- Deep soil requirements
- Pedestrian connections.

### 6.7.1 Master planning

For Large Opportunity Sites identified on [Plan 12 Large Opportunity Sites](#), a master plan is required to be prepared to the satisfaction of the responsible authority before the issue of a permit for the site. A master plan will need to address matters such as (but not limited to):

- Site constraints, such as flood hazard
- Scale of development
- Siting and orientation of buildings
- Any open space, canopy trees or pedestrian connections required
- Key interfaces
- Internal street network and layout if applicable
- Indicative vehicle (including for waste, loading or other service vehicles), pedestrian and cycling entries, if relevant
- The proposed land use and floor area of each building proposed
- Green infrastructure and alternative water sources/treatments if applicable.

A master plan requirement may be identified for sites smaller than the 5,000 square metres to respond to other strategic outcomes.

### 6.7.2 Tower floor plate size

Residential built form above the preferred maximum street wall height should apply a preferred maximum floor plate size of not more than 1,000 square metres per tower.

The preferred maximum tower floorplate was informed by studying recent precedents, as well as an understanding of relevant design guidelines for apartments, building regulations, buildings recognised for design quality and general commercial viability.



### 6.7.3 Building separation requirements within a site

Buildings above the street wall height should provide a minimum separation distance in accordance with [Table 11 Building separation requirements within a site](#).

**Table 11** Building separation requirements within a site

PART OF THE BUILDING	MINIMUM SEPARATION	MANDATORY (M) OR DISCRETIONARY (D)	DEEMED TO COMPLY
Up to and including 27 metres (8 storeys)	9.0 metres	D	No
Above 27 metres (8 storeys) up to and including 40 metres (12 storeys)	12.0 metres	D	No
Above 40 metres (12 storeys)	20.0 metres where a habitable window or balcony is proposed 18.0 metres in all other instances	D	No

### 6.7.4 Deep soil requirements

Deep soil requirements to enable larger trees to be planted in apartment developments are already managed via controls in the planning scheme at Standard D10 Landscaping objectives (Clause 58.03-5). Large Opportunity Sites are required to provide a minimum 10 per cent of the site for deep soil planting at ground level. Provision of adequate space for deep soil planting for canopy trees will support a high amenity public realm and reduce the urban heat island effect.

All other developments in Large Opportunity Sites (e.g. commercial and office) should:

- Provide a minimum 10 per cent of the site for deep soil planting at ground level; and
- Provide at least:
  - Two trees with a minimum canopy and height at maturity of eight metres; or
  - One tree with a minimum canopy and height at maturity of 12 metres.

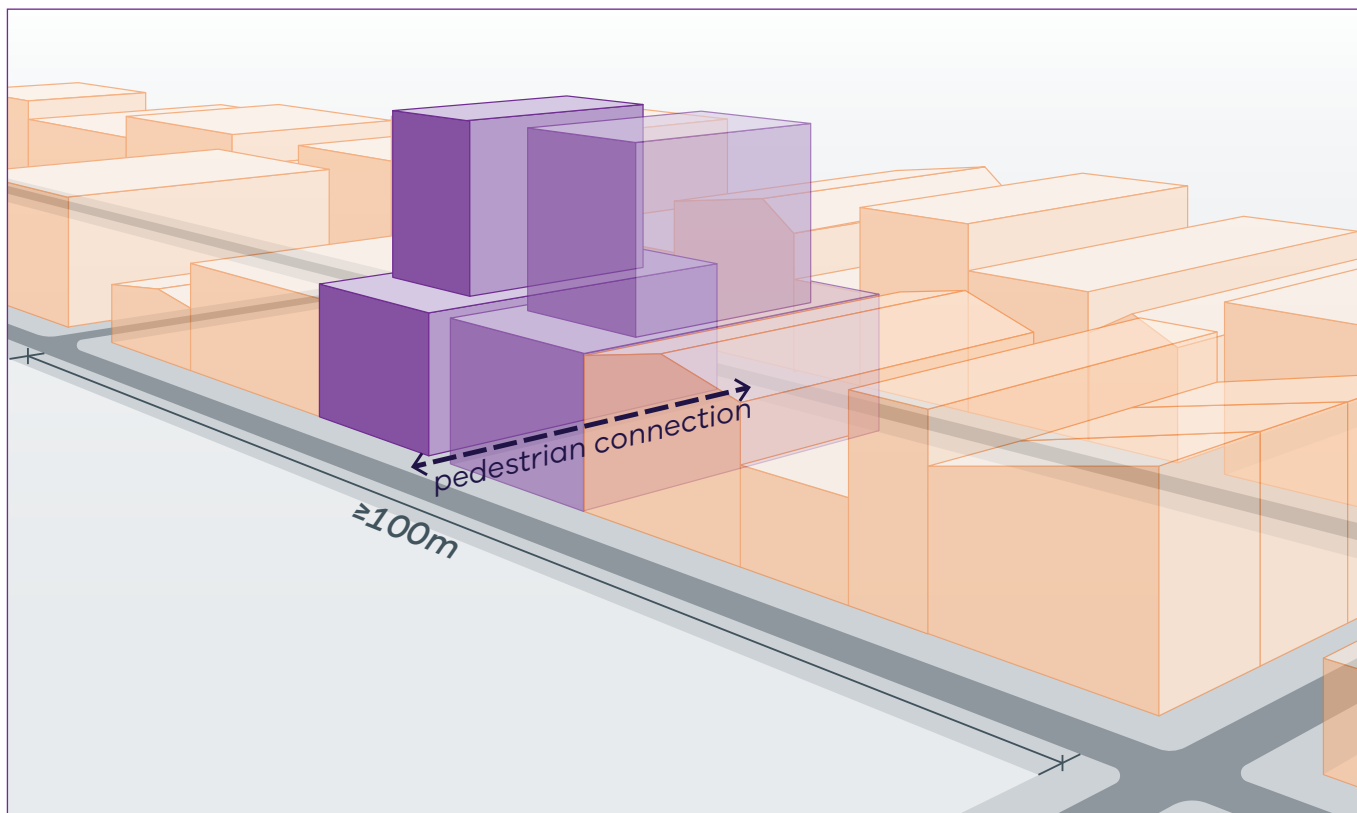
Deep soil planting requirements are currently required for apartment developments in the Moonee Valley Planning Scheme. These controls are intended to complement those requirements at Clause 58 Apartment Developments, while ensuring apartment developments also consider the need for deep soil planting.

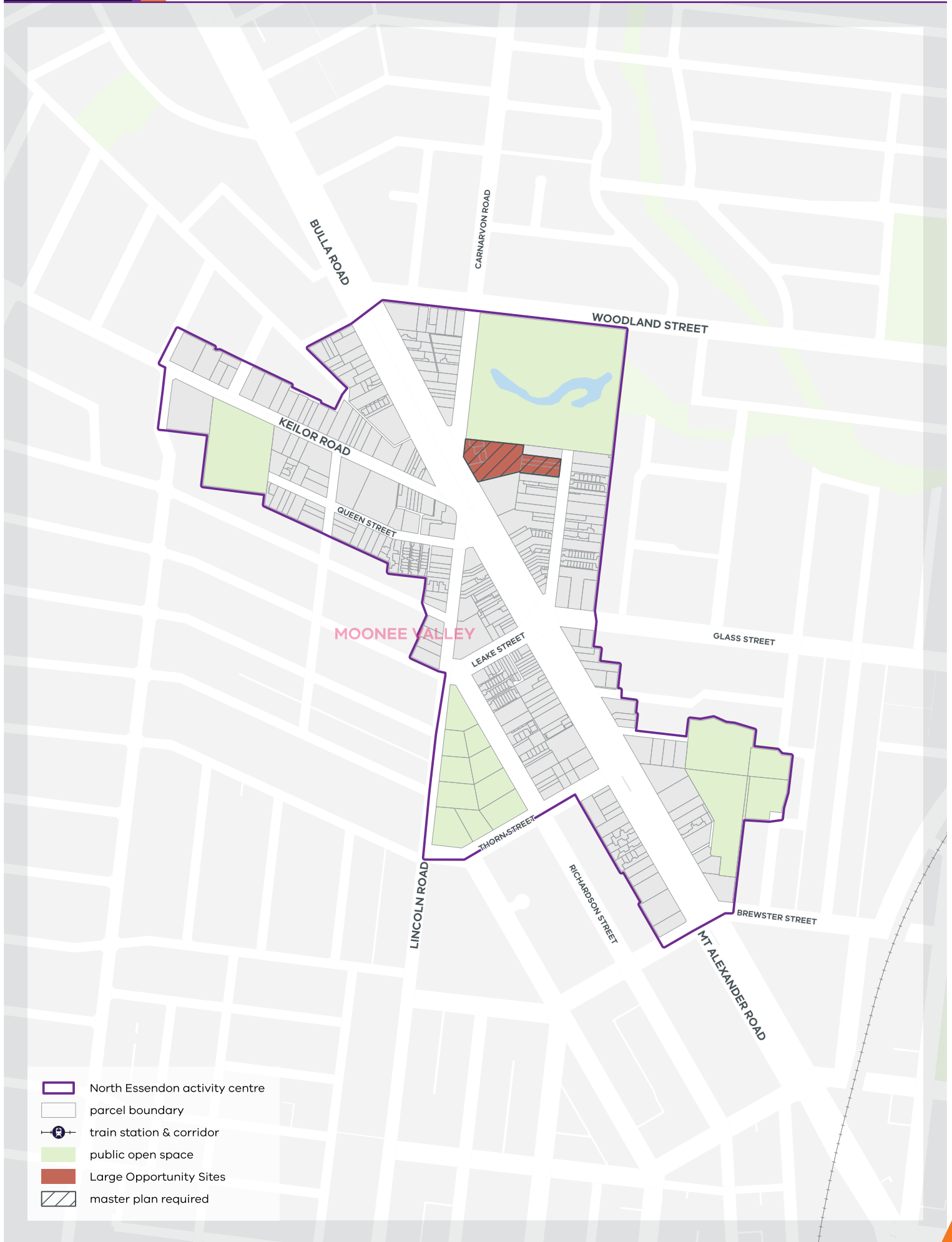
### 6.7.5 Pedestrian connections

Pedestrian connections provide access to and from the activity centre as well as transport interchanges, train stations and public open space.

Where the urban block length is greater than 100 metres, development on a Large Opportunity Site, with an abuttal to two or more streets or laneways should provide a new through-block pedestrian connection ([Figure 6 Pedestrian connections](#)).

**Figure 6** Pedestrian connections





- North Essendon activity centre
- parcel boundary
- train station & corridor
- public open space
- Large Opportunity Sites
- master plan required

## 7 Catchment area

The catchment is the residential area within walking distance of the local jobs, services and public transport of the North Essendon Activity Centre commercial and community core. Building more homes here is a good way to create a more lively, inclusive and sustainable local community.

The *North Essendon Activity Centre Plan* make sure the right types of homes are built in the places people want to live.

The plan encourages greater housing diversity and choice to meet the community's changing needs. The plan also encourages more efficient use of land through site consolidation, creating space for trees and greenery, as well as liveable and sustainable homes and neighbourhoods.

The catchment provides an opportunity to increase accessibility for more people to meet most of their daily needs within a close distance to and from their home.

The extent of the catchment area is shown at [Figure 1 North Essendon Activity Centre and catchment area](#).

### 7.1 Defining the catchment area

The catchment area generally extends up to 800 metres from the edge of key commercial areas and community amenities within the North Essendon Activity Centre.

Key commercial areas include those which people will access regularly for employment, services and everyday needs. Key commercial areas generally include the land within the activity centre – usually Commercial 1 Zone or Activity Centre Zone, but excluding open space and Commercial 2 zoned land where it is located at the periphery of the activity centre.

The catchment area applies to whole blocks and follows roads or other discernible and consistent boundaries, such as waterways, planning scheme zones, and future project boundaries.

The North Essendon Activity Centre catchment intersects with the Niddrie (Keilor Road) Activity Centre catchment.

### 7.2 Residential change

Encouraging more homes in catchment areas around the commercial and community cores of activity centres is a longstanding state policy. Government is now seeking to give clearer direction on the level of growth needed in these locations in alignment with our housing needs as identified in *Victoria's Housing Statement*.

The catchment provides an opportunity to facilitate a gradual change in scale, increasing the amount of homes and provide for more housing diversity and choice including quality social and affordable housing, medium- and higher-scale apartments, townhouses and semi-detached houses close to the activity centre.

Planning controls for the catchments will allow for graduated building heights, based on levels of access to the activity centre and public transport.

The catchment is covered entirely by Housing Choice and Transport Zone 2, which is based on the 800 metre distance outlined in [7.1 Defining the catchment area](#) and allows for building heights up to three storeys. Where a lot is at least 1,000 square metres in size and has a 20-metre frontage, buildings up to four storeys are allowed. These areas support a mix of low-rise apartments, townhouses, detached, and semi-detached houses. Housing Choice and Transport Zone 2 also applies to land covered by Heritage Overlay precincts. The overlay will continue to protect places of heritage significance, while allowing three to four storey development on sites where the heritage significance of places will not be adversely impacted.

## 8 Implementation

### 8.1 Built form control – activity centre

The *North Essendon Activity Centre Plan* is a background document at Clause 72.08 in the *Moonee Valley Planning Scheme*.

The Built Form Overlay (BFO) has been introduced into the Moonee Valley Planning Scheme for the North Essendon Activity Centre to implement new built form and height controls described in this Activity Centre Plan, and to support growth in the activity centre. The activity centre is the preferred location for more development.

### 8.2 Built form control – catchment

The Housing Choice and Transport Zone (HCTZ) has been introduced to residential land close to the activity centre to support greater housing growth.

The catchment (including all land in the catchment affected by the Heritage Overlay) is rezoned to HCTZ2 and is intended to support a mix of low-rise apartments, townhouses, detached, and semi-detached houses. A maximum building height of three storeys applies in the HCTZ2. Buildings up to four storeys can be supported on lots that are equal to or greater than 1,000 square metres and have a street frontage of at least 20 metres.

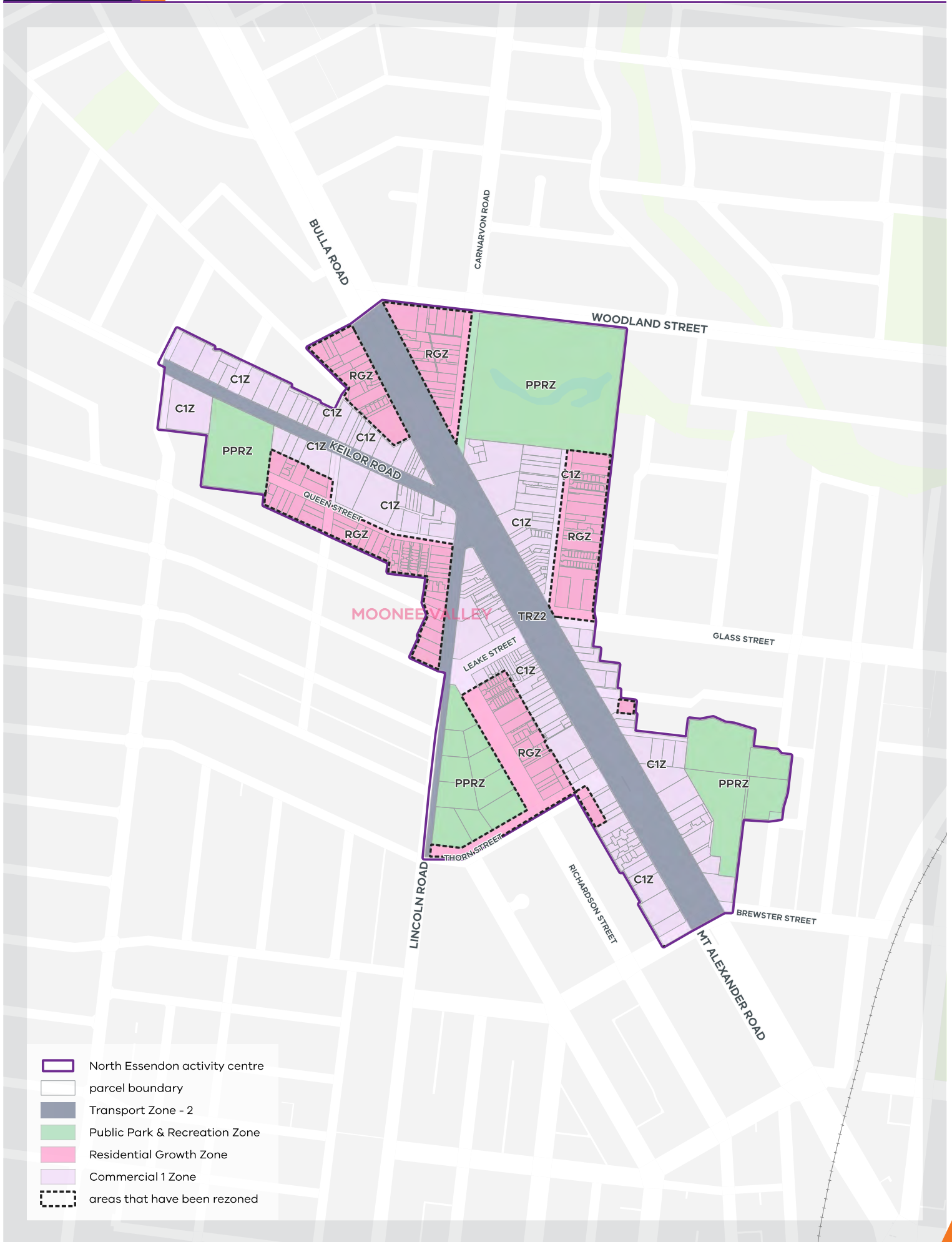
The Built Form Overlay does not apply to catchment areas.

### 8.3 Land use control – activity centre

The land previously within the General Residential Zone (GRZ) in the North Essendon Activity Centre has been rezoned to the Residential Growth Zone (RGZ) to enable greater housing diversity and facilitate more medium rise housing.

Zoning for the activity centre is shown on [Plan 13 Land Use Zoning](#).





## 8.4 Aligning existing controls

### 8.4.1 Activity Centre

The planning controls that have been replaced by the new built form controls were removed in order to streamline planning application assessments, implement more consistent built form standards and make the planning scheme clearer. In North Essendon, the following planning controls have been removed or modified:

- Amend Schedule 3 to the Design and Development Overlay (DDO3) in the *Moonee Valley Planning Scheme* to remove its application to the activity centre and part of the catchment and retain it elsewhere, specifically it is proposed to:
  - Delete Precinct A
  - Delete Precinct B
  - Delete Precinct C1
  - Retain Precinct C2
  - Retain Precinct D
  - Delete Schedule 7 and 10 to the Design and Development Overlay in the Moonee Valley Planning Scheme as the controls conflict with the intended development outcomes of the Built Form Overlay.

### 8.4.2 Catchment

In North Essendon, no planning controls have been removed from the catchment, other than where the Housing Choice and Transport Zone has replaced existing residential zones.

## 8.5 Infrastructure delivery

As more people call North Essendon home, it is important that they have the services and community infrastructure they need to maintain their liveability and connectivity. During consultation, the community has been clear that vibrant places with green parks and local community facilities are important to support housing growth.

### 8.5.1 A fairer approach to infrastructure contributions

A simplified infrastructure funding mechanism will be introduced to fund the public infrastructure North Essendon will need into the future.

This mechanism will directly result in more funding for things like roads, paths, and public transport services, new and upgraded schools, upgrades to health and community facilities, plus parks, playgrounds, sport and recreation, open space, and more.

## 8.6 Affordable housing

Affordable housing is defined in the *Planning and Environment Act, 1987* (The Act) as “housing, including social housing, that is appropriate for the needs of very low-, low- and moderate-income households.” The Act specifies annually updated income range classifications for very low- to moderate- income households.

Under *Plan for Victoria*, the Victorian Government will consider developing locally-specific targets for social and affordable housing and explore simpler rules for obtaining a fair and equitable affordable housing contribution from new development as part of the review of the Act.

Applications for residential subdivision and development should consider how they contribute to meeting the need for affordable housing.

Where affordable housing is provided, it should contribute to meeting the needs of very low- to moderate-income ranges.

This is in conjunction with the other local, state and federal government initiatives aimed at delivering more affordable housing such as:

- Unlocking surplus government land (State)
- The *Development Facilitation Program* (State)
- The *Short Stay Levy* (State)
- The *Regional Housing Fund* (State)
- The *Big Housing Build* (State)
- The *Public Housing Renewal Program* (State)
- The *Affordable Housing Investment Partnership* (State)
- The *Social Housing Accelerator* (Federal)
- The *National Housing Accord* (Federal).

## 8.7 Environmental constraints

The *Moonee Valley Planning Scheme* includes policy, zones, overlays and other provisions requiring development to identify and respond to environmental impacts. Local conditions that may result in adverse impacts on amenity and human health in and around activity centres may include increased flood risk associated with climate change, sources of potential noise and vibration (including aircraft noise), as well as the potential for land use conflict due to the presence of existing industry or industrial zoned land.

### 8.7.1 Flood risk

Flood risk is an important consideration when planning for new development across the entire Greater Melbourne area. This includes risks associated with waterways, stormwater drains and sea level rise in line with climate change forecasts to the year 2100.

Melbourne Water is remodelling riverine/waterway and stormwater flood risk and factoring climate change forecasts to the year 2100. As each new modelling project is completed (projected by 2026), they will be translated into planning controls that will play an important role in identifying future risk/hazard. In the interim, the planning scheme includes policy at Clause 19.03-3S (Integrated Water Management) to minimise flood risk, protect waterway health and guide appropriate development outcomes.

### 8.7.2 Amenity (dust and odour)

The *Moonee Valley Planning Scheme* includes policy at clauses 13.06-1S (Air Quality Management) and 13.07-1S (Land Use Compatibility) designed to protect community amenity, human health and safety while facilitating appropriate development. Clause 53.10 identifies land uses and activities, which if not appropriately designed and located, may cause offence or unacceptable risk to the community.

### 8.7.3 Noise

This activity centre plan does not facilitate any new noise sensitive uses in this centre; however, the application of the BFO will support the intensification of already permitted residential uses in areas where there may be impacts from nearby major roads/freeways and rail corridors. As such, where applicable, the design of new apartments will be required to comply with Standard D16, Clause 58.04-3 Noise Impacts Objectives.

### 8.7.4 Protection of nearby airports

The North Essendon Activity Centre and surrounding catchment areas are located beneath and in close proximity to the flight paths serving Essendon Fields Airport.

Several considerations apply to construction of new homes in areas that are within close proximity of the flight paths of Victoria's airports. These considerations are set out in the *National Airports Safeguarding Framework* and included at Clause 18.02-7S of the *Moonee Valley Planning Scheme*, in addition to the state planning strategies, policies and controls protecting the airports' operations. They include aircraft noise and construction standards, height controls and limits on sensitive uses including dwellings.

Protected airspace is provided for in the approved Essendon Fields Master Plan via Obstacle Limitation Surface (OLS) mapping. The OLS mapping shows the protected airspace as a height above Australian Height Datum. Buildings or structures (including cranes) that encroach within that require relevant consent.

Design and Development Overlay Schedule 8 and 9 – Obstacle Height Areas No.1 and No.2 (DDO8 and DDO9) apply to areas across the North Essendon Activity Centre. The purpose of these controls is to ensure that all buildings and works within the specified OLS avoid creating a hazard to aircraft and ensure the safe and effective operation of the airport. These controls provide for referral of planning applications for new homes to the Essendon Fields Airport Manager. Beyond this, Moonee Valley City Council has an obligation under Commonwealth prescribed airspace regulations to consider encroachments into the protected airspace.

There are no changes proposed to the existing controls that apply to this centre in relation to the specified OLS height limits.

The deemed to comply and discretionary building heights in this plan do not exceed the current specified OLS.



