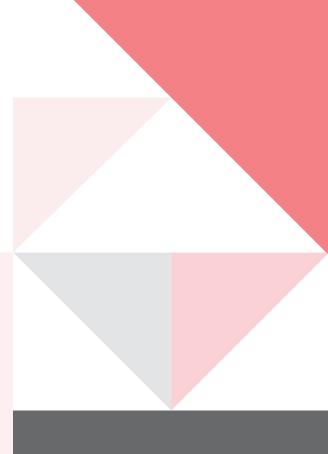


# Historic Area Overlay Design Advisory Guidelines





Government of South Australia

Attorney-General's Department

## Historic Area Overlay Design Advisory Guidelines

## INTRODUCTION

Development in South Australia is assessed against the state-wide Planning and Design Code (the Code). The Code can be accessed on the PlanSA Portal and is an electronic database that can be searched by address or development type.

The Code contains Zones, Subzones and Overlays for the assessment of development. The Overlays are of significance in that they can alter the way development applications are assessed.

The Code includes an Historic Area Overlay. This Overlay includes Desired Outcomes (DO), Performance Outcomes (PO) and Historic Area Statements (HAS), which combine with the underlying zone and subzone to define the envisaged development of a local area.

A Historic Area Overlay identifies locations that display historic themes and characteristics that are important to the local area. These attributes, identified by the relevant Historic Area Statements are often unique, and are displayed in the streetscape character of a locality. Desired and Performance Outcomes for Historic Area Overlays seek to conserve these historic attributes and for development visible from the public realm to respond contextually so as to be consistent and complementary to the identified character attributes. These Design Advisory Guidelines are provided under Section 66(5) of the *Planning Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* (the Act) and will assist applicants and designers to achieve these design outcomes.

#### Historic Area Overlay

Desired Outcome DOI: Historic themes and characteristics are reinforced through conservation and **contextually responsive design** and adaptive reuse that responds to the existing coherent patterns of land division, streetscapes, building siting, and built scale, form and features as exhibited in the Historic Area expressed in the Historic Area Statements.

**Contextually responsive design** complements and reinforces the historic character of an area. This ensures that historic themes and characteristics expressed by the Historic Area Statements are preserved.

**Design Advisory Guidelines** provide guidance to applicants and designers on key design considerations to help achieve an appropriate **contextually responsive design**. They identify a range of **common design attributes** that may be relevant when responding to DOI. They are applicable to new buildings, additions and alterations to existing places.

**Design Advisory Guidelines** are not intended to be a 'check list' to the design or assessment process, but rather support the Desired and Performance Outcomes of the Code. They are not additional policy.

**Design Advisory Guidelines** are supported by **Style Identification Advisory Guidelines**. These assist applicants and designers to identify places that display the historic themes and characteristics expressed by the Historic Area Statements. It is these places that the design of new development (or additions and alterations) should contextually respond to. In some areas, these places have been identified as **Representative Buildings**.

## NEW DEVELOPMENT WITHIN A HISTORIC AREA OVERLAY

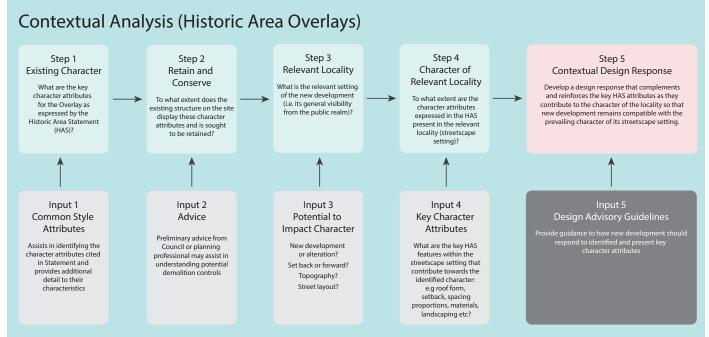
Development within a Historic Area Overlay will require additional contextual design and assessment consideration. A detailed Contextual Analysis of the locality will be central to these processes and assist in achieving development outcomes that are consistent with that sought by the Overlay.

#### **CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS**

A detailed and considered **Contextual Analysis** will guide the design and assessment process, and the application of the **Design Advisory Guidelines** in order to achieve the outcomes sought by DO1. This analysis may include:

- The extent to which any existing elements on the site display the historic themes and characteristics expressed by the Historic Area Statements, and if so the extent to which such elements are sought to be retained and conserved, or can be redeveloped
- The extent of relevant streetscape setting that needs to be considered in any contextual design response
- The extent to which places within the relevant streetscape setting display the historic themes and characteristics expressed by the Historic Area Statements
- The extent to which the proposed development may impact on these historic themes and characteristics (informed by the visual prominence of the proposed development from the public realm)
- **Common design attributes** displayed by places within the **streetscape setting** that demonstrated the historic themes and characteristics expressed by the Historic Area Statements, and
- The extent and manner by which the proposed development needs to respond to the prevailing context, and relative importance of the **common design attributes** to achieving an appropriate **contextual design response**.

It is the responsibility of the applicant, or their designer, to undertake this **Contextual Analysis** where required.



These considerations will fundamentally influence the nature of any new development within a Historic Area Overlay, and accordingly the applicant and/or their designers should undertake a **Contextual Analysis** during the very earliest stages of any development proposal in order to mitigate potential risks, costs and delays associated with misalignment of applicant and Overlay expectations.

The **Design Advisory Guidelines** have been developed to respond to key design attributes identified by the Overlay's Performance Outcomes. They provide a sound basis for any **Contextual Analysis** of an area within which a development is proposed.

#### **APPLICATION**

Every property within an Overlay will have its own unique qualities and attributes that will inform appropriate design outcomes and the relative weighting to be applied to the relevant Code policy, and **Design Advisory Guidelines**. These factors will inform the required design response to the identified historic attributes within the Overlay. Key factors influencing this weighted application include:

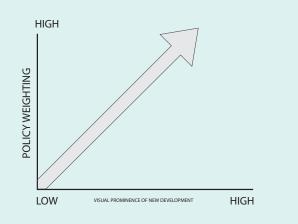
### Streetscape setting

The **streetscape setting** of a development will generally be the locations and areas within the public realm that the proposed development will have a meaningful visual impact on. This will typically be from the street but may extend to other public areas. Street width and layout, topography of the locality, and the scale and setout of the proposed development will influence how far the **streetscape setting** extends.

Due to its ephemeral nature, landscaping will generally not be reason in itself to reduce the extent of a streetscape setting.

#### Visual Prominence

Highly prominent development, such as a new building set close to the street frontage or on corner sites, may have a greater impact on the built form character of a locality than development set back from the prevailing building line, or (for the case of building additions) to the rear of a site. Development with a high **visual prominence** will require a more considered **contextual design response** than would be required for proposals with low visibility the relevant **streetscape setting.** 



HIGH

IOW

POLICY WEIGHTING

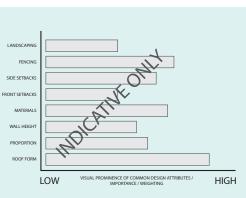
#### **Character Integrity of Locality**

The concentration and integrity of places within the **streetscape setting** of a proposal that display the historic themes and characteristics as expressed by the Historic Area Statements will inform the extent of **contextual design response** needed to achieve the outcomes sought by DOI.

Localities that display high levels of consistency and/or integrity in relation to the Historic Area Statements will require a higher level design response to those areas of more disparate or diluted character.



What are the **common design attributes** that contribute towards the prevailing streetscape characteristics and development patterns of value as expressed by the Character Area Statements within the **Streetscape Setting** of the proposed development? Dominant attributes should be given greater weighting that less dominant attributes.



CHARACTER INTEGRITY OF STREETSCAPE SETTING ENT TO WHICH STREETSCAPE SETTING DISPLAYS VALUED ETSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERY EXPRESSED BY CHARACTER AREA STATEMENTS).

HIGH

The weighting of these attributes will vary from location to location. For example, locations that display consistent front setbacks will likely weight this attribute higher than those with varied setbacks. A thorough and considered **contextual analysis** will therefore be critical to identifying and weighting these attributes so as to inform an appropriate design response.

### **Extent of Response**

It is anticipated that development within a Historic Area Overlay will require a more considered **contextual design response** than other localities. Undertaking a **Contextual Analysis** in the earliest stages of the any development proposal is therefore highly recommended as it will assist with identifying the extent and nature of **common design features** that are relevant to any **contextual design response**.

It may not be necessary to respond to all **common design attributes** to achieve an appropriate **contextual design response** provided an overall compatibility with the prevailing historic themes and character is maintained.

This additional **contextual design response** sought by Historic Area Overlays is also likely to result in:

- Exterior design aesthetics being given greater weighting in the planning assessment process
- Greater restrictions and limitations over the exterior appearance of a proposed development
- No single 'common design approach'. Every Historic Area Overlay, and even locations within, are all different and will likely require a unique design response, and
- Greater collaborative input from the Local Council and (where available) their Local Heritage Advisor.

## Overlays and Historic Area Statement

#### **Contextual Locality Analysis**

Analysis will inform the manner by which new development needs to respond to guidelines to achieve appropriate contextually responsive design in accord with DOI.

Key factors include:

- Streetscape setting
- Visual prominence
- Character integrity of locality.

#### **Design Advisory Guidelines**

Guidelines are to assist the understanding and application Code Policy relating to development within the Character Overlay.

#### ╇

#### Identification Advisory Guidelines

Provide greater detail on design and stylistic attributes of identified and prevailing periods of development to assist contextual design response.

# HAO TABLE I DESIGN ADVISORY GUIDELINES

**Note:** All diagrams included in the HAO Table I are indicative only, and for the purposes of illustrating a principle, rather than a specific design solution. Development applications will be assessed against a broad range of relevant Desired and Performance Outcomes within the Code, in addition to those discussed below. Compliance with the below does not necessarily result in an appropriate outcome when assessed against all other relevant provisions.

Common Design Attribute	Retention and Conservation
Relevant Code Reference	DOI Historic themes and characteristics are reinforced through conservation and contextually responsive development, design and adaptive reuse that responds to existing coherent patterns of land division, site configuration, streetscapes, building siting and built scale, form and features as exhibited in the Historic Area and expressed in the Historic Area Statement
	PO7.1 Buildings and structures, or features thereof, that demonstrate the historic characteristics as expressed in the Historic Area Statement are not demolished, unless:
	(a) the front elevation of the building has been substantially altered and cannot be reasonably restored in a manner consistent with the building's original style
	or (b) the structural integrity or safe condition of the original building is beyond reasonable repair.
	PO7.2 Partial demolition of a building where that portion to be demolished does not contribute to the historic character of the streetscape.
	PO7.3 Building or elements of buildings that do not confirm with the values described in the Historic Area Statements may be demolished.
Discussion	Historic Area Overlays identify locations that display historic themes and characteristics that are considered to be of importance to the local area. These attributes, identified in the Historic Area Statements, are displayed in the streetscape character of a locality. The <b>Style Identification Advisory Guidelines</b> will assist applicants and designers to identify these attributes, and places that display them, within the <b>streetscape setting</b> of a proposal. In some Overlays these have attributes have been identified as <b>Representative Buildings</b> . Existing buildings and structures, and features thereof, that demonstrate these historic characteristics are sought to be retained and conserved.
	Later additions or modifications that do not contribute towards the historic character of the streetscape may be removed (subject to approvals)
	Buildings or features that are not consistent with the Historic Area Statement can be demolished or redeveloped in a manner that contextually responds to the existing coherent patterns of land division, site configuration, streetscapes, building siting and built scale, form and features as exhibited in the Historic Area and expressed in the Historic Area Statements.
Key Considerations	Integrity (changes to original), condition, visibility from the street, values described in the Historic Area Statements.

Common Design Attribute	Appropriate contextual design response
Relevant Code Reference	<ul> <li>DOI Historic themes and characteristics are reinforced through conservation and contextually responsive development, design and adaptive reuse that responds to existing coherent patterns of land division, site configuration, streetscapes, building siting and built scale, form and features as exhibited in the Historic Area and expressed in the Historic Area Statement.</li> <li>PO1.1 All development is undertaken having consideration to the historic streetscapes and built form as expressed in the Historic Area Statement.</li> <li>PO3.1 Alterations and additions complement the subject building, employ a contextual design approach and are sited to ensure they do not</li> </ul>
	dominate the primary facade.
Discussion	<ul> <li>Development within a Historic Area Overlay should establish a complementary design relationship within the prevailing historic character of the streetscape setting of the site, as identified with the Historic Area Statements. This should be achieved through the retention and conservation of buildings and features that demonstrate this historic characteristics as expressed in the Historic Area Statements, and new development that responds positively to this prevailing historic character. The Style Identification Advisory Guidelines will assist applicants and designers to identify these attributes, and places that display them, within the streetscape setting of a proposal.</li> <li>A contextual analysis of the streetscape setting of a proposal will inform an appropriate contextual design response, and assessment process. This analysis will identify key common design attributes necessary to achieve the development outcomes sought by DO1. This contextual analysis should be undertaken during the earliest stages of project planning and design.</li> <li>The design response, and the extent to which it establishes this complementary design relationship, will be informed both by the visual prominence of the proposed works within the streetscape from the public realm, and the extent to which the key attributes as expressed by the Historic Area Statements, are consistently represented within the broader streetscape setting.</li> <li>Localities of highly consistent historic character will require a design response that is more closely aligned to the common design attributes noted below, than localities of less consistent or disparate character.</li> <li>Development that has a low visual prominence will require a lesser contextual design response.</li> <li>A contemporary architectural design response to the Common Design Attributes is encouraged. Highly derivative reproductions of historic styles are discouraged in new development.</li> </ul>
Key Considerations	<b>Contextual analysis</b> at earliest stages of project planning and design. Visual prominence of proposal. Key attributes of Historic Area Statements present in streetscape setting.

Common Design Attribute	Form
Relevant Code Reference	<ul> <li>PO2.1 The form and scale of new buildings and structures that are visible from the public realm are consistent with the prevailing historic characteristics of the historic area.</li> <li>PO2.3 Design and architectural detailing of street-facing buildings (including but not limited to roof pitch and form, openings, chimneys and verandahs) complement the prevailing characteristics in the historic area.</li> </ul>
Discussion	Development should respond positively to the historic built form attributes as identified by the Historic Area Statements, to the extent to which such attributes are prevalent within the <b>streetscape setting</b> of the proposed development. The <b>Style Identification Advisory</b> <b>Guidelines</b> will assist applicants and designers to identify these attributes, and places that display them, within the <b>streetscape setting</b> of a proposal. Development can do this by establishing a visual compatibility with the identified historic built form within the streetscape setting.
Key Considerations	Massing, proportion, visual scale, articulation, composition of elements, shadowing. Also refer roof form, proportion of elements, wall height.

Common Design Attribute	Roof Form
Relevant Code Reference	<ul> <li>PO2.1 The form and scale of new buildings and structures that are visible from the public realm are consistent with the prevailing historic characteristics of the historic area.</li> <li>PO2.3 Design and architectural detailing of street-facing buildings (including but not limited to roof pitch and form, openings, chimneys and verandahs) complement the prevailing characteristics in the historic area.</li> </ul>
Discussion	<text><image/><section-header><text><text><text><text></text></text></text></text></section-header></text>
Key Considerations	Compatible alignments of predominant eave / gutter / ridge heights, vertical proportion,

Key Considerations

Compatible alignments of predominant eave / gutter / ridge heights, vertical proportion, features (gables, hips), articulation, span, materiality, eave overhangs and pitches.

Common Design Attribute	Form
Relevant Code Reference	<ul> <li>PO2.1 The form and scale of new buildings and structures that are visible from the public realm are consistent with the prevailing historic characteristics of the historic area.</li> <li>PO2.3 Design and architectural detailing of street-facing buildings (including but not limited to roof pitch and form, openings, chimneys and verandahs) complement the prevailing characteristics in the historic area.</li> </ul>
Discussion	Historic architectural styles, building types and periods of development often shared common proportions, composition and heights of elements such as windows, roofs, verandah, and their arrangement within the overall form of the proposal. The <b>Style Identification Advisory Guidelines</b> will assist applicants and designers to identify places that display these attributes within the <b>streetscape setting</b> of a proposal.
	Establishing a compatible relationship between the proportion and composition of these elements, or overall building form, can assist in achieving a complementary design response that addresses the prevailing historic attributes within a <b>streetscape setting</b> . Key considerations include those <b>common design attributes</b> below.
	The extent to which this type of response is required will vary depending on the consistency of the <b>streetscape setting</b> , the <b>visual prominence</b> of the development, and the extent to which other design responses are used to achieve visual compatibility with the surrounding public environs.
Key Considerations	Overall proportion, composition and heights of elements such as windows, roof, verandah and their arrangement within the overall form.

Common Design Attribute	Form
Relevant Code Reference	PO2.2 Development is consistent with the prevailing building and wall heights in the historic area.
Discussion	<text><text><image/><text><text></text></text></text></text>
	caves (even where varied) are generally undesirable.
Key Considerations	Alignments of heights to predominant features such as verandahs, eaves, gables or parapets

(as may be applicable).

Common Design Attribute	Materials
Relevant Code Reference	<ul> <li>PO2.3 Design and architectural detailing of street-facing buildings (including but not limited to roof pitch and form, openings, chimneys and verandahs) complement the prevailing characteristics in the historic area.</li> <li>PO2.5 Materials are either consistent with or complement those within the historic area.</li> </ul>
Discussion	<text><text><text><image/><image/></text></text></text>
Key Considerations	Colour and overall textural qualities and arrangement of materials to achieve visual

Key Considerations

Colour and overall textural qualities, and arrangement of materials to achieve visual articulation comparable to the identified characteristics of the surrounding environs.

#### Common Design Attribute

**Front Setbacks** 

Relevant Code Reference

PO2.4 Development is consistent with the prevailing front and side boundary setback pattern in the historic area.

Discussion

New development should maintain a consistency with the general front setback pattern of the **streetscape setting** so as not be visually at odds with the prevailing character. Areas of highly consistent setbacks will require a greater consistency than more disparate areas.

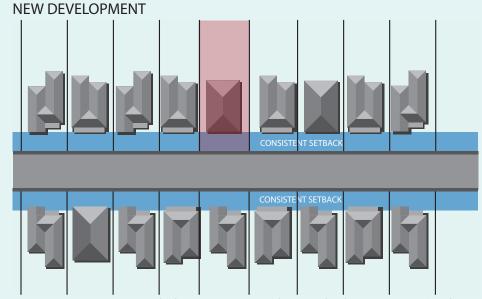
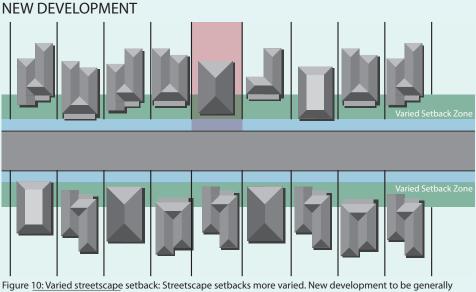


Figure 9: <u>Consistent streetscape setback</u>. Despite minor encroachments within the **streetscape setting**, there remains a prevailing consistency with setbacks within the street that new development should be consistent with.



consistent with prevailing range of setbacks, provided proposal is not visually at odds with the broader bulk and scale of the surrounding **streetscape setting**. Varied setbacks provides opportunities for a range of setbacks for new development (shown in green).

**Key Considerations** 

Affect of verandahs and façade articulation. Implications to landscaping.

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#### Common Design Attribute

Relevant Code Reference

PO2.4 Development is consistent with the prevailing front and side boundary setback pattern in the historic area.

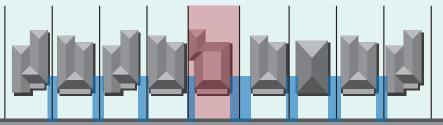
Discussion

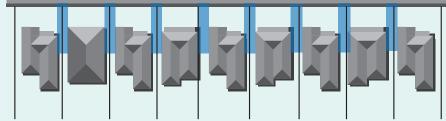
Side setback patterns (and in turn the width of buildings as they present to the street) can contribute towards the character of a **streetscape setting** where a high degree of consistency exists, as they establish an overall rhythm of built form.

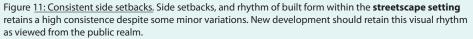
New development should maintain this rhythm where it exists.

#### NEW DEVELOPMENT

**Side Setbacks** 







#### NEW DEVELOPMENT

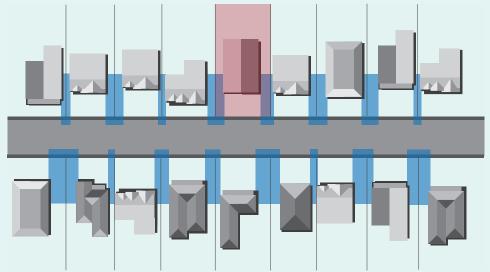


Figure <u>12: Varied side setbacks</u>. Streetscape side setbacks more varied. New development to be generally consistent with prevailing range of side setbacks, provided proposal is not visually at odds with the boarder bulk and scale of surrounding **streetscape setting**. Varied side setbacks provides opportunities for a range of setbacks for new development.

Key Considerations

Width of buildings as they present to the street, façade articulation.

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Common Design Attribute	Front Fencing
Relevant Code Reference	PO4.4 Fencing and gates closer to a street boundary (other than a laneway) than the elevation of the associated building are consistent with the traditional period, style and form of the associated building.
Discussion	<text><text><text><text><figure></figure></text></text></text></text>
Key Considerations	Height, scale, materials, visual permeability, and proportion of elements.

Common Design Attribute	Landscaping
Relevant Code Reference	PO6.2 Development maintains the valued landscape patterns and characteristics that contribute to the historic area, except where they compromise safety, create nuisance, or impact adversely on buildings or infrastructure.
Landscaping PO6.2	New development should respond positively to landscape patterns and characteristics identified in the Historic Area Statements as represented in the <b>streetscape setting</b> . The <b>Style Identification Advisory Guidelines</b> will assist applicants and designers to identify landscaping patterns and characteristics within the <b>streetscape setting</b> of a proposal that are consistent with the historic themes described in the Historic Area Statements. In some localities this may be a rural or wilderness setting, in others it may a more formal curated landscape. Landscaping patterns and characteristics may also influence front and side setback patterns, particularly in localities where front, side or corner garden prevail.
Key Considerations	Landscaping patterns and characteristics may also influence front and side setback patterns, particularly in localities where front, side or corner gardens prevail.
Common Design Attribute	Carports and Garages
Relevant Code Reference	<ul> <li>PO4.1 Ancillary development, including carports, outbuildings and garages, complements the historic character of the area and associated buildings.</li> <li>PO4.2 Ancillary development, including carports, outbuildings and garages, is located behind the building line of the principal building(s) and does not dominate the building or its setting.</li> <li>PO6.1 The width of driveways and other vehicle access ways are consistent with the prevailing width of existing driveways of the historic area.</li> </ul>
Discussion	<ul> <li>Many, if not most historic areas were developed when accommodation for a motor vehicle was not a consideration, and has resulted in a streetscape character dominated by the dwelling and landscaping, rather than garaging and carparking.</li> <li>The visual characteristics of garaging is often at odds with the prevailing historic character. Garaging, and in particular double garaging, can result in large expanses of unarticulated façade that is often in stark contrast to the form, articulation, scale and materiality of historic building stock within an Overlay. Often the need to locate garaging off the primary street frontage, which at times can be very narrow, further increases their visual prominence.</li> <li>The visual prominence of garaging and carports should be mitigated to avoid adverse impacts to the historic built form attributes as identified by the Historic Area Statements. Carports and / or garages should not visually dominate the built form presentation of new development to the streetscape. In some localities this may include generally avoiding double garages.</li> <li>Driveway crossings should be consistent with prevailing widths, and not unreasonably inhibit landscaping requirements sought under PO6.2.</li> </ul>
Key Considerations	Setbacks, articulation, colour and/or materials. Setting back garaging behind the line of the principle façade. Driveway widths, and impacts on landscaping.

Common Design Attribute	Signage / Advertising
Relevant Code Reference	PO4.3 Advertising and advertising hoardings are located and designed to complement the building, be unobtrusive, be below the parapet line, not conceal or obstruct significant architectural elements and detailing, or dominate the building or its setting.
Signage / Advertising (where applicable) PO4.3	<text><text><text><text><list-item><section-header><text><text><text><text><text><text><text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text></section-header></list-item></text></text></text></text>

Figure 14: Common traditional signage types and locations (shown in red).

Key Considerations

Uncluttered, clear, and consistent with scale of building and prevailing streetscape character.

## GLOSSARY

**Common design attributes:** Key design attributes and considerations that contribute to achieving a contextually responsive design.

**Contextual Analysis:** A detailed assessment prepared by the applicant or their designer in the initial stages of design and project planning that guides the application of the Design Advisory Guidelines.

**Contextually Responsive Design** (term used within Historic Area Overlay Desired Outcome 1):A design that complements, and reinforces the prevailing historic character of an area, so that the boarder legibility of the historic themes and characteristics as expressed by the Historic Area Statements are preserved.

**Contextually Responsive Development** (term used within Character Area Overlay Desired Outcome 1): Development that is consistent with the prevailing valued streetscape characteristics and development patterns as expressed by the Character Area Statements.

**Design Advisory Guidelines**: provide guidance to applicants and designers on key design considerations to achieve an appropriate contextually responsive design. They identify a range of common design attributes that may be relevant when responding to DOI. They are applicable to new development, and additions and alterations to existing places.

**Representative Buildings**: Representative buildings referenced in Historic Area Statements and Character Area Statements and mapped in the South Australian Planning and Property Atlas are buildings which display characteristics of importance to a particular area. The identification of representative buildings in a particular area is not intended to imply that other buildings in an historic area or character area are not of importance.

**Streetscape setting**: the locations and areas within the public realm that the proposed development will have a meaningful visual impact on. This will typically be from the street but may extend to other public areas. Street width and layout, topography of the locality, and the scale and setout of the proposed development will influence how far the streetscape setting extends.

**Style Identification Advisory Guidelines**: assist applicants and designers to identify those places that display the historic themes and characteristics expressed by the Historic and Character Area Statements.

**Visual prominence**: The extent to which the proposed development may impact on the character of a locality. Highly prominent development, such as a new building set close to the street frontage or on corner sites, may have a greater impact on the built form character of a locality than development set back from the prevailing building line, or (for the case of building additions) to the rear of a site.