

# appendix 22

# comprehensive

# housing

# development

## AP22

## overview

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**AP.22.i** This appendix provides a general guide to the type of considerations to be carried out in the design and construction of Comprehensive Housing Developments. It is not intended to be the sole list of items to assess a development against or to be a 'check list' which is simply 'ticked off'. There are many ways to design a Comprehensive Housing Development which provides for a high standard of living on a smaller site, and approaches that lead to high quality results are encouraged. Council expects to see applicants demonstrate a thoughtful response to issues and techniques raised in this Appendix and those representing quality urban design generally.

**AP22.ii** Comprehensive Housing provisions allow for developments to be a restricted discretionary activity (and non-notified) provided the site is located in the Residential Zone - Higher Density Area. This only applies in relation to rules REr.23 'Minimum Site Area', REr.24 'Site Coverage' and the associated subdivision under rule REr.107. All other Residential Zone rules are applicable (other than some rules where they apply to internal boundaries) and require assessment as part of the application and package of consents sought. As an example, triggering rule REr.35 'Daylight' to an adjoining site will result in the activity status of that rule applying and there being consideration of notification or affected party approval being required for that issue. Rules which are triggered on boundaries internal to the development (e.g. daylight compliance between two dwellings within that proposal) do not affect this activity and notification status. They form part of the assessment of on-site amenity and design under Appendix 22.

## **AP22.1 definitions**

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### **Comprehensive housing development**

means three or more residential units, designed and planned in an integrated manner, where all required resource and subdivision consents are submitted together, along with sketch plans of the proposed development. The land on which the proposed residential units are to be sited must form a separate, contiguous area.

**(Explanation not forming part of the definition:** In other words, in a Comprehensive Housing Development the houses and any subdivision are designed as one. The development will generally require a resource consent because it exceeds the building coverage requirements or is below the minimum site size requirements for the zone. It may also depart from both standards, as well as other standards such as parking or height. The intention of the Comprehensive Housing provisions is to provide for more intensive housing developments if they are designed with additional features which enhance the quality of the living conditions both inside and outside the units. Shared open space may be an important factor in enabling a higher density. While a clear site is preferable, an existing house could be part of a Comprehensive Housing Development, but ONLY IF it meets all the design criteria and there are enough new units to meet the definition above).

### **Apartment building**

means a single building, over 7.5m high, containing four or more residential units. Apartments are a special form of Comprehensive Housing Development requiring separate consideration. Special guidelines for apartment buildings are included at the end of this appendix.

### **Other terms**

are defined in Chapter 2 (meanings of words).

### **Any reference to a rule in this Appendix**

means reference to a rule in the Residential Zone.

## **AP22.2 use of this appendix**

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**AP22.2.i** When assessing a Comprehensive Housing Development, the Council will have regard to the extent to which it achieves the outcomes set out below. This appendix is intended to provide direction to the applicant as to the type of measures that can help achieve these outcomes.

**AP22.2.ii** Of specific relevance to Comprehensive Housing Developments are objectives and policies DO13A to DO13A.7 addressing urban design matters and RE1.2A 'Comprehensive Housing'. Other objectives and policies of the Plan may be relevant depending on the individual circumstances of an application. Rules with specific provisions relating to Comprehensive Housing Developments are REr.22 'Comprehensive Housing', REr.25 'Front Yards', REr.26 'Other Yards', REr.27 'Outdoor Living Court - sites less than 350m<sup>2</sup>', REr.28 'Pedestrian access to rear of sites', REr.35 'Daylight Admission', REr.36 'Decks, terraces, verandahs and balconies', REr.38 'Parking', and Appendix 10 'Standards and Terms for Parking and Loading', and Rule REr.107 'Subdivision - General'.

**AP22.2.iii** The majority of Comprehensive Housing Development also involves a subdivision consent under Rule REr.107 'Subdivision - General'. The requirements of rules REr.22 and REr.107 shall be addressed in both preparation and assessment of a Comprehensive Housing Development which involves subdivision.

## **AP22.3 overall outcome**

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**AP22.3.i** The overall aim of this appendix and Rule REr.22 ‘Comprehensive Housing Development’ is to ensure that Comprehensive Housing Developments provide a high standard of amenity, both on-site for the occupants, and off-site in terms of the wider neighbourhood. This high standard of amenity is expected to be achieved through the use of carefully considered design techniques and features which respond to the site’s context and setting, and which have no significant adverse effects on the surrounding neighbourhood.

**AP22.3.ii** Developments should address the fundamental aim in the first sentence of AP22.3.i. Comprehensive Housing Development is not a case of simply squeezing more conventional residential units onto a parcel of land. To be granted consent, Comprehensive Housing Developments are expected to be purpose designed for the site and the neighbourhood in accordance with the principles of this appendix. The design is to be executed to a high standard at the construction stage.

**AP22.3.iii** A Comprehensive Housing Development may also be based on meeting the demonstrable needs of the intended occupants as well as that of the wider community e.g. groups with special needs.

**AP22.3.iv** Specific guidelines for apartment buildings are at the end of this appendix.

## **AP22.4 on-site amenity outcomes**

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**AP22.4.i** Development should create a high standard of amenity and privacy for residents while promoting sustainability. The following techniques should be considered as methods to achieve this desired outcome. Note that this is not a complete list; there are many design techniques which can be employed through carefully considered design. Matters to be considered include, but are not limited to, the following:

### **Coherence and Integration**

- a) existence of a design concept, or theme which is appropriate to the site and location and which integrates the various separate requirements into a coherent whole.
- b) coherence in form, composition, materials and details balanced with the complexity necessary to give visual interest.

### **Site Planning**

- c) siting and orientation of buildings, occupied spaces and openings to ensure passive solar gain is optimised.
- d) retention of existing vegetation and landform where feasible and consider inclusion of existing features into public areas. For example, using existing trees or a stream as a focal point for a communal area.
- e) landscaping to create quality outdoor environments on site, and use of walls and fencing to establish private areas while retaining a positive relationship with the adjacent street or public area.
- f) building to the boundary to use the site more efficiently and to avoid awkward leftover space.
- g) joining residential units to make efficient use of the site and create high quality private open spaces, provided regard is had to acoustically separating buildings and to modulation of building form.
- h) visual interest through off-setting or articulating building form.
- i) placement and design of sunny, sheltered private outdoor living courts to act as an extension of the living spaces of the house.
- j) articulation of form and/or definition of individual accessways and doors to give a sense of address for each residential unit.
- k) visual interest and avoidance of visual dominance of vehicle manoeuvring areas including the alignment, design and landscaping of accessways.
- l) extent to which building entrances and frontages address the street.

### **Internal Amenity**

- m) careful placement of windows, decks, terraces, verandahs and balconies to maintain visual privacy for the main living spaces and associated outdoor courts of the dwellings within a development.
- n) location and orientation of main living rooms for good sunlight penetration.
- o) provision of reasonable outlook from all dwellings.
- p) provision for the reasonable expected indoor storage needs of occupants.
- q) reducing noise by means such as:
  - i) use of appropriate wall, ceiling and floor materials and construction details.
  - ii) separately locating and containing plumbing for each residential unit, or design shared services which are positioned and designed to ensure acoustic attenuation.
  - iii) particular consideration of noise reduction techniques if living areas or garages of one residential unit abut bedrooms of another.
  - iv) keeping driveways and car parking areas away from bedroom windows of adjacent residential units, or having them acoustically screened.

### **Energy and Resource Efficiency**

- r) energy and thermal-efficient design which incorporates active and passive energy-efficient features and appliances.
- s) the use of water conservation design features and fittings.
- t) on-site provision of specific areas for recycling, rubbish facilities and secure bicycle storage.

## **AP22.5 off-site amenity outcomes**

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**AP22.5.i** The development should be designed to visually integrate with neighbouring sites, the streetscape, and the character of the area. Matters to be considered include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) setback from the street, including placement or off-setting of buildings to maintain or complement the character of the street.
- b) providing for compatible height relationships with the surrounding neighbourhood, taking into account both present development and what could be developed to a permitted standard on the development site and adjoining sites.
- c) detailing and modulating large building facades to read as several buildings as appropriate to the character of the area.
- d) design and siting of garages, carports and parking areas to ensure they do not dominate the street or accessway frontage.
- e) compatibility in building materials, scale and proportion of elements, details and roof pitch.
- f) density as an aspect of amenity or character of the neighbourhood while recognising that good design principles can mitigate the effect of a development's increased density on the wider neighbourhood.
- g) compatibility of landscaping, walls and boundary fencing.
- h) the use of landscaping techniques and design to ensure the development improves, or is not detrimental to, the character of the surrounding neighbourhood.

**AP22.5.ii** The development should be designed to maintain a reasonable standard of amenity for the residents of neighbouring properties, having regard to, but not being limited to the following:

- a) visual privacy of the main internal and associated external living areas of neighbouring dwellings.
- b) access of sunlight and daylight to neighbouring sites (using Rule REr.35 'Daylight Admission' and the provisions of Appendix 15 - daylight admission (residential)).
- c) maintenance of reasonable levels of outlook for neighbours outside of the subject site.
- d) minimisation of the opportunities for crime by application of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles, including passive surveillance of streets and other public places.
- e) acoustic privacy .

## **AP22.6 access, parking and services**

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**AP22.6.i** Comprehensive Housing Developments should provide for safe movement of pedestrians and vehicles.

e.g. well lit parking areas and pedestrian links; defined footpaths in larger developments.

e.g. minimising number of vehicle accesses to roads, traffic calming in larger developments, dust control.

**AP22.6.ii** Careful consideration should be given to:

- a) access for emergency services, including to outdoor space.
- b) positioning of services to allow for their repair and maintenance.

**AP22.6.iii** Parking, access and services should be in accordance with Appendices 10 (standards and terms for parking and loading) and 11 (access standards), and the minimum standards in section 4 of the NCC Land Development Manual 2010. The development may make provision for reduced car parking provision where it can be demonstrated that actual parking demand will be less than the parking requirements in Appendix 10 (Standards and Terms for Parking and Loading). For example, this may be because of proximity to local shops or public transport, high numbers of cycle connections and/or reduced vehicle based travel dependence for other reasons. Any assessment for a reduction in car parking numbers will be carried out through the resource consent process.

## **AP22.7 consent applications**

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### **AP22.7.1 consultation**

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**AP22.7.1.i** Early consultation with Council's Major Projects Team and/or Urban Design Panel is strongly encouraged to help resolve design and other issues prior to lodging consent applications.

### **AP22.7.2 supporting information required**

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The following information and assessment is required to be provided as part of an application for Comprehensive Housing under Rule REr.22. The amount of detail required is relative to the nature and scale of the development.

#### AP22.7.2.i Sketch Plans

Applications for any Comprehensive Housing Development shall include “sketch plans or photo montages or visual simulations” to an appropriate scale which show the total design, not necessarily with construction details. The plans/photos/simulations must include:

- a) elevations. The street elevation(s) of the buildings shall be extended to show the buildings on either side (as a less favoured alternative, photographs of adjoining buildings may substitute for the adjoining elevations, if a clear scale is indicated).
- b) floor plans (which must show and name rooms and areas of storage, and show location of windows and doors, and the outline of eaves or overhanging areas in relation to foundation plans).
- c) site plans showing:
  - i) nominated legal boundaries or any proposed lease or other title arrangements
  - ii) the area of outdoor space, and the dimension and placement of living courts
  - iii) location of roads, parking and services
  - iv) location of buildings on adjoining properties (including windows facing the development)
  - v) a 3-dimensional view of the development showing a “true perspective”
  - vi) site contours (graduations as appropriate to the scale of the development and the topography of the site).
- d) any information required by Council or the Resource Management Act as part of a standard application for resource consent.
- e) information on how the subdivision is to be effected (freehold allotment, unit title, company lease). Where a Body Corporate is proposed, a description of how it will operate.
- f) a landscape plan, including location and height of any fences, which demonstrates how landscaping is used to enhance the on-site and off-site amenity of the development, and integrating roads, allotments and the streetscape. (The retention of existing vegetation is encouraged as this can help integrate a Comprehensive Housing Development into the existing streetscape, and therefore make it more acceptable. The plan should show existing vegetation, noting any mature trees or significant specimens, and should indicate which vegetation will be retained and which will be removed). The landscape plan shall be implemented before section 224 approval is granted. (Where the development does not involve a subdivision, the resource consent will include a condition on satisfactory implementation of the landscape plan).
- g) a site context plan which shows the features of the area relevant to considering the suitability of a particular location for a comprehensive housing development, or which have had a bearing on the proposed design of the development. For example, a development adjacent to a bus stop and a cycle way may be able to justify a reduced demand for car parking. The site context plan should focus on features within a 400m radius of the site but can include items further away if relevant. A list of features to specifically identify are:
  - i) open space (parks, rivers/streams, school playing fields, beach etc),
  - ii) transport routes (main roads, walkways, cycle ways, bus routes),
  - iii) shops, commercial areas, schools (including pre-school),
  - iv) all possible vehicle access points,
  - v) opportunities for street links to neighbouring sites with development potential,
  - vi) orientation of neighbouring buildings or developments (do they face toward or away from the subject site),
  - vii) stormwater flow paths.

This list is not exhaustive and there are likely to be other features and facilities in the area which can also be identified. The Comprehensive Housing Development site context plan can be shown in conjunction with the requirements of Appendix 14 (Residential Subdivision Design and Information Requirements) as required by a subdivision consent.

- h) a design statement, including diagrams, of the manner in which the proposed development responds to the relevant sections of this appendix and the objectives and policies of the Plan, and how the design has taken into account the relevant features identified in the site context plan. The design statement shall also demonstrate in what ways the proposal differentiates itself from conventional residential units. Appendix 14 contains information on the purpose and scale of design statements required.
- i) an evaluation of the network utility servicing requirements of the proposed development and how they will be met.

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### **AP22.7.3 staged implementation of an approved development**

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**AP22.7.3.i** A Comprehensive Housing Development application may seek that the development (both subdivision and building) be implemented in stages, if:

- a) the overall development plan for all proposed units has been lodged as a staged development and approval includes specified stages
- b) the landscape plan is progressively implemented at each stage
- c) the first stage includes at least one residential unit
- d) a licensed cadastral surveyor certifies, prior to a section 224 certificate, that the staged units are located in accordance with the overall development plan.
- e) all common areas and facilities relevant to each stage are constructed as part of that stage and attached to the new titles via easement or common tenure
- f) a consent notice is imposed on the balance certificate of title stating that 'no building shall be constructed, or placed, on site unless it has been expressly approved as part of a resource consent granted for comprehensive housing development (insert relevant consent number) or an approved variation of this resource consent'.

**Note:** Staged development applies only where a Comprehensive Housing Development involves a subdivision.

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### **AP22.8 relationship of this guide to other guidelines and density controls**

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**AP22.8.i** In the Wakefield Quay Precinct, the Wakefield Quay Design Guideline applies in conjunction with this Appendix. Where there is a conflict between provisions or requirements, AP23 Design Guide and Rules for Wakefield Quay, shall take precedence.

**AP22.8.ii** In the Residential Zone - Lower Density Area, this guide applies, but the density and character of comprehensive housing should reflect the overall outcomes sought for the area.

**AP22.8.iii** In the Airport and Port Effects Control Overlays additional site area and acoustic insulation requirements apply.

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### **AP22.9 special considerations for apartment buildings**

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**AP22.9.i** Proposals for apartment buildings should pay attention to all relevant provisions in this appendix.

**AP22.9.ii** Apartment developments have particular impacts which need special consideration, such as:

- a) visual impacts on the neighbourhood (because of the bulk and height of buildings)
- b) impacts on views from adjacent sites and public places
- c) effects on privacy (proximity of other balconies within the apartment overlooking adjacent properties).

**AP22.9.iii** It is anticipated that the majority of sites in the Residential Zone would be **unsuitable** for apartment developments. Apartments may be acceptable in situations where:

- a) the size and location of the site permits adequate separation from existing developments. Note: compliance with the daylight admission controls in Appendix 15 is not necessarily sufficient to achieve this separation. This is because of the bulk of apartment buildings and the way the “daylight around” provisions operate. Greater separation may be necessary to achieve privacy, avoid overshadowing and to maintain the overall density of the neighbourhood, or
- b) the topography of the site (e.g. where it allows layering-back into a hill, or neighbouring dwellings are otherwise located above) or existing vegetation will diminish the impact of the development, or
- c) development on adjacent sites is similar in size and scale, or
- d) the development will enhance the amenity of the neighbourhood.

### **AP22.9.1 articulation and detailing**

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**AP22.9.1.i** Consideration should be given to articulation and detailing to help break up the façade of large buildings so that it looks like several buildings, as appropriate to the character of the area. Modulation between floors is also important, having regard to patterns in neighbouring buildings.