

# Planning Application – Factsheet 12 Meterboxes and Service Enclosures

*Disclaimer: This checklist is for standard information required for lodgement. Additional information may be required by the assessing planning officer after registration.*



## Introduction

With increasing development within the City, many sites which accommodated one dwelling, now accommodate multiple. This brings new challenges with each dwelling requiring connection to electricity, gas, water and telecommunications infrastructure.

Meters and meterboxes, if not properly sited, can appear unattractive when viewed from the streetscape and detract from the quality of the dwellings in the development. Meterbox installations and other services need to be considered early in the design process, in order for it to be suitably integrated into the development.

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide useful guidance for designers in appropriately siting meterboxes within their developments. Meterboxes that do not comply with Council's requirements may result in costly alterations to relocate the incoming services before Council will issue a Statement of Compliance for Subdivision.

## What information do I need to provide with my application?

The location of meterboxes and other similar structures should be shown on all relevant plans (both floor and elevation). The size (height, width and depth) of any proposed structure or enclosure should be shown on all plans, including the materials, colours and any proposed landscaping.

## Where should meterboxes and services be installed?

Meterboxes should be integrated into the building, to ensure they do not become a dominate feature. Electricity meters should be located on the side wall of a building (see first image above), while gas and water metres should be located at ground level (i.e. not stacked) along the side, with landscaping used to soften their appearance (where possible and subject to the requirements of the relevant service authority).

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# Planning Application – Factsheet 12

## Meterboxes and Service Enclosures

### Tips for location of services

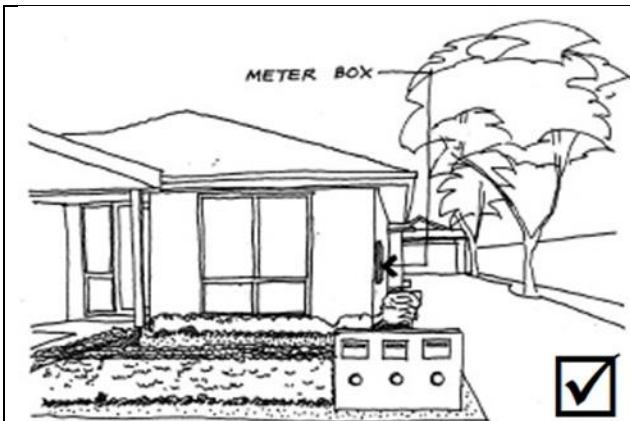
- ❑ Locate the meterbox back from the street frontage by the minimum setback required for buildings (refer to the Maribyrnong Planning Scheme for appropriate front setbacks).
- ❑ Co-locate the meterbox with other structures that are large enough to accommodate and “conceal” the meterbox.
- ❑ Locate the meters in common property and/or positions which are easily accessible from the street frontage to allow access by the relevant service authorities.
- ❑ Provide individual meters suitably integrated into the façade of the building where possible.
- ❑ For larger apartment developments, consideration should be given to the location of services early on in the process, to avoid such services being ‘tacked on’ at the last minute.
- ❑ Service authority cabinets and booster hydrants should be suitably integrated into the design of any building.
- ❑ If a front fence of 1.5 metres (or greater) is permitted (i.e. on a Road Zone - Category 1), then the meterbox may be allowable in the front setback provided it is suitably integrated into the front fence.

Fire prevention and monitoring services should be sited to allow easy access for emergency services, while being suitably integrated into the building. Council will not likely approve standalone fire hydrant booster cabinets and other similar services within the front or side setback of a building.

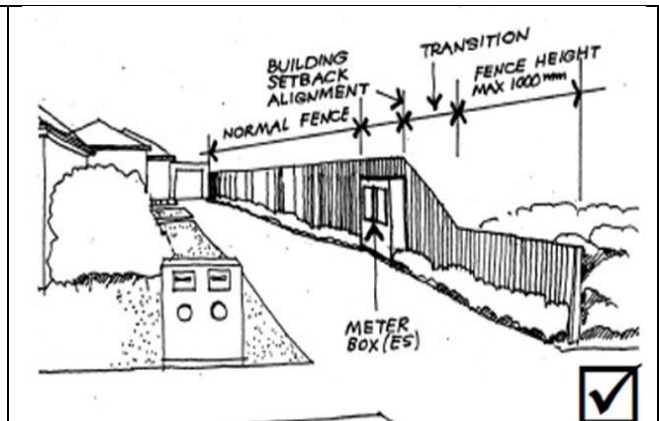
Meterboxes and services located too close to the end of driveways also presents a safety risk, as pedestrians walking along the footpath may be obstructed from the driver’s view. Such services will generally need to be setback at least 2.5 metres from the footpath/front property boundary to allow sufficient sight lines.

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## Acceptable locations



Meterbox is setback from the street frontage and is integrated into the building.

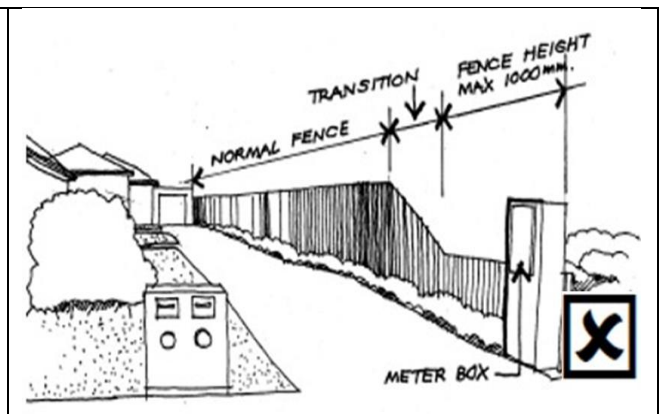


Meterbox is located on the side boundary, setback from the street to the where the boundary fence becomes full height.

## Unacceptable locations



Meterbox is incorporated into letterboxes facing the street.



Meterbox is located on the front boundary, becoming an intrusive feature within the streetscape. It may also have in impact on the required visibility splays for vehicles exiting the driveway.

Maribyrnong City Council thanks Monash City Council for the use of pictures and images used throughout this document.