

## Changes in the draft amendment to the Code

The City of Melbourne Code of Practice for Building, Construction and Works regulates the conduct of all works that affect public space in the municipality. This draft amendment expands our guidance on all aspects of construction activity in the municipality. It clearly sets out our requirements to ensure public safety, community amenity and the protection of municipal assets.

The amendment:

- updates all our requirements to reflect best practice for works in a capital city
- brings this information together in a single document
- explains everything in plain language.

### Look and feel

The amendment updates and consolidates our Code (2002), Construction Management Plan Guidelines (2005), standard conditions of construction-type permits, customer fact sheets and internal decision guides. It provides comprehensive guidance and explanation of our requirements throughout the construction process. This supports customers to better plan projects, apply for and obtain permits and approvals, and undertake compliant works.

The amendment is structured to support its use as a complete guide and as a reference manual. Hyperlinks allow customers to navigate the content efficiently based on the type of works they are planning, or the activities they are subcontracted to do.

|                 | Code (2002)           | Draft amendment (2022) | Change |
|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------|
| <b>Sections</b> | 12                    | 26                     | 2.2 x  |
| <b>Pages</b>    | 42 (excluding photos) | 192                    | 4.6 x  |
| <b>Words</b>    | 11,000                | 69,000                 | 6.3 x  |

The draft is more comprehensive than our current Code because we have brought all our requirements together. For the construction industry the total number of new or changed requirements is low.

### Structure

The draft sets out our primary objectives for all construction activity. Each section of the document relates to a specific aspect or stage of works activity with its own clear set of objectives. Sections provide general considerations and requirements, followed by specific and conditional requirements. Sections on topics such as hours of work, noise and nuisance, access and accessibility, and traffic management apply to all activities.

### Clarity

Customers can readily find mandatory requirements (indicated by “must” statements) and recommendations (by “should” statements). All requirements are related to our objectives and are presented in plain language with examples that show the need for specific regulation.

### Streamlined approvals

Permit applications can be expedited if customers confirm that their works will comply with the Code. If they cannot meet a specific requirement, a customer raises the relevant requirement and provides a reasoned alternative proposal to meet our objectives. The proposal is then considered and if approved, we add a specific exception to the Code in the permit. This process speeds up the approval of low-risk activities that comply with the Code and reduces the documentation required from applicants.

## Summary of key changes

Key requirements that are changed or introduced by the draft amendment, summarised in four categories:

1. To **improve stakeholder management**, the amendment introduces:

- guidance on best-practice stakeholder management for works projects
- minimum requirements for conducting and documenting consultation with stakeholders
- a time window of 72 hours for principal contractors to respond to public complaints
- a requirement to notify all stakeholders within 50 m of a site boundary in specific circumstances, including notice of any proposed work outside normal hours. Large projects must also provide regular stakeholder updates.

2. To **raise standards of public safety**, the amendment:

- raises the minimum height for the underside gantries over roadways from 4.2 m to 5 m
- raises the minimum height of timber hoardings from 1800 mm to 2400 mm (and 2700 mm at deep excavations)
- introduces the requirement for temporary structures – hoardings, gantries and scaffolds – to be re-inspected and re-certified every 6 months
- prohibits affixing barbed wire, razor wire, chicken wire or the like to hoardings
- introduces the requirement for handrails to be installed if temporary fence feet must be installed perpendicular to the fence
- introduces the requirement for soleplates of gantry structures to be boxed in if they will protrude from the column profile and sit more than 5 mm above the pavement surface
- introduces the requirement for scaffold standards to have all components and fittings enclosed to a height of 2100 mm.

3. To **address community expectations about amenity**, the amendment:

- raises the minimum clear footpath width required to be maintained on open footpaths. Adaptive minimum figures apply based on the greater of a set measurement (determined by location in the central city, activity centres or all other areas) or 80% of the original path width.
- clarifies the scope of use of Construction Permit Zones (formerly 'construction zones') and Construction Parking Permits
- introduces the requirement for solid timber hoarding to be used if temporary fencing is needed for more than 14 consecutive days
- introduces requirements about the colour and visibility of temporary protective structures
- introduces the requirement for acoustic barriers to be installed if concrete pumps will be used within 20 m of residential property
- introduces specific requirements for works in the road to be undertaken within normal hours unless they are emergency works
- introduces specifications for rubbish chute assembly to prevent the spillage of material and the emission of dust, and to minimise noise from falling debris.

4. To **ensure municipal assets are protected**, the amendment:

- formalises our guidance on the consideration, protection and reinstatement of our assets
- clearly sets out requirements for the protection of public trees and green infrastructure around works
- provides clear guidance about when security (bond) is required and must be paid
- removes the requirement to supply a dilapidation report when security is required. Council will inspect and report on existing asset conditions.
- introduces the requirement for ground anchor tendons to be removed from under the road when works are complete
- introduces requirements about surface protection and load limits when using heavy plant and equipment.