

The following information is provided to assist you with completing and submitting a Report & Consent Application to Council for a request to vary this Building Regulation.

EXTRACT OF REGULATION

95 Fences and solar access to existing north-facing habitable room windows

- (1) This regulation applies if—
 - (a) a fence more than 2 m in height is to be constructed on an allotment; and
 - (b) a north-facing habitable room window or part of a window of an existing dwelling on an adjoining allotment is—
 - (i) within 3 m of a boundary of the allotment on which the fence is to be constructed; and
 - (ii) oriented towards the boundary; and
 - (iii) situated below the height of the fence being constructed.
- (2) The proposed fence must be set back from the boundary not less than the distance specified in Table 95 for a distance of 3 m from the edge of each side of the window or that part of the window that is within 3 m of the boundary.

Table 95—Setbacks from north-facing habitable room windows

| Fence height at any point | Minimum setback from side or rear boundary at that point |
|---|---|
| 3.6 m or less | 1 m |
| More than 3.6 m but not more than 6.9 m | 1 m plus an additional distance calculated at the rate of 600 mm for every metre of height over 3.6 m |
| More than 6.9 m | 3 m plus an additional distance calculated at the rate of 1 m for every metre of height over 6.9 m |

- (3) The report and consent of the relevant council must be obtained to an application for a building permit in relation to a design that does not comply with this regulation.

REGULATION NOTES

To allow adequate solar access into existing north-facing habitable room windows

DECISION GUIDELINES

The following information should be outlined on your submission form as part of your application:

- Why you cannot comply with the regulation
- Why you wish to construct the fence at the proposed height
- Why you wish to construct the fence at the proposed siting

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The following criteria will be used for the assessment of your application:

- Ability to comply with the Regulation
- Adjoining Owners comments
- Intended purpose of the proposed fence

NOTES:

WHAT IS A REPORT & CONSENT?

As set out in the **Building Act 1993** (the Act) and the Building Regulations 2018 (the Regulations), a report and consent is the process for consulting with and obtaining the approval of a reporting authority when building work may affect assets, infrastructure or amenity of the community. These include:

- Siting of a dwelling
- Building over an easement
- Building in a flood-prone area
- Fire safety matters
- Electricity sub-stations (only a report)
- Projections beyond street alignment
- Building above or below public facilities
- Precautions over street alignment (unclear)
- Installing or altering a septic tank system.

WHEN IS A REPORT & CONSENT REQUIRED?

The Act and Regulations provide specific circumstances where a report and consent of reporting authorities is required. Division 3 of Part 4 of the Regulations prescribes the reporting authorities and the matters to be reported on. Regulation 31 refers to Schedule 5 Part 2 which lists the matters that each authority reports on. These regulations are listed on the application form.

DO I NEED A REPORT & CONSENT IF I HAVE A PLANNING PERMIT?

Where a Planning Application has been assessed for siting, the Planning Scheme overrides the requirement to obtain a Report & Consent. The relevant Regulation will note if this is applicable. Please note not all Planning Permits will assess the siting as this depends on what triggered the need for the Permit. Where a Planning Permit has been issued and siting was not assessed the Siting Regulations must be complied with or a Report & Consent obtained.

CONSENTING TO AN APPLICATION

A reporting authority may consent to an application as presented or place recommendations on the consent. When placing recommendations on a report and consent the prescribed reporting authority should consider the relevance to the matter being sought the recommendation and whether the RBS can reasonably enforce the recommendation.

The Report & Consent is valid for 12 months after the date of issue. If works have not commenced within this time, Report & Consent must be reapplied for. Where works have commenced within the 12 months, the Report & Consent remains valid for those works

REFUSAL OF AN APPLICATION

A reporting authority must provide reasons for refusing an application. When a report and consent is refused, an applicant has the right to appeal the reporting authority's decision to the Building Appeals Board (BAB).

Section 144 of the Act allows an appeal to be made against a reporting authorities:

- refusal to consent to an application
- conditions imposed
- failure within a reasonable time to decide an application.

Appeals must be made within 30 days of the date the refusal was issued. An appeal can be lodged with the BAB. An application form and supporting information is to be lodged with the relevant fee. A copy of the application form can be downloaded from the Victorian Building Authority website www.vba.vic.gov.au or contact the BAB on (03) 9285 6400.

REPORT & CONSENT PROCESS

