

Solar Panel Guidelines

Colonel Light Gardens State Heritage Area

Background

Buildings within State Heritage Areas can be adapted to include new services and technologies, including solar technologies, and often this can be done with little or no impact on the historic character of the area.

You must submit a Development Application to Mitcham Council if you are intending to install solar panels in the Colonel Light Gardens State Heritage Area. The application is referred to the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) for assessment.

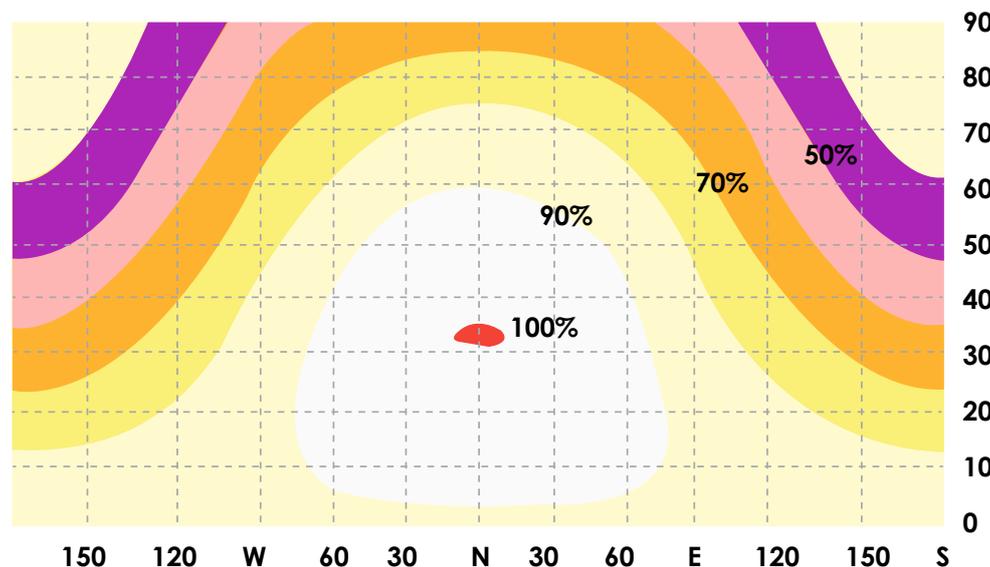
When assessing applications, DEWNR considers the potential impacts to the individual building, as well as potential cumulative affects in the area, to avoid progressive adverse impacts to the area's historic character. The following guiding principles aim to minimise visual impacts on the area's historic character. Further heritage advice can be sought on a case-by-case basis from DEWNR.

Guiding Principles

To minimise the impact to the streetscape, it is desirable to mount solar panels where they are not visible. This is easily achieved on roof planes facing away from the street or on additions and outbuildings located behind the dwelling.

Placement may pose a problem for dwellings with north-facing main elevations, but panels can be effective on east and west faces. The diagram opposite demonstrates the effectiveness for a range of orientations and tilt angles for Adelaide's latitude.

Solar panel tilt, orientation and output variation
Source: Commonwealth of Australia 2010, www.yourhome.gov.au



Solar panels should be:

- located on roof plane's of the dwelling not visible from the street and sited below the ridge
- located on sheds, carports, garages or pergolas, where possible

or

- where there are no roof plane's of the dwelling that meet the above criteria, panels on a side roof may be supportable where they are:
 - » well setback from the street and preferably screened by a neighbouring structure or building
 - » a small percentage of the overall roof plane
 - » located as far as practical on the lower part of the roof
 - » arranged neatly in a symmetrical group with a margin of visible roof edge around the group.

If these guiding principles are followed, the installation of solar panels will have a minimal impact to the historic character of an individual property, neighbours' amenity, the streetscape and overall historic character of the Colonel Light Gardens State Heritage Area.

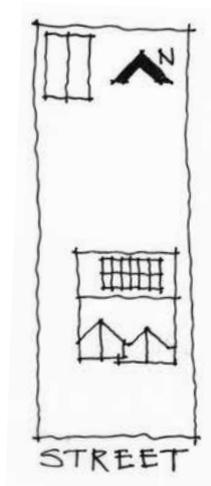
What to submit with your Development Application

When submitting development applications to Mitcham Council for solar panels, the following minimum details are required:

- a drawn roof plan at minimum scale of 1:200, including the dimensioned location of panels, north point, boundaries and location of all existing structures
- drawn building elevations showing location, number and grouping of panels
- specification of the type and attachment of the panels.

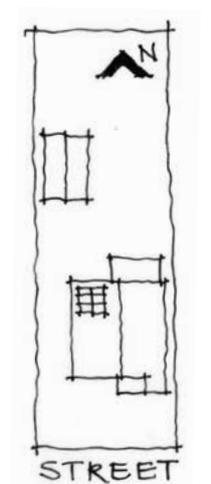
Solar panels on rear roof plane of a dwelling

- not visible from the dwelling's primary elevation
- sited below the ridge
- symmetrical grouping



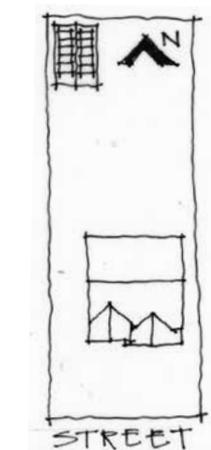
Solar panels on side roof plane of a dwelling

- setback from the dwelling's primary elevation
- sited on the lower portion of the roof
- acceptable minor visual impact on streetscape and heritage area



Solar panels on sheds, carports, garage or pergolas

- not visible from the dwelling's primary elevation
- no impact or minimal impact to historic built fabric



Further Information

Please contact: Department for Environment, Water and Natural Resources Tel (08) 8124 4960

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Department of Environment,
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