

Carcoar – the Town Time Forgot



Carcoar Village Community Plan

2018-2028



Developed in partnership with the Blayney Shire Council

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Vision

Living and celebrating our history, culture and rural lifestyle we are a welcoming and prosperous community.

Mission

We will achieve this by;

- Conserving and enhancing both our past and present built and natural heritage
- Fostering opportunities leading to a sustainable economy
- Creating a sense of place by being inclusive, friendly and family orientated.
- Supporting and growing our local businesses to cater for the needs of both residents and our visitors,
- Being optimistic, proactive and maintaining our can do attitude.
- Welcoming and acknowledging the amazing talents and skills of the people who have moved and are living in Carcoar

Introduction

The Carcoar Village Association has developed a vision for Carcoar and a Community Plan to ensure that the potential that exists for the village becomes a reality. The Carcoar Village Community Plan 2018-2028 was developed in partnership with Blayney Shire Council, which supported the Village Association's enthusiasm and efforts in setting some goals and projects that will ensure the future viability of the Carcoar village.

By June 2018, Blayney Shire Council will review the long-term Community Strategic Plan (CSP) within the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework. The CSP identifies the main priorities and aspirations of the community, and must involve a whole of community engagement process. A CSP identifies who is responsible for its implementation and may include the community, individuals, local, state and federal government.

As Blayney is the 'Shire of Villages', Council has recognised the importance for the village of Carcoar to take advantage of its amazing heritage, country lifestyle and high visitor appeal and that we work together for the benefit of the community and local businesses. Developed by the community in partnership with Blayney Shire Council the plan is owned by the village residents, endorsed and supported by the Carcoar Village Association and the Council.

There is no person, organisation, level of government that can achieve this alone. A prosperous and healthy village, businesses and community is dependent on everyone working together.

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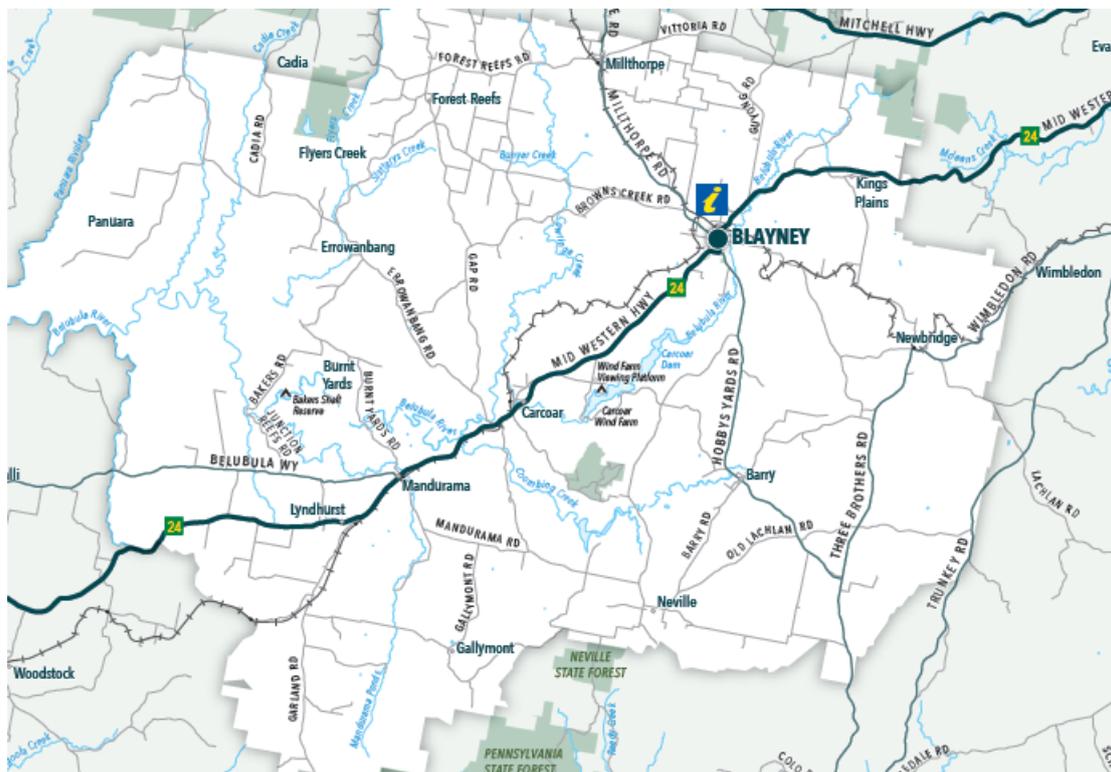
Where is Carcoar?

Nestled in a small, sheltered valley, off the Mid-Western Highway, 10-minutes from Blayney, and about 40 minutes from Bathurst, Orange and Cowra is the beautiful village of Carcoar. A bypass diverts the busy highway traffic from the village centre, which has provided for a quiet, family orientated and safe main street.

Established in 1839, Carcoar is the third oldest settlement west of the Blue Mountains and is classified by the National Trust. Immerse in the charm of an English style village with picturesque streets and beautiful heritage homes and public buildings from the mid-19th century.

The Railway Station, while no longer in service, overlooks Carcoar and makes a grand statement perched on the hillside. Enjoy a picnic on the banks of the Belubula River, which means “Stoney River” in Wiradjuri.

Carcoar was first settled in 1821 and gazetted in 1839 at the request of the wealthiest and largest land owner of the district, Thomas Icely of ‘Coombing Park’. In 1857, Carcoar’s public school opened, and it remains open today, making it one of the oldest continuous running schools in Australian history. With gold discovered in the 1850s, Carcoar’s population increased. Bushrangers were common in this region including the notorious Ben Hall gang. In 1863, bushrangers Gilbert and O’Meally attempted the first ever daylight bank robbery in Australian history at the Commercial Bank. Carcoar was the main administration centre west of Bathurst, with a municipal council, court house and hospital. In 1876, the western rail line came to Blayney and the town became the commercial centre of the region. Carcoar’s role diminished and the population dropped as miners moved west to newly discovered goldfields.



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Community engagement strategy

Residents were invited to come along and share their great project, ideas or a new event to bring visitors and attract residents to the village of Carcoar. On Wednesday 22 November 2017, nearly 30 Carcoar residents converging at the School of Arts Hall for a workshop to contribute to the review of the Carcoar Village Community Plan.

Council staff and Councillors providing logistics support to document the list of projects and ideas for the future of Carcoar. A copy of the invitation flyer and program are attached in appendices.

Residents were welcomed and encouraged to participate whether their family has been a part of Carcoar for over a century or just a few years.



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The profile of Carcoar

 PEOPLE	<p>There are 407 people in Carcoar, which represents 5.4% of the overall population of Blayney Shire Local Government Area. Of these 90% were born in Australia. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people made up 3 % of the population.</p>	
	0 – 19 years of age	73 (17.93%)
	20 – 39 years of age	62 (15.23%)
	40 – 59 years of age	116 (28.5%)
	60 – 79 years of age	119 (29.24%)
	80 years or older	37 (9.09%)
 FAMILIES	<p>Of the families in Carcoar, 29% were couple families with children, 63% were couples without children, and 8% were one parent families.</p>	
 EDUCATION	<p>In Carcoar 50% were in primary school, 36% in secondary and 14% in a tertiary or technical institution.</p>	
 INDUSTRIES AND EMPLOYMENT	<p>Of the residents in Carcoar, 29% were employed full time, 16% employed part time, 3% employed outside the shire, 5% were unemployed and 46% were not in the workforce</p>	
	Community and Personal Services	37.04%
	Managers	19.75%
	Labourers	11.11%
	Technicians and Trades Workers	8.64%
	Clerical and Administrative	8.64%
	Sales Workers	8.64%
Machinery Operators and Drivers	6.17%	

Source: Remplan (ABS Census, 2016)

Carcoar data includes the village of Carcoar and localities of Errowanbang and Panuara

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Strengths and weakness, opportunities & threats

We wish to build on and take advantage of our **Strengths**

- Our iconic annual events such as the Carcoar Agricultural Show, Carcoar Running Festival, Down to Earth Garden Expo and Plant Fair; and Australia Day Celebrations; offer unique experiences for visitors and residents alike
- Our colonial and indigenous history and built architectural heritage has been preserved with beautiful churches, public buildings, five museums and houses from the mid19th Century
- The proximity to Carcoar Dam, and natural river setting along the Belubula River off the major highway is tranquil and is part of a peaceful rural location amongst picturesque hills
- It is an integrated community with access to essential services, aged care, education, transport and recreational infrastructure
- Our small community is loyal, passionate and very welcoming
- We are innovative and have a can do attitude
- We are part of a growing region and there is amazing resources, hidden skills and talents that we are discovering in the people living in Carcoar and surrounds

We need to address our **Weaknesses**

- We do not exploit the commercial value of catering for the needs of visitors and residents, and may appear to have limited attractions, food choices and entertainment options
- The Visitor Information and Heritage Town signage is 30 years old and out of date
- We underutilise our aging and retiree population and have limited engagement with and experiences for our young people
- The absentee residents and limited capacity for growth in residential or rural residential house blocks are preventing families to relocate and invest
- There is zero mobile phone coverage in the village which limits communication for tourists and business people who drop in
- There is a lack of critical mass to support new and existing business so we are reliant on the visitor economy which is not reliable currently
- We have no common vision and at times are a split community due to a lack of cooperation, negativity, apathy and reluctance to change
- We have an amazing untapped potential that we are simply letting pass by.
- The footpath network is limited and does not connect the main village with residential, sporting or recreational as it could

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We want to ensure that we create Opportunities and make them a reality

- Carcoar can maximise the potential from tourists by providing accurate signage and stimulus via Banner Pole signs to encourage through traffic to call in and promote the Brady Road entrance and loop from Mid-Western Highway
- We could attract new businesses which offer accommodation, food and beverage, niche retail and antique shopping experience.
- We are working, living village and have an existing friends and visitors market that we can capture and add value
- We need to exploit the unique historical village experiences on offer to the high-end market and become a recognised tourist destination
- Our events and social activities calendar could be expanded with sports tourism opportunities
- The visible Heritage Railway Station and beautiful main street has significant presence in the landscape and if was open and connected via footpaths would become a major drawcard for tourists
- The Blayney – Demondrille Railway line if opened would provide for tourist growth
- We have affordable housing options for young families to move into the village

We must tackle the Threats together and as a united community

- We fail to provide direction and information to visitors who may wish to experience Carcoar.
- We have a casual and uncoordinated approach to marketing and promotion of the tourism product on offer.
- With declining enrolments we are at risk of losing our primary school.
- Without a village sewerage collection and treatment system we are reliant on aged and in some cases failing onsite septic systems which are not conducive to smaller house blocks, the topography and is a threat to our river environment.

Carcoar Projects

Each Project or Objective has been grouped into an overarching strategy and listed in order of collective priority and strategies are categorised under the themes of:

- Public Infrastructure and Services
- Local Governance and Finance
- The Local and Visitor Economy
- Community, Sport, Heritage and Culture
- Our Natural Environment.

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Partners have been identified for each project group. The Carcoar Village Association, stakeholders and interested community members will provide feedback and project updates in order to communicate the status of the Carcoar Projects 2018-2028.

The Carcoar Village Community Plan 2018-28 created a number of strategies which were developed along the following themes.

Themes	Strategy
Public Infrastructure and Services	<p>Capture the interest of passing through and visitor traffic by identifying local attractions, services and events via improved signage</p> <p>Work with Council to plan for capital project works that protects and complements the Heritage value of Carcoar</p>
Local Governance and Finance	<p>Support each Village Association so that the benefits are inclusive, supportive and engages with the whole Carcoar community</p>
The Local and Visitor Economy	<p>Foster a coordinated approach to the promotion and marketing of Carcoar so that we become a premier tourist destination</p> <p>Support our local business opportunities and commercial growth</p>
Community, Sport, Heritage and Culture	<p>Enhance and build on the current sport and recreation infrastructure to improve active lifestyle opportunities for residents and visitors</p> <p>Engender vibrancy and diversity by building on current events and community activities to create niche opportunities stimulating visitation and community participation</p> <p>Utilise the Blayney Demondrille Railway Line to add value to Carcoar tourism and business development</p> <p>Celebrate the look and feel of Carcoar in its original heritage style</p> <p>Acknowledge and support the work of volunteers</p>
Our Natural Environment	<p>Restore and improve our natural environment along the Belubula River</p>

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Theme: Public Infrastructure and Services	Partners
Strategy: Capture the interest of passing through and visitor traffic by identifying local attractions, services and events via improved signage	
Improve the directional signage and messages along the Mid-Western Highway <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - remove old signs of businesses which have closed - Install new entry sign onto Brady's Road - Install Banner Poles at the entrances to Carcoar 	BSC
Town Signage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Install interpretative signs with Photos and History at Heritage Sites - Build a Welcome to Carcoar village entry sign / statement 	CVA Carcoar Historical Society
Strategy: Work with Council to plan for capital project works that protects and complements the Heritage value of Carcoar	
Beautify the Belubula River and riverbank to Pound Flat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Install lighting at vantage points - Install interpretative environmental signage 	Landcare BSC
Traffic Management, Roads and Bridges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seal Danvers Street and Station Lane - Open Millthorpe Carcoar Road - Address Road Safety concerns along Nalor Street - Install No Air Brake signs and limit compression braking noise 	BSC
Facilitate the development of new residential housing blocks and availability in Carcoar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adopt a DCP for Carcoar to protect heritage value - Review Residential Land Strategy and LEP - Develop a Business Case to connect the village to town sewerage 	BSC
Provide attractions for children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Upgrade children's play equipment at the Park 	BSC
Railway Station <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Landscape the picnic area and Railway Station precinct to improve the street appeal - Provide access for tourists by connecting the Station with the village centre via a footpath 	CVA

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Theme: Local Governance and Finance	Partners
Strategy: Support each Village Association so that the benefits are inclusive, supportive and engages with the whole Carcoar community	
Ensure that each committee and local organisation communicate with and support each other, as working together we will add value to benefit the whole village	CVA
Establish a new entertainment and events sub-committee of the Village Association to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - coordinate and manage a Community Calendar of Events - Attract and conduct entertainment and events to Carcoar - Increase the Showground utilisation 	CVA
Continue to work with Council to prioritise and implement Village Enhancement Plan projects for Carcoar	BSC

Theme: The Local and Visitor Economy	Partners
Strategy: Foster a coordinated approach to the promotion and marketing of Carcoar so that we become a premier tourist destination	
Enhance our existing heritage to become local tourist features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Document graves and create a Memorial walk for cemeteries - Develop an Art in nature walk 	CVA BSC
Engage the local businesses in tourism promotion and marketing of Carcoar and encourage new tourism activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide incentives to new Business and connect with Blayney Shire and Orange Regional Tourism networks - Develop a marketing and advertising plan for Carcoar - Provide tourism packages - Target young families and the gourmet foodie market - Cross promotion between Blayney Shire Villages - Promote Carcoar as film location - Rationalise Carcoar Village websites 	CVA BSC

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Theme: The Local and Visitor Economy	Partners
Strategy: Support our local business opportunities and commercial growth	
Foster and support new Business opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Restaurant or Café - Regional wines and produce lunches and dinners - Provide incentives for new businesses 	CVA BSC
Facilitate the business houses to standardise trading hours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Display trading hours - Establish a traders group - Encourage more businesses to Carcoar 	CVA
Improve Mobile Phone communication technology access to Carcoar	Federal Government

Theme: Community, Sport, Heritage and Culture	Partners
Strategy: Enhance and build on the current sport and recreation infrastructure to improve active lifestyle opportunities for residents and visitors	
Redevelop and renew the Carcoar Sports and Recreation Ground to retain and attract both competitive and social sports and fitness activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resurface the Tennis Courts and include option for Multipurpose Court line marking and Basketball Hoops - Replace Court Fence - Demolish toilets and change shed, and construct a new Amenities Block incorporating a canteen, ambulant and disabled accessible public toilets, change rooms and showers - Replace fence at Recreation Ground with sympathetic heritage fence 	CVA BSC CSRC
Expand and develop the facilities at the Carcoar Showground <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Upgrade the seating and utilities - Upgrade the Power supply - Investigate Primitive Camping Ground requirements 	PA&H
Strategy: Engender vibrancy and diversity by building on current events and community activities to create niche opportunities stimulating visitation and community participation	

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Theme: Community, Sport, Heritage and Culture	Partners
Organise a Festival for Carcoar e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Festival of Frogs and a Folk Festival - Shooting the Past Film Festival - Youth Music Festival and a Kite Flying Competition 	CVA
Organise monthly events at the School of Arts and along Belubula River bank e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hold a bi-monthly arts and crafts market - Film Nights and Accommodation Packages - Bring and Buy Stalls - Indigenous Art and Craft Show 	School of Arts Trust
Strategy: Acknowledge and support the work of volunteers	
Enable new groups to add value to the activities already happening in Carcoar and fill the gaps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fitness for all - Volunteers to care for the village and maintenance of the heritage sites - Promote volunteering at Uralba - Access the services of the Carmanhurst Villages Development Coordinator 	Primary School P&C CVA Uralba
Strategy: Utilise the Blayney Demondrille Railway Line to add value to Carcoar tourism and business development	
Restore the stream train tourist route to Carcoar Provide rail travel between Carcoar and Cowra for historic carriage train	CVA CHS
Strategy: Celebrate the look and feel of Carcoar in its original heritage style	
Lighting and fixtures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Install heritage style light street lamps - Install underground power in the main streets - Restore and reinstate historic phone boxes 	CHS CVA
Restore the picket fence at Saint Pauls Church and other heritage sites including the Primary School	Anglican Church CVA

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Theme: Our Natural Environment	Partners
Strategy: Restore and improve our natural environment along the Belubula River	
Continue with the Belubula River Restoration Program at Pound Flat to remove willow trees and noxious species, plant natives and improve water quality and fish habitat	CVA BSC Landcare

LEGEND	
BSC	Blayney Shire Council
CVA	Carcoar Village Association
CHS	Carcoar Historical Society
PA&H	Carcoar PA&H
CSRC	Carcoar Sporting and Recreation Club

Appendices

1. Workshop Invitation
2. Workshop Program



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Carcoar

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It's time to check in to review the

Carcoar Village Community Plan

2016-2026

Date: Wednesday 22 November

Time: 6pm – 8pm

Venue: Carcoar School of Arts Hall

Blayney Shire Council in conjunction with Carcoar Village Committee invite you to come along and share your thoughts whilst we revisit the vision and projects for Carcoar.

We will review the Carcoar Village Community Plan created last year so that community projects feed into the new Blayney Shire Community Strategic Plan to be developed in 2018.

A prosperous and healthy village, businesses and community is dependent on everyone working together.

Everyone is welcome. A light supper, tea and coffee provided.

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An initiative supported by Blayney Shire Council and the Carcoar Village



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Program

1. **The Town that Time Forgot?**
 - Thumbs Up or Thumb Down?

2. **Vision and Mission**
 - Do they still sound OK and on track?

3. **Strengths**
4. **Weaknesses**
5. **Threats**
6. **Opportunities**
 - Are these sounding OK? Yes/No? More or Less?

7. **Projects**
 - What can we tick off as completed?
 - What can we remove because we don't see it as a priority anymore?
 - What can we add?
 - What do we need to change or tweak?

8. **Dotocracy**
 - Now take 10 dots and have your vote!