



INSIDE

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Approvals & space – have you got them?

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Don't forget public infrastructure and the building code re access

PG. 4

Let's not forget pedestrian ease of access & safety

BUILDING A CARPORT

10 THINGS I WISH I'D KNOWN EARLIER – BEFORE I STARTED

Building a carport might seem like a fairly simple thing to do right? You might think that there's little to get wrong, that it just needs to house a car or two and it's just an open square or rectangular space to provide some shelter.

Surely it can't be all that hard! Can it?

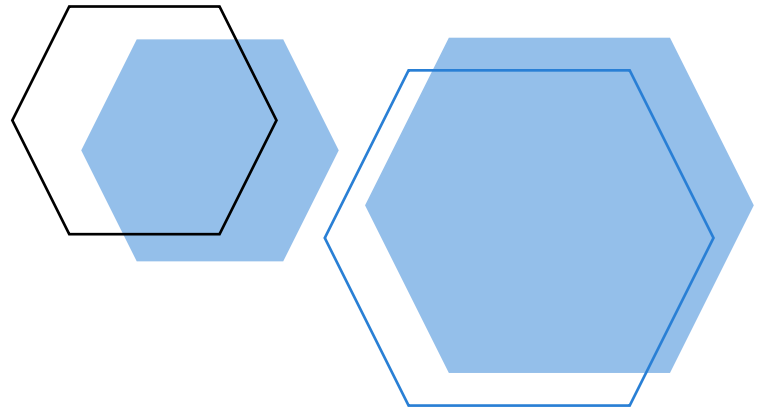
Well, don't get too complacent because that will be your downfall!

There are a ton of things that you can get wrong and here are 10 things that you need to consider before you start if you want to avoid making avoidable – some would say dumb - mistakes.

1. APPROVAL

CERTIFICATION

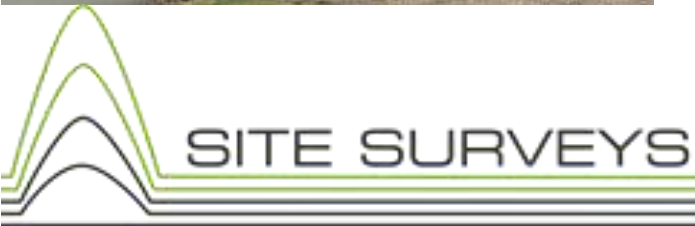
A Carport needs Building Approval. There are requirements as to design, location, structure, and services. These are managed by the designer. A [good Site Plan](#) leads to the best design. You'll also need certification on completion saying that it's built as approved.



2. SPACE

WILL IT FIT?

How much space is actually available?
Will it fit in the proposed space?
Remember Fences are not boundaries!
Is there sufficient room between the front and side boundaries, allowing for legal setbacks?
If not, will I need to apply for relaxations, and if so, by how much?
Are existing structures & vegetation allowing me to achieve what I need?
A good Site Plan will clearly show what stays and what goes.



3. VEHICULAR ACCESS

HOW STEEP WILL IT BE?

Will the gradient of the driveway work?

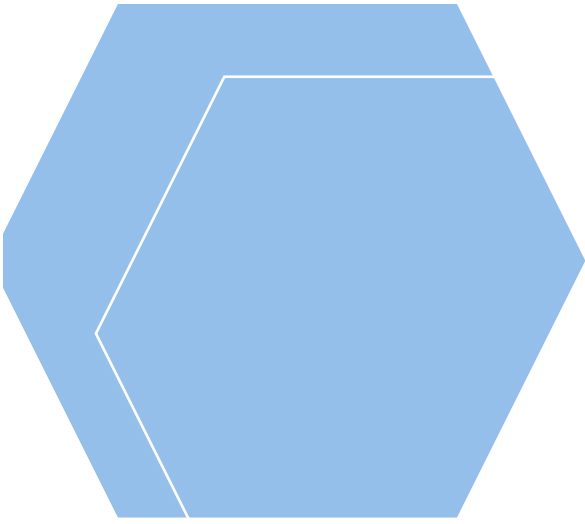
Will my visitors be able to use the space?

Will the slope be safe? There are building code requirements!

Will rainwater flow into my carport?

Will I be scraping the bottom of my car every time I come and go? The longer the car the more it's likely to scrape the bottom.

A good Site Plan will clearly help to answer these questions.



4. PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

LEGALITIES

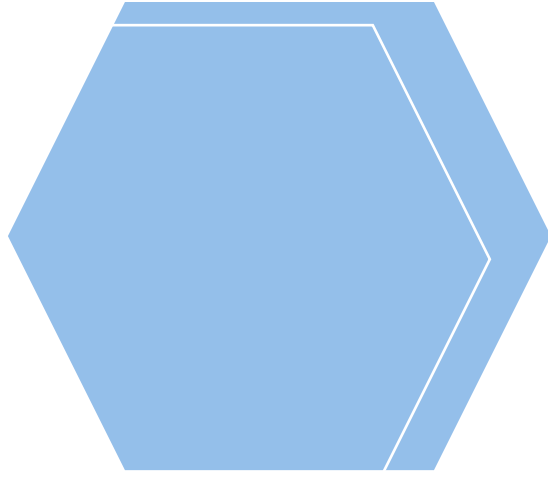
Remembering that you are crossing over council land, you cannot legally change the levels of the footpath or road. Will you potentially create a tripping hazard?

Beware! It's likely that you will cross over infrastructure such as water mains, underground cabling for electricity or phones / internet etc. Land rising from the street will potentially have sewerage pipes to cross.

Damaging those with your footings can be awfully expensive to rectify.

Are you looking to remove street trees? Permits are required and can take a long time.

And don't forget about overhead clearance either! A good [Site Plan](#) will enable your designer to discover all these.



5. ACCESS FOR ALL

DIFFERENT PEOPLE HAVE DIFFERENT NEEDS

Who will be using the Carport? Mothers with babies, shoppers, elderly people? All have special needs. Let's not forget about stairs. Will you need them and if so, how many and will they fit? They can be difficult, and they'll exclude people in wheelchairs

How much room will you have around the carport to easily access it, especially with an armload of shopping?

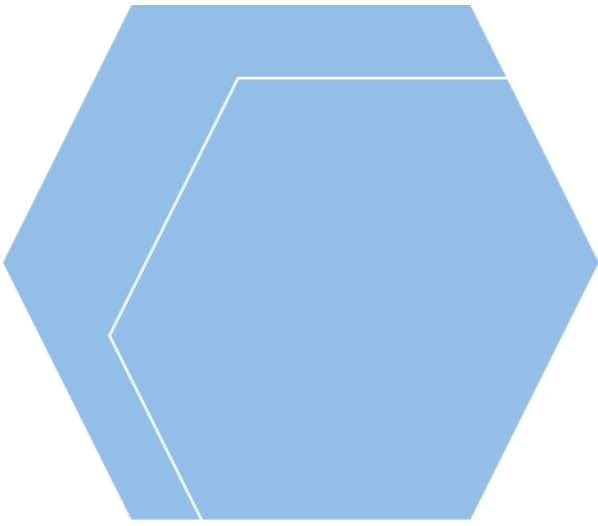
How well will it connect to existing access points to the house?

Access in and out of the car – getting to and from – loading & unloading goods:

Parking on a slope can be quite difficult & annoying when getting in and out of your car trying to control doors opening or closing.

Are you going to need a retaining wall to ensure that the parking pad is near level? A [good Site Plan will reveal all](#) during the design phase





6. VISUAL IMPACT

HOW WILL IT LOOK?

The carport may dominate visual impact from the street. Will the structure block views of the attractive features of my house & what difference does a change in levels make to the scale of the building? How will it impact the overall appearance?

Will it be in front of windows - block out light or views from inside my house?

7. NEIGHBOURS

KEEP YOUR NEIGHBOUR HAPPY

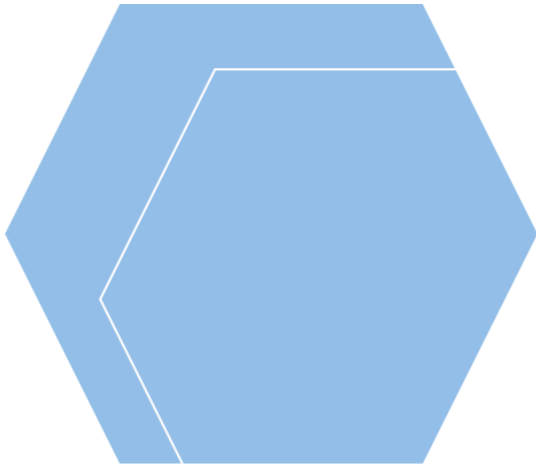
Don't surprise them by cutting down trees, demolishing a fence or building retaining walls. Let's not forget the neighbours' improvements – will it impact those? Could they have a legitimate gripe that may cause you trouble?

A good site plan will show the scope of works needed. Talk to them early. You may need their support to get approvals.

8. YOUR STREET

DRIVING IN & OUT

Do you live in a narrow street? Locating your Carport access opposite to the driveway of a property opposite you is definitely something worth considering because coming and going can be quite difficult if there are cars parked frequently across the road from your driveway entry. Will your driveway cause the loss of 'on street' parking?



9. KNOW YOUR BOUNDARIES

NO ROOM FOR GUESSWORK HERE

If you want to build on or close to a boundary you will need a [Boundary Identification Survey](#). This is the survey with the little white pegs. Your Builder will need this. Your neighbours will also want it for their peace of mind and your Building Certifier wants it for certification, ensuring that everything has been done correctly. A good Site Plan is for design – pegs are for construction.

10. BUILDING IT

BUILD WITH CONFIDENCE

No guesswork by the builder either as you have a good design that accounts for existing features from a good site plan that he can use – which means a realistic & best price, with no surprises and no delays.

Remember, it also needs to be [certified](#) when complete! Site Surveys can help with all these things and more.

IN SUMMARY

All building projects are a process building what you want, starting with what you have.

If you don't know what you have at the start you - may need to compromise your design, complicate the build, and upset your neighbours.

Start with a good site plan & start early - Everyone will love you for it.



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READY TO GET STARTED NOW?

TO ASK US FOR A QUOTE JUST CLICK THE REQUEST BELOW

[REQUEST A QUOTE](#)

[WE'LL SEND YOU A QUOTE FOR YOUR CARPORT SURVEY(S) YOU'LL NEED – NO OBLIGATION]

