

What's wrong with the map?

Since December 2011, **Caravancaravan.com.au** has provided Nomads in Australia with a useful tool for finding places to visit. The Trip Planner was added later and has become the favourite planning facility for many nomads, whether seasoned travellers or newbies to the joys of the road.

The maps used on this website are Google Maps, which are incorporated into the website under Google's usage rules, using the API (Application Programming Interface) which Google provides.

In early 2018, Google announced that they would be introducing a new set of usage terms whereby they would charge website operators for the use of their maps based on the amount of traffic that was using the map facilities.

Caravancaravan.com.au relies heavily on Google Maps for its operation. If we were denied access to the maps, the website would be useless. But we can't afford to pay the fees that Google charges, as it would simply break both of the Camels' backs, as well as their bank accounts.

We have never charged members any membership fees and that is how we would like to keep it. A small amount of funds are earned through advertising which help cover the cost of running the website. We have to use industrial strength hosting services for this website as it requires heavy duty resources in order to operate. The hosting alone costs thousands of dollars per year. Add to that the inevitable maintenance costs and you can see that this is not an inexpensive website to operate. In fact it cost us more than our house, when we initially set it up.

For this reason, we are unable to pay the cost that Google wish to charge. Consequently the maps on this website are displayed in a degraded fashion. Fortunately they continue to function and, while ever Google continue to allow us to operate in this way, we will keep the website going.

We are sorry that the maps don't display with the quality that they once did, but there is nothing we can do about that. We hope that you continue to enjoy the facilities that we have provided. You can help us to continue to run the website by staying at caravan parks who advertise on the Featured List and mention the website to them when you stay, as well as telling all other caravan parks where you stay, about **caravancaravan.com.au**

