

# Community Strategic Plan 2016 - 2021

---



**Coordinated by NABIAC Village Futures Group**



**"A Vibrant Rural Village"**

The NABIAC Village Futures Group and the community of NABIAC would like to acknowledge the support of Great Lakes Council in the preparation of this document:



[www.nabiac.com](http://www.nabiac.com)

The NABIAC Community Strategic Plan was originally developed in November 2004, It has been revised at community workshops held in February 2006, April 2009, April 2012, and October 2015.

To provide feedback on this plan, contact the NABIAC Village Futures Group,  
PO Box 22,  
NABIAC NSW 2312

## Contents

Background.....	3
Vision .....	3
Mission .....	3
Values .....	3
Achievements .....	4
About NABIAC .....	5
Our Vision for Tomorrow and Beyond .....	6
The most important current issues .....	8
Strategies.....	9
How Does Our Plan 'Fit' With Other Strategies? .....	10
Annexure 1 - SWOT Analysis 2015.....	11
Annexure 2 - Imagine NABIAC.....	14

## Background

The village of Nabitac is situated on the Wallamba River on the Mid North Coast of New South Wales, 24 kilometres south of Taree and 25 kilometres west of Forster/Tuncurry. Nabitac village has a population of around 650 and services the surrounding communities of Wootton, Failford, Rainbow Flat, Dyers Crossing, Krambach and Coolongolook.

Nabitac means ‘place of the wild fig’ and lies within lands traditionally inhabited by the Biripi and Worimi Aboriginal Tribes.

In 2003, the Nabitac Chamber of Commerce and Tourism was successful in accessing funding through the Department of State and Regional Development’s Towns and Villages Futures Program to prepare a strategic plan for the local community.

The plan is a written document that identifies the community’s vision for the future and the priorities and actions the community has identified to achieve this vision. The plan is a guide for future projects and activities in our community over the next five years. Achievement of the priorities identified within the plan will require ongoing community support. Priorities contained within this plan are reviewed every three years to ensure that the priorities remain reflective of the emerging needs of the community.

The Nabitac Village Futures Group (NVFG) was established to oversee the implementation of the plan.

### Vision

**‘A Vibrant Rural Village’**

### Mission

**‘To aid in the further creation, and maintenance of a family friendly rural village with improved facilities for all ages.’**

### Values

The key values and standards to drive our mission are:

- Leadership and Integrity
- Initiative and Planning
- Professionalism and Caring
- Excellence and Efficiency
- Quality of Life and Employment
- Identity and Independence

## Achievements

As a small community, Nabitac is proud of our achievements to date. Some of the more recent highlights include:



- Opening of the **Nabitac Swimming Pool**, a 25 year project
- **Memorial Neighbourhood Centre** Committee –storage shed for furniture, sealed the car parking area and installed new signage
- **Relationship with local government** - maintained excellent communication with Great Lakes Council and attempted to re-establish / improve communication with Greater Taree City Council
- Nabitac **Website** – continued to oversee and support in cooperation with the Nabitac CTC
- **Village brochure** – worked with local businesses to produce a new brochure and a set of short promotional videos
- **Facebook** - set up and administrate "Nabitac Community", our community Facebook page
- **Flooding and Drainage** – discussions with Great Lakes Council who have agreed to seek funding to do a rehabilitation study of Town Creek
- Heritage – promoted the **Heritage Walk** with historical photos of Nabitac on Facebook.

Other key achievements include:

- Skate park constructed and operational
- Rehabilitation of Woosters Creek and Lilly Pilly Bend
- The Annual Nabitac Show
- The Monthly Nabitac Farmers' Market
- A medical centre
- Community Technology Centre (CTC)
- National Motor Cycle Museum & annual swap meet
- Wide variety of businesses established
- Very interested and involved community
- Great community interest in local events
- Strong volunteer involvement in beautification of Village
- Strong Art & Craft community
- Community website
- Web-based Community Directory
- Promotional brochures
- Community information board constructed on Village Green
- Village infrastructure continues to improve (eg footpaths; see below)

## About Nabitac

The population of Nabitac and surrounding areas is increasing annually with around 2,432 people residing in the region. This includes Wootton, Coolongolook, Minimbah, Dyers Crossing and Krambach. The main commercial centre and the majority of residents in Nabitac live in the Great Lakes Council Local Government Area. The balance of residents lives in the Greater Taree Council area on the western side of the highway.

Nabitac has around 35 businesses including a Supermarket, two hairdressing salons and a refurbished video store. The village also sustains two butchers and three real estate agents, a testament to the migration of people into the area. There is also a popular bakery. The Old Bank Centre is situated just off the main business precinct. This building hosts the Post Office, and a liquor outlet, general store and newsagent. Both the Supermarket and the Old Bank Centre have extended trading hours.

Nabitac boasts a cafe and a tea house that offer a diverse range of food from take away to fresh and healthy. A popular combined cafe and garden centre, and the nearby bakery also draw people from the highway and surrounding area. Nabitac Hotel/Motel is clearly visible from the highway and, with entertainment and a bistro, is a regular venue for locals, travellers and group visits. Accommodation can be found at the motel or the local caravan park along with a variety of bed and breakfasts within close proximity to the village. The bed and breakfasts have options of home-style accommodation, self-contained cabins or farm stay.

Nabitac Public School has 196 students attending classes from Kindergarten to Year 6. The school has a kitchen garden called NabitacPatch, to encourage children to eat nutritious, home grown meals and also supplying the Canteen with herbs and vegetables. After completing infant and primary education, Nabitac's feeder high school is the Great Lakes College, Tuncurry Campus. Nabitac also offers before and after school care and vacation care facilities for school aged children.

The village Skate Park and the new Nabitac Community Swimming Pool are a magnet for younger people of the area and are beneficial to support the healthy life style of the community into the future.

Nabitac is serviced by a medical centre supported by a recently refurbished village pharmacy. Pets are catered for by the Nabitac Veterinary Clinic buoyed by a pet grooming salon. A rural supply store provides products such as animal feed and landscaping items and a farm machinery store operates nearby. A wide variety of service providers and tradesman such as electricians, plumbers, builders, tree loppers and earth-moving equipment, are available in and around Nabitac. The majority can be found via the Community Directory on the Nabitac website at [www.nabitac.com](http://www.nabitac.com)

Nabitac hosts two service stations (one 24 hours) and two motor vehicle repair shops plus a smash repair service. A caravan and camping outlet is located on the highway and repairs including trailers and mechanical repairs are also available in the village light industrial area. There is growing interest in overnight camping at the Showground.

The Memorial Neighbourhood Centre, located in the old hospital building, is used by many local committees and special interest groups for meetings and get-togethers. It is the home of the Second Chance Opportunity Shop (Op Shop) run by the volunteers of the Neighbourhood Centre. The Neighbourhood Centre also houses the Community Technology Centre (CTC) providing computer and technology services, including training, to the community. A local business woman leases the Neighbourhood Centre's

commercial kitchen to bake products for the local markets.

The Nahiac Showground and Hall is the home of the annual Wallamba District Agricultural Show, rodeos, camp drafting competitions and the monthly Nahiac Farmers Market. A branch of the Great Lakes Library is also located in the Showground. The Wallamba Show has been in existence since 1912.

Nahiac has become a place of interest for tourists. Apart from the unique village atmosphere, Nahiac is home to the National Motorcycle Museum which attracts many visitors. Vintage stores and gift and craft shops attract browsers and shoppers.

The once thriving dairy industry has now given way to smaller hobby farms and raising of beef cattle. The style of farming has been greatly influenced by the influx of retirees and families migrating north from Sydney for a healthier lifestyle. Some wonderful delicacies are produced in the area. Evidence of the variety is the budding Honeycomb Valley enterprise providing a sanctuary for native bees, information for visitors and value adding to their products.

Nahiac experienced a major change when new section of the Pacific Highway was completed in 2006. Nahiac is now one of the only towns on the highway, with Karuah, Taree and Bulahdelah having been bypassed. This would make Nahiac the gateway, not only to the Great Lakes and Manning Valley districts, but to the entire North Coast.

People moving to the area are attracted by the villages' nurturing environment, close proximity to the local beaches and bushland, along with easy access to the highway for business and pleasure activities. Nahiac has exhibited prosperous business growth over the past few years and the community sees the potential and benefits of planning for environmentally sustained, economic expansion, to maintain the village ambience. Forward planning is vital for Nahiac over the next few years as it continues to be a well sought out location and a delightful place to live.

## **Our Vision for Tomorrow and Beyond**

Our vision sees Nahiac as a vibrant historical rural village with a strong environmental sustainability focus. It is a friendly place, where people of all ages participate in activities that nurture the beautiful environment, enjoy arts and cultural events as well as promote a healthy lifestyle. Many families choose to live in Nahiac as there is something for everyone. Perceptions of safety are high. Community groups are vibrant, strong, open and friendly, with plenty of willing volunteers.

Our older people are able to continue living in the community they know, with support from family, friends, local medical practitioners, support services and regular visiting medical specialists. There is a purpose built retirement or aged care facility. It is easy to catch a bus to Forster or Taree if further services are needed.

The entrances into Nahiac Village are attractive and colourful. Public spaces in and around the Village are beautifully planted out and residents enjoy walking along shaded pathways through restored natural habitats along Town Creek. The boat ramp and picnic area near the river are very popular with picnickers and water sport enthusiasts. There are a number of art installations dotted throughout the village which tells stories of Nahiac - past, present and future. Local produce is valued and celebrated. Outlets for local produce attract shoppers from across the district looking for high quality fresh food and local eateries promote local producers.

The village is well connected with footpaths and cycle ways, supporting residents and

visitors of all ages and abilities to get around the village and shopping centre with ease. The pathway networks are well signed with interpretive signage to highlight the natural and human history of the area. Road surfaces are well maintained with ample parking for cars, truck and caravans.

Nabiac is known as a 'Gateway' to the Manning Valley and Great Lakes. It thrives 7 days per week because of the eclectic mix of shops while retaining its rural village charm. This blend of contemporary style with old world charm brings a rich cultural feel to the village. New businesses abound and offer employment for locals without overdeveloping the area. The village boasts a variety of charming village style shops and eateries, with many places to sit and chat or meet up with friends and visitors. Shopping is encouraged by good directional signage, colourful and quirky shop fronts and plenty of accessible parking for cars as well as caravans and RVs.

The town is home to many artists and craftspeople. There are art, music and social events and activities both in the shopping district as well as at the showground. The showground is a drawcard for community activities as well as eco and agri-tourism and people travelling with horses. The nearby sport precinct supports a range of activities and is a favourite place for young people.

The implementation of outcomes of the 'Nabiac Flood Study 2009' has led to the creek being rehabilitated from the highway underpass to well below the industrial area. The creek now provides beautiful spaces for families to picnic and enjoy the natural habitat and the flood issues of previous years have been successfully overcome.

Residents feel good about the small footprint that they leave on the environment through innovative projects such as our off grid power options and solar charging stations. We are committed to balancing, protecting and enhancing our diverse environmental elements for the enjoyment and support of both current and future generations

The revival of old skills and crafts has been taken up with enthusiasm (wood-working, blacksmithing, gardening, weaving etc.). Community groups are vital and well supported. Events such as the annual show and the farmers market have an abundance of volunteers. Sporting events have excellent facilities and hold regular games. The Neighbourhood Centre continues to house the Community Technology Centre, Second Chance Op Shop and groups needing a venue for meetings. NVFG continues to strengthen and to support the town and the community.



## The most important current issues

Our biggest strength and opportunity is the creation, protection and extension of the existing **village atmosphere**. Our biggest threat is losing this through **poor or conflicting residential or commercial development**.

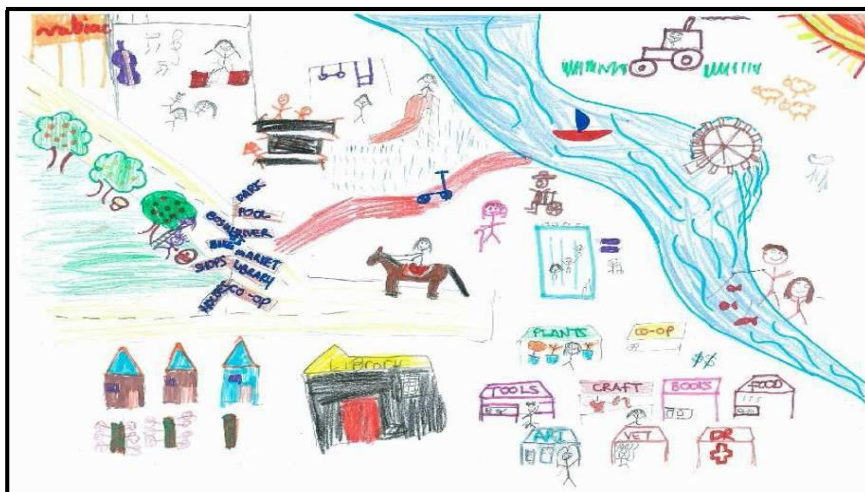
We need to ensure that any development avoids recreating or exacerbating existing or past **flooding issues**.

The **Farmers Market** is an important asset that must be maintained and developed. The **showgrounds** are seen as a focal point for the community with lots of opportunity to further develop and utilise. The current **medical services** provide a strong asset for the town with opportunities to expand these services.

The biggest weakness identified are the **lack of public transport**, followed by lack of **facilities to retain and attract older people** and the **lack of facilities and services to support young people**.

Another key threat is the potential negative environmental impacts caused by **Minimbah Landfill** project and the need to employ best practice to ensure retainment of the areas amenity and level of public safety now and into the future.

Finally, the provision of **shade** to support the social, environmental and physical attributes of the village was seen as a key opportunity.



Our village -  
by Josie Campbell, April 2012



## Strategies

<b>Protect and enhance our village charm</b>	<b>Priority Actions</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
	Collaborate closely with council through the development approval process to protect the Nabitac vision.	Short term
	Work with council to identify improvements to parking in the CBD	Short term
	Develop and promote a "sustainable living" program	Short term
<b>Promote sustainable economic development</b>	<b>Priority Actions</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
	Develop and circulate promotional resources to enhance the profile of Nabitac	Short Term
	Attract overnight campers through the provision of an RV waste dump point and potable water	Short term
	Develop and implement a Buy Local campaign	Short term
	Investigate the establishment of a local Food Cooperative	Short term
	Promote local history through placement of plaques and pictures and development of tours.	Short term
	Investigate potential for attracting a Tesla recharge station	
<b>Enhance the natural beauty of the village</b>	<b>Priority Actions</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
	Investigate the feasibility of a community garden to support local gardening, plant propagation and provide community education.	Medium Term
	Develop a village landscape plan incorporating appropriate native exotic and fruit trees to produce shade, atmosphere and community food	Short term
	Collaborate with council to develop a plan for the continued development of Town Creek	Short term
	Build a relationship with council's Waste Management team to encourage open dialogue and information exchange in relation to the Minimbah Landfill Development	
<b>Actively encourage health, wellbeing and participation</b>	<b>Priority Actions</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
	Enhance the existing amenities for sport and recreation (children's play equipment and sports complex)	Short term
	Retain and attract medical and pharmaceutical services	Medium term
	Pursue the establishment of accessible aged care facilities that allows everyone to stay in the village as well as attract new families	Long term
	Upgrade the river facilities to encourage water activities and wharf development	Long term

## How Does Our Plan 'Fit' With Other Strategies?

<b>Nabiac Community Strategic Plan</b>	<b>Great Lakes 2030</b>	<b>NSW 2021</b>
Protect and enhance our village charm	<p>Key Direction 3:5 Build on the character of our local communities and promote the connection between them</p> <p>Key Direction 3.1 Provide the right places and spaces.</p>	<p>Priority 20. Build liveable centres.</p> <p>Priority 23. Increase opportunities for people to look after their own neighbourhoods and environments.</p> <p>Priority 32. Involve the community in decision making on government policy, services and projects.</p>
Promote sustainable economic development	<p>Key Direction 2.1 Promote the Great Lakes as an area that is attractive for residents and Visitors</p> <p>Key Direction 2.2 Establish and maintain a supportive business environment that encourages job opportunities</p>	<p>Priority1. Improve the performance of the NSW economy.</p> <p>Priority 3. Drive economic growth in regional NSW.</p>
Enhance the natural beauty of the village	<p>Key Direction 1.1 Protect and maintain the natural environment so it is healthy and Diverse</p> <p>Key Direction 1.2 Ensure that development is sensitive to our natural environment</p>	<p>Priority11. Keep people healthy and out of hospital.</p>
Actively encourage health, wellbeing and participation	<p>Key Direction 3.6 Develop and support healthy and safe communities</p>	<p>Priority 22. Protect our natural environment.</p> <p>Priority 24. Make it easier for people to be involved in their communities.</p> <p>Priority 27. Enhance cultural, creative, sporting and recreational opportunities.</p>

For further information and a complete copy of the Great Lakes 2030 Community Strategic Plan, go to Council's website at [www.greatlakes.nsw.gov.au](http://www.greatlakes.nsw.gov.au)

For further information about the NSW 2021 go to <http://2021.nsw.gov.au/>.

# Annexure 1 - SWOT Analysis 2015

## Nabiac's current strengths

- Existing **amenities** such as the showground, library, community hall, sport (soccer, tennis courts, netball, fishing clubs, cricket, rugby, car rally track)
- Proactive **local groups** - Fire Brigade, NVFG, NNC, playgroups, SES
- Ability to **walk or cycle** around the village
- The **people** - friendly, supportive, active volunteerism
- **Position** - near to Forster/Tuncurry and Taree,
- Proximity **transport** options - adjacent to the highway with north and south entries, not far to train or airport via the highway, access to buses(coaches), quick trip to Sydney and Port Macquarie
- Rural village **ambience** - small enough to care, big enough to attract economic development
- Existing **services** - Post Office, doctors' surgery, primary school, police
- Local **businesses** - shops, pub, motel, good cafes, rural supplies, 24 hour Caltex, little need to go to "town"
- Increase in access to **technology** - CTC, NBN
- **Family friendly** - recreation choices, safe atmosphere, no fast food, playground, school and preschool
- Local **newspaper** and Facebook
- Local **events** - show, farmers market, cattle sales
- **Tourism** opportunities - farm gate trail maps, walking trails, motor bike museum, artisan studio trails, water activities, river and boat ramp, picnic areas, shade and parking

## Nabiac's current Weaknesses

- Limited **community participation** - not everyone joins in or works together
- **Landscaping** - lack of shade, trees block existing signage, not enough picnic spots, few feature trees
- **Transport** - no public transport, especially for elderly or those with a disability
- **Promotion and Tourism** - lack of broad promotion as a destination, lack of signage, lack of RV stop over facilities, parking congestion/limits in the main street, website needs to constantly be kept up to date, lack of signage on highway detailing village attributes, no RV dump point
- **Economic Development** - limited use of existing website for business promotion, no Chamber of Commerce, no small and large businesses and events on website, business not keeping information up to date

- **Medical services** - need another doctor and or medical centre so residents can access full diagnostic services
- **Aged care services** - minimal housing options, can't access local diagnostic services, few affordable transport options
- Other - no regular **youth** activities, **street naming** is confusing, highway **noise**

#### **Nabiac's current Opportunities**

- **Tourism and Promotion** - potential for future boat trips yesteryear flavour, boat trips to Forster, promote at the Gateway to Forster Tuncurry, Visitor Information Centre, upgrade and expand parking options, capture more of the passing traffic from the highway, revive and promote the river
- **Ambiance** - historical buildings, highlight water activities, capitalise on rural village atmosphere, more shade trees, continue to develop facilities at the showgrounds
- **Landscaping and beautification** - river walks, street scaping with edibles and shade trees, drinking fountains, interconnected walking and cycling tracks, more picnic tables and chairs,
- **Environmental Sustainability** and Promotion - Community solar, improved flood mitigation design, participate in the clean and green global effort, go plastic free,
- **Economic Development** - local produce/market thriving, WiFi hub made available, NBN roll out, promote the town a "hub" for the local area, attract more B & Bs,
- **Events** - designated village festival, music and arts events, develop the showground as an event site,
- **Community** collaboration - more Landcare participation, seek funding and support, make the use of existing talents and skills, create outdoor meeting and gathering spaces, local community information brochure for new and existing residents
- **Facilities** - improved sport facilities, RV friendly facilities, standpipe for fire brigade in showground
- Other - engage both **councils**

#### **Nabiac's current Threats**

- **Economic development** - development of types of businesses that detract from village ambience, potential fast food outlets detracting from ambience and community health, proposed service centre on the highway will not be locally owned so money doesn't come back into the community, local businesses won't thrive without local support, new businesses won't start up or survive
- **Town planning** - council restrictions to DA, inappropriate developments, lack of affordable housing options, lack of council understanding of local vision leading to conflicting residential or commercial development
- **Safety** - drugs, anti-social behaviour, potential chemical spill/accident on highway, trucks in the village, lack of police presence, bored or unoccupied young people

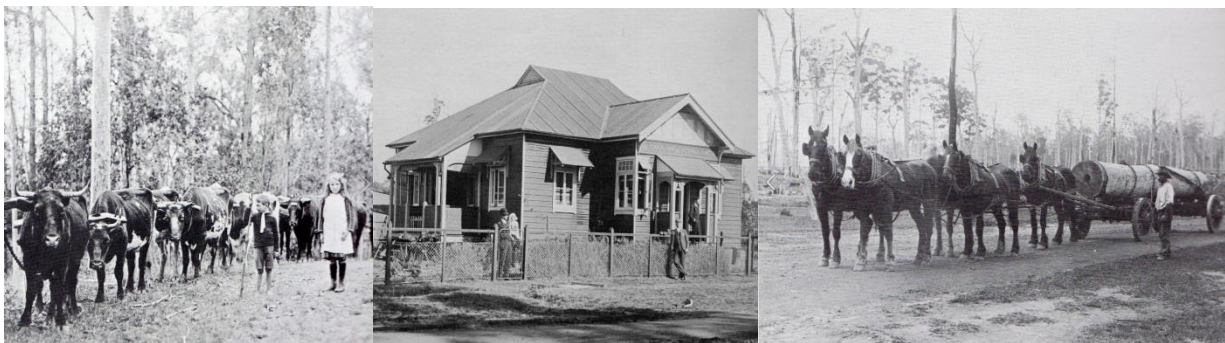
- **Environment** - flooding within town/village, Minimbah tip impacting water quality, the oyster industry
- Community **Services** - lack of aged care/retirement facilities, lack of youth services and activities, lack of public transport
- Other - **volunteer** burn out

## Annexure 2 - Imagine Nabiac



## *Imagine Nabiac*

---



*This document was created to capture the ideas generated during the 2015 Nabiac Community Strategic Plan to ensure that all ideas could be acknowledged and referred to at a later date if required*

### **Imagine if we could see ...**

Plaques and pictures

Bright colours

Spruced up shop fronts

A busy but well-ordered main street with lots of people in and out of shops and cafes

Street fairs and buskers

Beautiful, healthy shade trees on street fronts and in open spaces

Stylish shops with a touch of uniqueness and quirkiness

The Knick Knack capital

Yesteryear theme

Celebration of the river

History valued and embedded into the village

Tourists staying over

Heritage trees retained and celebrated

A busy and attractive showgrounds that attract overnight campers and lots of events

Exercise groups in the village green

People cycling and strolling around the streets on good quality paths

Lot of seating along shaded paths

Edible street plantings and community gardens

Young people actively involved

Young people being mentored and supported

Community dances, concerts and film nights

Workshops and lots of opportunities to learn and do something new

Street design that works well

No flooding in the town centre

A vibrant village green with events, picnics, children playing and seniors enjoying the space

The **creek** that runs through town **redesigned and landscaped** to improve the look of the town centre

Amenities at the **showgrounds** to attract travelling horse people to stay

The heritage trees in and around Nabiac Showground retained

A large multi-purpose indoor arena at the showgrounds suitable for a wide variety of activities but focusing on horse events



The showgrounds promoted as a free camp, or gold coin usage.

The beautiful Wallamba River being used for family and recreational activities because it has great amenities and well-kept spaces

A wharf near the old Bullock Wharf and the history promoted and celebrated

Lots of cycle paths networking throughout the village

The Skate Park and pool joined together with fruit trees and a community garden

A range of ages playing sports on local facilities in a designated sport precinct

Young people gathering to socialise in positive ways

A life guard at the pool

Permanent police presence and not just highway patrol.

Advertisements for local jobs so that our people don't have to travel away to find work.

Public transport options so that we can easily access medical and other services in regional centres

Lots of local art throughout the village

A retirement complex developed through a combined churches approach so that we can age in our own community

An annual Village Festival to bring the community together.

New housing developments that fit with our village theme, incorporate environmentally sensitive design, and avoid high density and badly designed multiple housing.

An absence of junk food franchise so that our food and retail outlets remain fitting with our yesteryear, village theme



[www.nabiac.com](http://www.nabiac.com)

To provide feedback on this plan, contact:

Nabiac Village Futures Group,

PO Box 22,

Nabiac NSW 2312