



Community Strategic Plan 2016 - 2021

REVISED VERSION - MAY 2019

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 MidCoast Council in the preparation of this document:



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.

The plan was again revised in May 2019, following a community meeting on 28 March. The revision involved removing completed actions and updating with projects that were identified as priorities at the workshop.

To provide feedback on this plan, contact the NABIAC Village Futures Group,
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Background

The village of Nahiab 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. Nahiab village has a population of around 650 and services the surrounding communities of Wootton, Failford, Rainbow Flat, Dyers Crossing, Krambach and Coolongolook.

Nahiab means 'place of the wild fig' and lies within lands traditionally inhabited by the Biripi and Worimi Aboriginal Tribes.

In 2003, the Nahiab 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 Nahiab 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** - developing relationships and open communication with MidCoast 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
- 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 Nabiac

The population of Nabiac and surrounding areas is increasing annually with around 2,432 people residing in the region. This includes Wootton, Coolongolook, Minimbah, Dyers Crossing and Krambach.

Nabiac is part of the MidCoast Council region.

Nabiac 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.

Nabiac 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. Nabiac 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.

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

The village Skate Park and the new Nabiac 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.

Nabiac is serviced by a medical centre supported by a recently refurbished village pharmacy. Pets are catered for by the Nabiac 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 Nabiac. The majority can be found via the Community Directory on the Nabiac website at www.nabiac.com

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

Nabiac has become a place of interest for tourists. Apart from the unique village atmosphere, Nabiac 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.

Nabiac experienced a major change when new section of the Pacific Highway was completed in 2006. Nabiac is now one of the only towns on the highway, with Karuah, Taree and Bulahdelah having been bypassed. This would make Nabiac 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. Nabiac 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 Nabiac 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 Nabiac 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 Nabiac 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 Nabiac 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 Nabiac - 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**.

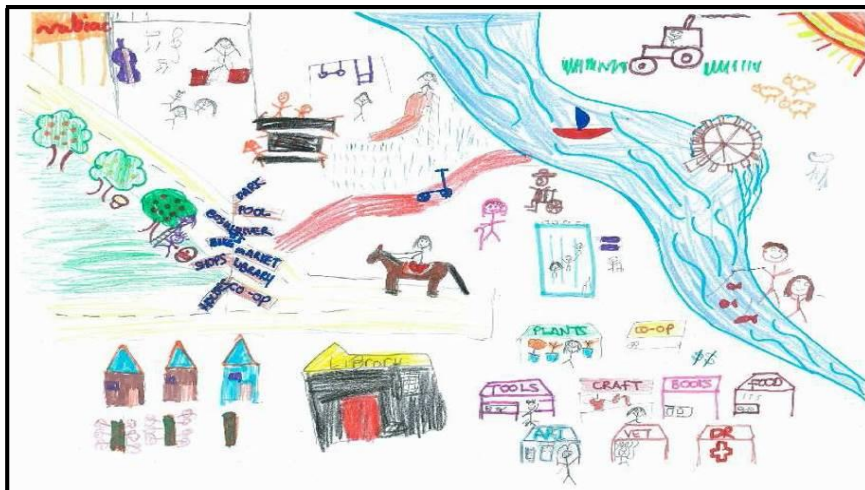
We need to ensure that any development avoids recreating or exacerbating existing or past **flooding issues**.

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 weaknesses 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 the **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

	Priority Actions	Timeframe
Protect and enhance our village charm	Collaborate closely with council through the development approval process to protect the Nabiatic vision.	Short term
	Work with council to identify improvements to parking, traffic flow and pedestrian safety in the CBD	Short term
	Develop and promote a "sustainable living" program	Short term

	Priority Actions	Timeframe
Promote sustainable economic development	Develop and circulate promotional resources to enhance the profile of Nabiatic	Short Term
	Collaborate with Council to create an RV friendly town, including parking in the CBD and camping at the showground	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
	Undertake street beautification and public art projects at Nabiatic entry points.	Short Term

	Priority Actions	Timeframe
Enhance the natural beauty of the village	Continue to develop the Nabiatic community garden to support local gardening, plant propagation and provide community education.	Ongoing
	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	
	Work collaboratively with Council to create a community space masterplan	

	Priority Actions	Timeframe
Actively encourage health, wellbeing and participation	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?

Nabiac Community Strategic Plan	MidCoast 2030	Hunter Regional Plan 2036
<p>Protect and enhance our village charm</p>	<p>Strategy 1.16: Empower our towns and villages to retain and celebrate their unique identity, while working towards a shared community vision.</p> <p>Strategy 2.2.1: Plan for, provide and maintain a safe road network that meets current and future needs.</p> <p>Strategy 3.1.4: Improve the capacity of industry and the community to achieve the best possible outcomes for the natural environment.</p>	<p>Goal 3 – Thriving communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direction 17 – Create healthy built environments through good design • Direction 20 – Revitalise existing communities <p>Goal 4 – Greater housing choice and jobs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a compact settlement
<p>Promote sustainable economic development</p>	<p>Strategy 4.1.1: Develop and promote our region as an attractive visitor destination offering products and experiences that meet the needs of our visitors and residents.</p> <p>Strategy 4.2.1: Implement innovative programs and projects to support business precincts in creating and maintaining vibrant spaces.</p> <p>Strategy 4.1.2: Provide an environment to grow and strengthen local businesses, and attract new business.</p> <p>Strategy 4.3.1: Encourage the diversification and sustainability of agribusiness through the utilisation of sustainable farming practices, new technologies and innovation.</p> <p>Strategy 1.2.2: Support the preservation and uniqueness of our history and cultural heritage in our</p>	<p>Goal 1 – The leading regional economy in Australia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direction 6 – Grow the economy of MidCoast and Port Stephens <p>Goal 3 – Thriving communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direction 17 – Create healthy built environments through good design • Direction 19 – Identify and protect the region’s heritage

	<p>towns, villages and significant places.</p> <p>Strategy 1.2.3: Support and encourage our vibrant and creative arts sector.</p>	
<p>Enhance the natural beauty of the village</p>	<p>Strategy 3.1.4: Improve the capacity of industry and the community to achieve the best possible outcomes for the natural environment.</p> <p>Strategy 3.1.3: Protect, maintain and restore water quality within our estuaries, wetlands and waterways.</p> <p>Strategy 3.2.1: Sustainably manage our waste through reduction, reuse, recycling and repurposing.</p> <p>Strategy 3.1.5: Ensure our natural assets are maintained to a standard appropriate to their use.</p>	<p>Goal 3 – Thriving communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direction 17 – Create healthy built environments through good design • Direction 18 – Enhance access to recreational facilities and connect open space
<p>Actively encourage health, wellbeing and participation</p>	<p>Strategy 2.4.4: Encourage physical health and fitness through provision of appropriate recreational facilities.</p> <p>Strategy 2.4.3: Increase the capacity of community, businesses and organisations to understand and meet public health standards.</p> <p>Strategy 1.1.4: Support a diverse housing mix that provides choice and meets the needs of our community.</p>	<p>Goal 1 – The leading regional economy in Australia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direction 6 – Grow the economy of MidCoast and Port Stephens <p>Goal 3 – Thriving communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direction 17 – Create healthy built environments through good design • Direction 18 – Enhance access to recreational facilities and connect open space

For further information and a complete copy of the MidCoast 2030 Community Strategic Plan, go to Council's website at www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au

For further information about the Hunter Regional Plan go to <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Plans-for-your-area/Regional-Plans/Hunter>

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

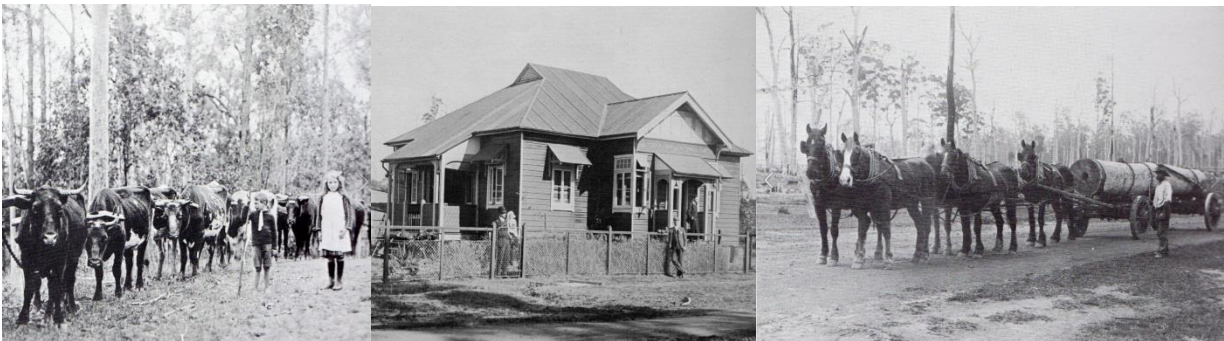
- **Economic development** - development of types of businesses that detract from village ambience, potential fast food outlets detracting from ambience and community health, proposed service centre on the highway will not be locally owned so money doesn't come back into the community, local businesses 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

To provide feedback on this plan, contact:

Nabiac Village Futures Group,

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