

## Strategic Focus Area: Live. Access Connect

There is one eligible project in this area.

### Longwood Nature PlaySpace

**Cost: \$50,000**

**Note: This project may need to be a staged approach. The first step will be a detailed design, that is consistent with SSC's Playground Strategy to be adopted in October 2023. Further works will be dependent of funding.**

**Problem and opportunity:** The Longwood Pub Paddock is the central hub in Longwood. It is directly opposite the White Hart Hotel, and local café shop, as well as only a short walk for students from the Longwood Primary School. Currently the space is not being utilised to its potential with only a rundown bike track in the space that does not get used often, due to its rough terrain The Masterplan has shown a strong desire by the community to redevelop the site into a community hub for children and adults to come together and socialise in an open safe space

**How does it affect or impact the community?** Longwood is limited in community areas that allow locals and visitors to come together to socialise and exercise to improve their physical and mental health. The current state of the Pub Paddock in Longwood is a bare paddock with a rundown bike track that is not utilised by locals due to its dangers and harsh dirt.

**What is your idea and what difference would it make?** The Longwood Action Group are requesting \$50,000 for the creation of a Native Playground at the Pub Paddock, Longwood After Completion of the Longwood Master Plan in 2022, it was clear from the Longwood Community that they would love to see a Native Playground at the Pub Paddock. Initial feedback from the community saw this development as their number one project priority.

The benefits of a native playground at the pub paddock in Longwood, include:

- encourage friendship formation for children and parents within Longwood and the district
- safe location for children to hang out with friends
- assist with adults making new friends in the district with other parents
- encourage new families to move to Longwood as there are more things for their children to do
- continue to improve the numbers of students enrolled at Longwood Primary School Students can go to the playground safely after school and play there until they need to go home
- encourage families and individuals to visit the White Hart Hotel, and local shops in Longwood that will increase revenue in the area
- improve physical and mental health of children and adults by being more active outside, reducing screen time

**Further information:** A registered Landscape Architect has agreed to come on board and create Longwood's Native Playground. This architect has completed several playgrounds throughout regional Victoria including; Wangaratta and Cohuna and is confident with the project budget and completing a native playground for \$50,000. He has completed many projects before in that budget for day care centres and other community native playgrounds.