

Strategic Focus Area: Strong. Healthy. Safe

## **Longwood Pub Paddock Nature Play Space: Stage 2**

### **Problem and opportunity:**

Longwood was granted \$50,000 towards the creation of a Nature Play Space in its Pub Paddock for the 2023/24 Pitch My Project initiative.

Unfortunately due to cost blow outs within the design and development stage, we may only be able to have enough money to install a simple swing in the space, despite hoping that we would be able to achieve multiple native inspired play spaces for children and families to enjoy.

### **How does it affect or impact the community?**

The community has been saddened to hear that the design of our Nature Play Space has dramatically exceeded our initial budget allocation and as a result, the Longwood Action Group will not be able to present even a simple Nature Play Space within the Pub Paddock due to the lack of funds to install simple play equipment.

This will result in children and teenagers unable to use the space as they initially planned and will also impact on the physical and mental health of our children and their families.

Part of the benefit of the Nature Play Space was to allow families and friends to come together in a safe environment within our beautiful town, however this will not be able to occur due to the space having little to entice people within the Strathbogie Shire and surroundings to visit.

### **What is your idea and what difference would it make?**

We would like to propose that \$50,000 of the funding allocated for the 2024/25 Pitch My Project initiative be given to the Longwood Pub Paddock Nature Play Space, where we will be able to install nature-inspired play equipment for the community within Longwood and surrounding areas to use.

This will provide children within Longwood, the surrounding areas and also visitors to have a safe space to come together, relax, unwind and enjoy each other's company outside.

A Nature Play Space allows children to learn and develop so many new skills and also encourages creativity, enhancing their overall critical thinking skills. Furthermore, it will improve the mental and physical health of all who visit by encouraging exercise and positive thoughts through play and interaction with others.

Finally, a Nature Play Space is paramount for young children to learn how to play with other children and also promotes their ability to share equipment and how to be kind to one another.

### **Further information:**

We hope that our idea will be considered for the Stage 2 development of our Nature Play Space and allow the community to use an amazing space that will be so beneficial for all. Thank you for your consideration.