



Asset Management

What role does the community play in community assets?

As asset management by provincial and municipal governments are for the benefit of the community, so the particular government also benefits from the involvement of the community. Therefore it is good to encourage community involvement. In many cases, the community has a role in running the community asset, e.g. sometimes the community has historical connections with the asset or the community use the specific asset for particular cultural events.

An **asset** is something owned or controlled, that provides services for the community over a period of time greater than one year¹.

Community members can participate in asset management when:

- They are **consulted** during asset identification and assessment.
- They are asked for their **opinions** when decisions are being made concerning certain assets, such as how to repair, replace or dispose of an asset.
- They are asked to help **looking after** an asset, whether it is voluntarily or paid.
- They are **contracted** to do work on maintaining or creating new assets. In this way the local economical development is maintained as well.
- They are asked to offer asset **security** against vandalism or theft.
- Voting as a member of the **ward community** and in doing so, they give the community's voice to municipal decisions. Therefore ward communities need to be included in asset management planning and decision-making.
- They are considered the asset's **custodians** as traditional authorities and leaders. As well as this, they often have a lot of information about the history of some assets. Therefore they need to be consulted in all stages of asset management and when decisions are being made about particular assets.

Reference:

1. Hope, D. & Rimmington, G. (2005). Community asset management guidelines for provincial and municipal staff. Brisbane City Enterprises, Australia.)

