



Asset Management

Why is asset management important?

Community asset management is important because it:

- Supports economic and social development of the communities.
- It ensures effective infrastructure for water supply, sanitation, energy, transport and telecommunications, which are all vital for a better quality of life.
- Improves the health of the community and subsequently increase their average life expectancy, by ensuring supply of and easy access to drinking safe water, waste collection and treatment services.
- Builds a sense of community by creating a space where the community can gather, enjoy cultural activities, play sport, get information and receive their pensions. All of this can be realised by allocating or building community buildings and spaces, which are conveniently positioned and by involving the community in looking after such an asset.
- Prevent the assets from falling into disrepair and subsequently avoid that it becomes a burden and create a sense of failure to the community.
- Prevents a loss of income, by maintaining the assets in such a condition that it provides the optimum revenue, without asking excessive tariffs.
- Ensures that the community assets are being used in such a way that the most is made of their limited resources.
- Ensures that the community is aware of how much it costs to manage the assets and what the value of the assets is.
- Develops community support, because if the community is aware of what assets are essential, they will ensure that it is managed properly. The community will be more helpful in protecting these assets from vandalism and theft.

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

