

Manawatū District Council, Vested Assets Policy Guidance Sheet

What is this policy about?

The **Vested Assets Policy** explains how the Manawatū District Council decides whether to accept new assets such as roads, pipes, parks, walkways, buildings, or artworks into public ownership.

What is a "Vested" Asset?

In this policy, “vesting” means any asset being transferred into Council ownership, whether:

- Required by law (e.g. during subdivision or development), or
- Voluntarily offered (such as gifts from individuals, community groups or businesses).

Once accepted, these assets become part of the Council’s network and must be maintained and funded over the long term.

What the Policy Does

This policy ensures that:

- Assets are useful, needed, and aligned with the Council’s long-term goals;
- Council only accepts assets it can afford to maintain;
- Proposals are considered fairly, transparently, and early—before construction or fundraising starts.

How to Propose an Asset

If you want to vest (gift or transfer) an asset to Council, you must:

1. Engage with Council early—*before* you design or build anything.
2. Submit a formal proposal with design plans, ownership proof, cost estimates, and long-term maintenance information.
3. Be clear about any requests for public recognition (e.g. signs or plaques).

What Council Considers

Council assesses whether the proposed asset:

- Aligns with community needs and strategic plans
- Is affordable over its lifespan
- Meets legal and technical standards
- Has environmental or cultural impacts
- Poses risks (financial, political, or reputational)

Important Notes

- Council **is not required to accept** any asset offered.
- Assets won’t be accepted if they create unsustainable costs or don’t align with Council priorities.
- An asset only becomes vested when Council formally agrees to take it on.