



# Fact sheet

## Assets and Fire and Emergency New Zealand

To operate effectively from day one – 1 July 2017 – Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) will need to have access to the operational response assets of rural fire authorities (RFAs) around the country.

The FENZ Transition Project is currently working with RFAs to build a picture of the response assets in each area. This includes property, vehicles and equipment needed for FENZ's firefighting and other emergency work.

This fact sheet details which response assets are included in this process, those that aren't, and how we will work with RFAs to make case-by-case decisions on use and ownership matters.

### **What is needed by 1 July 2017?**

At this early stage the FENZ Transition Project needs to know which response assets FENZ can access from 1 July 2017. Ownership matters will be worked through with asset owners on an individual basis, and over time. In fact we have up to four years to make agreed ownership changes, depending on the preferences of local owners.

### **Assets not needed for fire and emergency services are not affected**

FENZ only needs access to assets directly related to FENZ's fire fighting and emergency work. If your authority or fire force has memorabilia, vintage equipment, a holiday home, social club funds, or a pool table or television, it stays with your brigade or force.

### **Assets of other organisations are not affected**

Asset transfer does not affect assets owned by forest owners (and used by rural fire authorities), industrial brigades, Defence or DOC. Use of these assets will continue to operate as it does now, by agreement.

### **Community funded assets stay in the community**

Some entities have built up assets through fundraising and community donations or have entered into financial or other non-financial arrangements. Those assets should continue to be used in the community/region that brought or fundraised for them using on the principle outlined in the FENZ Bill that the assets obtained for a community should be retained by the community.

## **Equipment on appliances**

If appliances have equipment that is not authorised to be on an appliance, the equipment may need to be assessed. This is to ensure it doesn't affect performance of the appliance, or have health and safety, legal or insurance implications.

## **Taking time to get it right for ownership of assets**

Although FENZ needs to know what it can use by 1 July 2017, we have allowed up to four years to complete any agreed ownership transfers. This is because some ownership matters can be far from straightforward. Assets, for example, may be owned, jointly owned, leased, or licensed.

The date an asset changes hands can also have financial implications for its owners. For example, owners may wish to hold onto an asset until it is fully depreciated on their books.

## **Debts and insurances transfer with an asset**

If an asset is transferred to FENZ, FENZ will assume responsibility for debt associated with the asset. However, FENZ has the ability to question the associated debt or decline to take on the asset.

When FENZ begins using an asset, FENZ becomes responsible for maintaining and insuring the asset.

## **Non-compliant vehicles and equipment**

It's important we start the new service with safe, legally compliant vehicles and equipment. Non-compliant vehicles and equipment needed for FENZ's work may be upgraded or replaced at FENZ's cost. FENZ will work with the asset owner to agree which option works best for the local service and community.

## **Preparing an inventory of rural fire authority response assets has started**

Members of the FENZ project team have started working with Principal Rural Fire Officers and volunteer rural fire forces to complete an inventory of response assets. Together, they will identify response assets and assess their condition. Other information will also be collected, including current ownership and use arrangements, any debt on the asset, maintenance contracts, applicable rates and an estimated value.

**If you have a question please contact:**

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