

Graffiti Management

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1. Purpose

The Graffiti Management policy provides a commitment to the management of graffiti across the Shoalhaven City Council area. It also provides a basis to manage and minimise the impact of graffiti across the Shoalhaven City Council Local Government Area.

The Graffiti Management Policy has been developed in response to concerns of graffiti proliferation raised by community members within the Shoalhaven.

2. Statement

Shoalhaven Council is committed to providing safer communities, supporting ownership of local neighbourhoods, reducing the occurrence of graffiti, and addressing perceptions of criminal activity such as graffiti. This is to establish the Shoalhaven as a preferred place to live, work, visit and play.

Community groups have placed an increased emphasis on graffiti management and in support Council have developed a robust management framework including having appropriate operating and management practices in place. In addition, a well-defined policy and management framework is essential.

2.1. Objectives of the policy

- To enhance the built and natural environment in the Shoalhaven by reducing the incidence and visibility of graffiti.
- To remove graffiti as quickly as possible as a strict deterrent.
- To involve the local community and youth as partners in reducing graffiti.
- To remove graffiti using environmentally sustainable methods to minimise harm to the environment.
- To encourage private property owners to take responsibility for prompt action against graffiti on property under their management.

2.2. Legislation

The “Graffiti Control Act 2008” is the relevant NSW Government legislation.

For current information relating to Graffiti legislation, please refer to the Crime Prevention website.

http://www.crimeprevention.nsw.gov.au/Pages/cpd/protectcommunity/graffitivandalism/the_laws_relatiing_to_graffiti.aspx

2.3. Policy Implementation Strategy

Shoalhaven City Council will *support* this Policy by implementing the following:

Eradication – graffiti removal and methods; Private Property Agreement; prioritising actions; response times; partnerships with volunteer services; Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles

Engagement – networks with community, major infrastructure owners, and business; Public Art Policy, projects and programs; diversionary activities; place management

Education – graffiti education program for offenders and non-offenders; public educational information and initiatives; Council website; promotional material; campaigns

Enforcement - recording; reporting; prosecution; partnerships with police, schools, Corrective Services and Juvenile Justice

Evaluation – targets; measures; audit; timeframes; surveys; consultation; identification of factors outside Council's control

Fundamental to implementation of the Graffiti Management Policy are:

- Regular inspections and removal of graffiti based on assessment, within 48 hours for offensive graffiti and 72 hours for non-offensive graffiti.
- Photographic recording of graffiti to assist police in identifying offenders.
- Encourage private property owners relating to the quick removal of graffiti on their property.
- Publicise the reporting of graffiti within community promotional material.

3. Provisions

To achieve this commitment, and in partnership with stakeholders and relevant agencies, Shoalhaven Council will continue to:

- Implement a whole of community approach and proactive response to community safety, protection of assets and graffiti management.
- Promote community participation in decision-making processes and ensure that community expectations are considered. This will be done by integrating the needs and expectations of our stakeholders and employees into our planning through effective communication.
- Establish partnerships between Council and law enforcement agencies, utility owners, private property owner/occupiers, youth, and offenders.
- Align our systems with best practice graffiti and vandalism processes where budgets allow.
- Promote community responsibility and assist the community in maintaining their property through awareness, education, and reporting.
- Continually improve our management practices by assessing performance against corporate commitments and stakeholder expectations.
- Work with stakeholders to assist in design and planning of the built environment to deter graffiti.
- Retain regular monitoring and incident response capability for Graffiti and effective reporting mechanisms to provide relevant and timely information and promote confidence in graffiti removal and its management.

4. Policy Guidelines

4.1. General

The following guidelines provide key directives to Council staff and community:

- Reduce the incidence of graffiti through the use of precise strategies including a reporting mechanism, prioritising removal, and persisting with removal.

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- Removal of graffiti on Council assets shall be undertaken in accordance with this policy and the Graffiti Control Act 2008. The frequency of inspection and removal is subject to yearly allocation of resources.

5. Implementation

The City Services Group is allocated overall responsibility for the implementation of this policy.

To maximise opportunities, coordinate efforts, ensure efficiencies and reduce costs, relevant council departments will jointly implement the Graffiti Management Policy.

6. Review

To be reviewed within one (1) year of the election of a new council.