



Telephone (02)

4325 8222

Please Quote:

7713931

Sue Verhoek:aa
6 May 2010

Gosford City Council

49 Mann Street
Gosford NSW 2250
PO Box 21
Gosford NSW 2250
DX 7211 Gosford

Telephone: 02 4325 8222
Facsimile: 02 4323 2477
goscity@gosford.nsw.gov.au
www.gosford.nsw.gov.au
ABN 78 303 458 861

Ms Catherine Watson
Manager
Standing Committee on Public Works
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms Watson

In response to your letter dated 30 March 2010 regarding an inquiry into the effects of graffiti on public infrastructure I provide the following information on behalf of Gosford City Council.

Gosford City Council is in the process of reviewing its Graffiti Management Strategy to ensure a continued coordinated response to manage illegal graffiti. This will include a variety of approaches designed to collectively reduce and monitor the incidence of illegal graffiti vandalism that aim to;

- Make the environment less vulnerable to illegal graffiti utilising crime prevention through environmental design strategies
- Inform the community to the costs and consequences of illegal graffiti
- Provide lawful creative outlets for aerosol art
- Provide practical assistance to the victims of illegal graffiti
- Divert convicted illegal graffiti practitioners into programs designed to reduce the risk of re-offending

Graffiti Removal - Private Premises

State-wide increases in illegal graffiti has lead to an increase in requests to Councils from the private sector to assist the private sector in addressing the graffiti problem. In March 2009 Gosford City Council resolved to amend its maintenance operations (illegal graffiti removal) to include removal of illegal graffiti from privately owned premises subject to the following;

Illegal graffiti will only be removed by Council if;

- It can be seen from a main public road, public park or other public land
- Provided removal can be safely undertaken from public space without requiring entry onto private property
- Provided removal can be undertaken without the aid of scaffolding or other specialised lifted equipment
- Provided removal can safely be undertaken with limited traffic control equipment

In Gosford City Centre, Terrigal and the Peninsula CBD's, the Security and Cleaning contractors remove illegal graffiti in public areas and on private and commercial infrastructure.

Illegal Graffiti Removal - Council Property

Council staff and contractors remove illegal graffiti from Council assets to a nominated level of service within normal recurrent budget allocations. Gosford City Council (GCC) staff currently removes, or arranges for removal of illegal graffiti from GCC owned assets which include buildings, Open Space assets, Water & Sewer assets, roads, bridges, footpaths, signage, wharves, bus shelters and seats.

Under this strategy illegal graffiti considered offensive and in locations of high public visibility, is given the highest priority and is removed within 24 hours. Gang tags would be considered the next priority followed by non-offensive illegal graffiti with an aim to remove within seven (7) days.

Notification of illegal graffiti is directed to Council through various methods:

- A member of the public will advise by mail, email or phone.
- Councillors and employees convey advice when illegal graffiti is applied to Council assets.

Building Operations Section within City Services is often called upon to remove illegal graffiti by utilising a high-pressure water unit purchased in 2002 with grant monies from the Attorney Generals Department. Other products used for removal include utilising water, specific chemical products and the repainting of affected areas.

Current Costs

The cost of graffiti removal across all Directorates is approximately \$100,000 pa. Primarily, Council funds illegal graffiti removal from recurrent maintenance budgets, although, \$20,000 has been allocated for the removal of illegal graffiti from private premises.

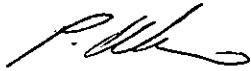
Other Initiatives

- Local Juvenile Justice Teams have been utilised since 2001 to paint out illegal graffiti on Council owned bus shelters and amenity buildings as part of the Community Service Order Scheme.
- Building Operations Section continues to collect location and cost of removal information with respect to illegal graffiti removed by the section and this is now recorded in a common database.
- Gosford City Council has worked with a range of community groups and individuals to introduce aerosol art, and other artform murals on public infrastructure that is continuously targeted by illegal graffiti. This includes water tanks, community facilities, bus shelters, underpasses and blank walls. Aerosol art, and other art form murals have proven to be extremely effective with deterring further incidence of illegal graffiti.

For clarification on any of the above issues, please contact Council's Team Leader Community Partnerships, Ms Sue Verhoek, on 43258222.

I hope this information proves useful to the Standing Committee with their inquiry into the effects of illegal graffiti on public infrastructure.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Wilson', written in a cursive style.

Péter Wilson
General Manager