

In reply please quote: G07-28-003 (14)

Contact: William Manners on 9725 0389

7 May 2010

Standing Committee on Public Works
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam

**SUBMISSION TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY'S STANDING COMMITTEE
ON PUBLIC WORKS INQUIRY INTO THE EFFECTS OF GRAFFITI ON PUBLIC
INFRASTRUCTURE**

Council appreciates being offered the opportunity to submit to this inquiry. Council would like to offer the following information and looks forward to receiving in the Committee's findings. Council is still at the stage of developing a range of strategies on graffiti.

In response to the Committee's particular interests: The economic impact to the community is significant, with estimated costs to Council in 2009 of \$359,000 for graffiti and other associated vandalism.

Fairfield City Council does not currently have an endorsed strategic policy on graffiti, although it is evaluating the cost and effect of the various programmes, methods and materials being used to address the challenges faced in this area. Council is coordinating graffiti removal programmes using contracted experts in this field.

Council is looking at alternative approaches to dealing with graffiti, including murals and street art as a way of engaging young people, while enhancing the visual amenity of appropriate locations within the local government area. Council participated in the Attorney Generals beat graffiti scheme to produce aerosol art murals at locations such as the Bonnyrigg Skate Park. These programmes successfully engaged young people with respected aerosol artists. The long term effect on reduction of graffiti is currently being monitored. (Please see attached) Funding for such projects is beneficial as a pilot program and assists in developing ongoing management of this issue.

Council uses a variety of sacrificial and non-sacrificial coatings over a variety of existing building materials in an effort to reduce the damage and use of chemical removers. In addition, Council advocates the use of an environmentally sensitive approach and a strict adherence to OHS regarding all aspects of its graffiti removal programmes.

7 May 2010

I trust this information is of assistance. Should you require any further information regarding this matter, please contact William Manners, Civil Assets Engineer on (02) 9725 0389

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deborah Sandars', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Deborah Sandars
Executive Manager City Services

Encl.

Less graffiti mess visible in city



Graffiti art allowed: Simon Grima, owner of Bonnyng Tyres, has a different approach to graffiti. He has allowed graffiti murals on the side wall of his business for several years. He recently worked with Fairfield Council to commission this artwork to promote the Bring It On! youth festival held at Fairfield Showground last month.

Picture: Wesley Lonergan

By **Stacey Vanoska**

VOLUNTEERS donned gloves, picked up their buckets and rags and got to work on Sunday, scrubbing out unsightly scrawl at "graffiti hotspots" in Edensor Park, Carramar, Fairfield and Willawood.

The volunteers were participants in Australia's first Graffiti Action Day, an event organised by the NSW Attorney-General's office.

Fairfield Council also got on board after recognising that the rapid removal of graffiti helped to prevent further graffiti in affected locations.

The council initiated the Graffiti Paint Out Program in partnership with the Department of Juvenile Justice. The program gets youths to paint over existing graffiti, reducing vandalism at parks and other public facilities.

Attorney-General John Hatzistergos thanked the volunteers for helping to make the inaugural Graffiti Action Day a success.

"Everybody who rolled up their sleeves and lent a hand on Sunday for Graffiti Action Day showed real pride in their local community," he said.

"They pitched in to make their neighbourhoods cleaner and safer places to live and sent a clear

message to graffiti vandals that they've had enough."

Residents are encouraged to notify Fairfield Council of problem graffiti locations: 9725 0222.

Do you have a problem with graffiti? Tell us online.



Bolivia Park Mural (2004)

A specific success story of an aerosol art project is the Bolivia Park mural painted in 2004. The mural was created by the Youth Team of Cabramatta Community Centre in partnership with Council. 'Spice' was the mural artist and she worked with local young people.

The design process involved liaising with Simon, the owner of the shop wall on which the mural was painted:

- Simon proposed the idea of 'peace' and 'nature', and wanted to enhance the positive community activities which happen in the park, such as daily tai chi.
- The owner reviewed the concepts prepared by Spice and endorsed the final design.
- The owner referred to the existing murals of trees/gardens/birds in Ashfield Town Centre as his desired approach for a design.

The mural was painted in 2004. In the six years that it was on display, it had *never been tagged* (building renovations in early 2010 meant that the mural was demolished). It is important to note that the principles of the project which lead to its success, and which would be used in future Council projects, are:

- A respectful, collaborative process which involves the business owner
- The project was facilitated by a respected aerosol artist.



