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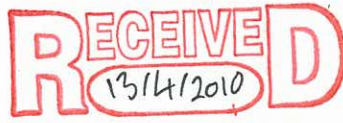
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Contact: Greg Piconi

Reference: S03516  
6 April 2010



Standing Committee on Public Works  
Parliament House  
6 Macquarie St  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ninos Khoshaba MP

#### GRAFFITI VANDALISM

I refer to the letter from the Chair of the Committee on Public Works with regard to the effects of graffiti on public infrastructure.

Please find attached Council's draft Graffiti Policy.

Ku-ring-gai Council spends approximately \$150,000 per annum on the removal of graffiti and other vandalism. This is an unnecessary cost burden on Councils.

Council has also supported and engaged the assistance of several Rotary Groups throughout the council area to remove graffiti on private property for which Council is not responsible to maintain. To establish these groups, Council spent \$70,000 on an initial clean up of graffiti on private property and provided initial funding and equipment for the Rotary Groups.

If you require any additional information please contact me on (02) 9424 0796 or by email [gpiconi@kmc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:gpiconi@kmc.nsw.gov.au).

Yours faithfully,

Greg Piconi  
Director – Operations.

Enclosure

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## **KU-RING-GAI COUNCIL – Draft Graffiti Policy**

### **Background**

This policy has been formulated in recognition of the continuing prevalence of graffiti within Ku-ring-gai. The presence of graffiti is of ongoing concern to the general community as well as to Council, both for its adverse impact on the environment, streetscape and for the cost in removal.

### **Purpose of the policy**

This policy provides Council with a framework through which to respond to the proliferation of graffiti in Ku-ring-gai. It provides a set of principles covering the removal of current and future graffiti from public places, and prescribes actions and conditions that may contribute to a reduction in the amount of new graffiti.

### **Scope of the policy**

The policy provides guidelines for Council in responding to graffiti on Council property. Because Council cannot compel private landowners to remove graffiti, it is largely dependent on public cooperation, goodwill and financial capacity to achieve an overall reduction of graffiti in Ku-ring-gai.

### **Objectives of the policy**

- To enhance the built and natural environment by reducing the incidence of graffiti within Ku-ring-gai.
- To remove graffiti as quickly as practicable as a strict deterrent.
- To work with neighbouring Councils and the other tiers of government in reducing graffiti.
- To work with the Police, the community and government agencies in identifying graffiti offenders and in dealing with them via legal and other means such as training or community service programs.
- To develop a partnership with the local community to reduce graffiti that involves young people as partners and advisors in reducing graffiti.
- To support proactive education strategies that are designed to decrease the incidence of graffiti.

## **Policy principles**

Council recognises the following principles:

- the value of programs which focus on the prevention of graffiti before it occurs as being complementary to those aimed at removing it once it has been applied.
- the need for a continuing program to remove graffiti from its own property and to encourage its removal from private property.
- that all measures taken to remove graffiti need to be cost effective.
- the importance of developing and maintaining community partnerships to assist in the effort to reduce graffiti. This particularly applies to the reporting of graffiti and the identifying of potential legal artwork sites.
- that any strategy to reduce the incidence of graffiti should contain an enforcement element so as to ensure that serious offenders are appropriately dealt with through the proper legal channels.
- Council will involve young people in its anti-graffiti program.
- the need to help enforce an environment in which young people are valued and their needs are integral to local planning. Such actions support an environment where graffiti is minimised.

## **Removal**

Council will remove graffiti from the following:

1. Council property;
2. Community leasehold sites – free of charge to the lessee

Council, where possible, will encourage property owners to remove graffiti from private property.

Council staff and contractors are to remove graffiti in accordance with the following removal timeframes. This policy also applies to graffiti on bus shelters that are maintained by Council's contractor.

### **PRIORITY 1**

- Removal with 24 hours  
Applies to sites with obscene, racist or other offensive material.

## **PRIORITY 2**

- Removal within 3 to 5 working days  
Applies to sites with a large amount of graffiti and/or highly visible sites.

## **PRIORITY 3**

- Removal within 10 working days  
Applies to sites of low visibility and small amounts of graffiti.

Council does not undertake removal of graffiti on private property but can assist with the removal subject to the agreement of the property owner for any obscene or offensive material. All private property graffiti removals are excluded from the priority listing due to the time taken to gain written consent from the owner.

### **Responsibilities**

The Community and Operations departments will work together on graffiti prevention initiatives.

The Community Directorate will develop and communicate graffiti prevention initiatives and include an educational component in any youth services activities associated with graffiti/aerosol art projects.

Council will also support educational programs which are conducted in schools based on anti-graffiti education awareness and prevention programs.

The Operations department is responsible for graffiti removal in accordance with the removal timeframes, and for developing the necessary operational procedures to support the removal requirements.

Funding for the removal of graffiti on Council owned property will be provided from the Building Maintenance Recurrent Budget.

### **Related Policies and Plans/Legislation**

Public Art Policy.

Graffiti is identified as a crime under the Crimes Act 1900 and the Summary Offences Act 1988.

### **Reporting**

Council staff are encouraged to report graffiti to the Building Maintenance Section.

Council supports a working partnership with the local Police and Community Safety Groups to encourage the reporting of graffiti offenders.

### **Murals**

Murals on Council property are covered under the Public Art Policy. All requests regarding murals and other artwork must be referred to the Director Community.

### **Document owner**

Director Community is the owner of the Graffiti Policy.