



Michael Daley MP  
**Minister for Police**

RECEIVED  
13/5/10

10 MAY 2010

The Hon Ninos Khoshaba  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Public Works  
PUBWORKS@parliament.nsw.gov.au

M105419

Dear Mr Khoshaba, *Ninos*

The NSW Police Force fights graffiti as part of a broader Government anti-graffiti strategy. The NSW Government recognises that graffiti is a serious problem that has to be dealt with by the whole community.

For its part, the NSW Police Force responds to all reported incidents of malicious damage to public property and makes every effort to identify and charge the persons responsible.

As you may be aware, responsibility for cleaning up graffiti and litter are largely matters for councils, who coordinate clean-ups, issue infringement notices to persons found littering and provide graffiti clean-up equipment and supplies.

Local councils are allowed to remove graffiti from the publicly accessible parts of private premises without the owner's consent. This helps to speed up the removal of graffiti.

I understand that some Local Area Commands together with Police and Community Youth Clubs (PCYCs) also participate in community paint-outs where graffiti is painted over and thus removed as an eyesore from public places.

Children's Courts are able to direct young persons to perform graffiti removal work as part of their Community Service Order. Many young people have also undertaken graffiti removal as part of their Youth Justice Conference outcome plan.

Community clean-up orders are also being introduced to allow offenders to be ordered to participate in community clean-up work instead of receiving a fine for graffiti offences.

The Government established an Anti-Graffiti Action Team to help police, local councils and other agencies to jointly address graffiti issues. The Team conducted a review of graffiti-related legislation, resulting in the introduction of the *Graffiti Control Act 2008* in February 2009 which consolidated existing laws and made possession offences apply to all graffiti implements.

Governor Macquarie Tower  
1 Farrer Place  
Sydney NSW 2000

Phone: 02 9228 5665  
Fax: 02 9228 5699  
E-mail: office@daley.minister.nsw.gov.au



The NSW Government is continuing to take steps to tackle the blight of graffiti by:

- Launching Graffiti Action Day on the 2 May 2010;
- Prohibiting the sale of spray cans to under 18s;
- Banning the possession of spray cans by young people unless they have a legitimate reason;
- Giving courts the option to issue community clean up orders instead of fines for graffiti offences, requiring the offender to clean up graffiti;
- Doubling imprisonment penalties for vandalism and possession of graffiti implements under the *Graffiti Control Act*;
- "Designing out graffiti" by making planners of all new state government buildings take graffiti and crime prevention measures into consideration; and
- Launching a \$1 million graffiti hotspot annual grants program to fund graffiti prevention design treatments.

The ongoing work of the Anti-Graffiti Action Team will remain under the scrutiny of the Government. Police also work jointly with Railcorp in the Rail Vandalism Task Force, established to combat graffiti across the rail network.

The Police Assistance Line allows citizens to report incidents of graffiti and access information on anti-graffiti resources in their area. All reports are passed onto police officers where action is appropriate.

A list of graffiti initiatives presently being undertaken by the NSW Police Force is also attached for your information (**Attachment A**).

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Michael Daley MP  
Minister for Police.

## **NSW POLICE FORCE: GRAFFITI INITIATIVES**

The NSW Police Force has undertaken a number of successful programs focussed on young people to help reduce youth crime and to prevent re-offending. For example, through its Teenagers Volunteering Time initiative, young people are able to do more for the community or victims of their crimes.

This program was established by a youth liaison officer at Windsor Local Area Command who, while working with young offenders through the cautioning process or Youth Justice Conference, recognised their need to say sorry. Supported by their parents, these young people volunteer to remove graffiti in the local area. It is organised and supervised by the local youth liaison officer.

The Miranda and Sutherland Local Area Commands have developed a "Get a Grip" program (Graffiti Removal and Intervention Program) which consists of three components.

The first, on 28 April 2010, comprised of an information session focusing on the personal, social and financial effects of graffiti. The second, which took place on Graffiti Action Day on 2 May 2010, involved graffiti removal and a 'paint out' session in the Caringbah central business district.

On 5 May a further education session examining the importance of not re-offending took place, with a speech given by Mr Jonathan Benica, an amputee following a railway vandalism incident.

The Blacktown Local Area Command is also participating in a trial designed to combat graffiti. The trial aims to test a new approach that will see one organisation (the local Council) taking responsibility for managing graffiti removal from all government assets in a specified area.

Community Safety Precinct Committees (CSPCs) provide an opportunity for local Councils and community members to meet with Police Local Area Commanders and share their perspective on local crime and safety issues.

It provides the opportunity for community members and business owners to get involved in strategies designed to address local crime concerns, including graffiti. It also provides an opportunity for Local Area Commanders to promote accurate local crime information and raise awareness of crime prevention approaches.

The purpose of CSPCs is to:

- Ensure Local Area Commanders are communicating to their local communities;
- Encourage community partnerships to reduce crime and the fear of crime;
- Develop local solutions to local crime in partnership with local stakeholders;
- Improve public safety and reduce the fear of crime at a local level;
- Raise understanding of the relationship between policing and crime reduction; and

## **Attachment A**

- Ensure Commanders take into account local community views on police visibility, police deployment and crime hotspots when deciding police tasking and deployment.