



1. Social and economic impact of graffiti on public infrastructure:-

The economic impact of graffiti on public infrastructure is huge. The amount of money that is spent fixing the tagging on trains, buses, and public infrastructure is huge. There are two types of graffiti. One is the costly tagging of initials or insignia (if you like) which is destructive and causes all the problems. The other type is paintings, characters, works of art which are artistic, colourful, talented and very useful. If we can channel the first one then we are going in the right direction. Channeling means making the taggers pay for the stupid tagging. There is no "tagging" in Japan. In Japan, the fines are very high for graffiti as well as the stigma attached to doing it. The shame brought on families doing it, is very high. You travel around Japan and there just isn't any graffiti. Japan has a zero tolerance to Graffiti. What if Australia was like that?

The social impact is that most people hate the tagging. It is unsightly, a mess, and continually needs cleaning up. The cost of the continual clean up is very high. For visitors coming from overseas to see the trains, buses, buildings that have graffiti on them, what does this say about our country. What sort of opinion is formed by them?

Is it socially acceptable to do tagging? There is a whole culture around doing graffiti. What purpose does it achieve? Why is it done? Our society has said that it is socially acceptable to do tagging. Why? We haven't placed enough emphasis on the penalties attached to doing it, or the social responsibility. We have allowed the culture to develop. It certainly is a culture. The fact that we have Railway Police that concentrate on Graffiti gangs. They have photo albums full of pictures of tagging. So where would be the biggest economic

problem. It would have to be railways, carriages and the walls around railway stations. The cost to the taxpayer is huge.

2) Anti Graffiti policies and practices to protect public infrastructure.

I don't think our policies follow our practices. As a nation we really don't like the tagging on buildings, trains, buses, public infrastructure yet our practices don't support our policies. Just the fact of having this Inquiry would suggest that there are so many different views on the issues. If we had harsher Policies Practices and Procedures on how to deal with taggers it would be create a different culture. Policies and Procedures could start with schools. Very little work is being done at that level.

Are the current fines high enough for the deterrent to not do graffiti? I suspect not or there wouldn't be the need to still do it. If it was higher with fines, there would be more likelihood it would decrease the need to do it.

The National Day for cleaning up Graffiti is a great start to raising the awareness, making people think more about it, getting people who do it to realise the cost and consequences. Perhaps under "Youth Week" activities in April each year more activities, debates, forums, could be run on this I believe that local Government / Councils could / should play a larger role in organising appropriate walls for good pictures to be done. I think that all levels of Government have a larger role to play in more co-ordination of activities, resources needs to happen across Government infrastructure.

3) Anti-Graffiti practises such as mural painting programs employed by NSW State and local Government agencies.

There needs to be better co-ordination and develop

of mural painting programs. Local Government and State Government should be working together to develop sustainable projects that work in harmony with State Rail Authority Walls. Some good graffiti on walls near Stations have happened at Auburn, Campbelltown etc. and there would be a number of Local Government areas that have good examples of graffiti walls. One must make sure that you engage the Local Community, Artists, elders, community leaders, Police, etc to have a united approach and its really about ownership of these projects. Not doing this will allow tagging and rubbish all over the nice pictures.

The use of C.S.O. Community Service Orders and Work for the Dole Projects can be a big help. Campbelltown Council have a bus and use C.S.O. and Work for The Dole to clean up the Graffiti in residential areas. This is a good thing. Too often councils are using Commercial Cleaners specialising in Graffiti removal. Perhaps the taggers should be more responsible overall. Difficult to catch. Probably. Each tagger has their mark. It doesn't take too long to establish the tagger's tag.

Pressure pack cans and the sale of these to unders 18's. The under 18's just get someone else to buy them for them anyway. They are not cheap and sometimes people have to save up for weeks to buy them.

There could be more education done at Schools on Graffiti. More graffiti "legal" walls could be set up at schools. Some are doing it, There needs to be more.

④ Graffiti resistant finishes and other building materials suitable for public infrastructure?

Although the resistant finishes are expensive it would be worth putting onto the public infrastructure buildings that are targetted. It does make it easier

to clean the buildings with the resistant finisher.

5) Anti-Graffiti approaches taken in other jurisdictions to protect public infrastructure:-

Hobart Council have allocated Underground Caves for Graffiti murals - This is an excellent idea. Using a resource that is out of site to have it as an exhibition area that is subtle. Not in anyones face.

The Secretary of Public Safety in Mexico City at the Azteca Stadium allowed a mural to be built - "A face" to add to its building infrastructure.

We need to get smart about turning the negatives of tagging into a positive of good art attractive murals that people take pride in and enjoy. All levels of Government and the Community "Not-for-Profit" sector need to work together to develop innovative programs that are beneficial to the community and people who do "murals."

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