GRAFFITI MANAGEMENT PLAN

2013 – 2018

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1   OVERVIEW

1.1   AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO COMMUNITY SAFETY

Council's commitment to developing and maintaining communities where everyone feels safe is outlined in the City of Greater Dandenong Community Safety Plan 2011-2014, *A Safer Greater Dandenong.* The strategy provides a comprehensive and integrated approach, defining community safety as:

> *A safe community is where people want to live, work and interact with one another. It is where homes, workplaces, public transport, community spaces and neighbourhoods are welcoming and people trust one another, feel safe and are free from harm. Community safety is therefore more than policing and crime. It has a connection with many aspects of community life and wellbeing.*

One of the four strategies in the document relates to developing safer public spaces. This includes planning and designing safer urban environments to promote community participation. This has particular relevance for graffiti management.

1.2   MANAGING GRAFFITI ACROSS THE MUNICIPALITY

Managing graffiti is part of developing safer public spaces across the municipality. This *Graffiti Management Plan 2013-2018* builds on the effective work, which Council has undertaken over the past ten years. It outlines the specific actions which Council will carry out in relation to controlling graffiti. A whole-of-community approach is at the core of the actions – working with local communities to take an active role in preventing graffiti and engaging local residents and businesses in working together to reduce the incidence of graffiti across the municipality.

Graffiti is a world-wide problem. Municipalities across Australia, and internationally, have found that the most effective approach to managing this problem is to develop and implement a coordinated and comprehensive approach. Importantly, this recognises that graffiti management is an integral part of developing and maintaining community safety. Councils, which are the most proactive and have experienced the greatest reduction in graffiti, are those where a range of strategies have been developed in partnership with key stakeholders. This includes engagement of police, Council officers, offenders and the community.

In particular, this Graffiti Management Plan proposes strategies and increased resources to address the incidence of graffiti on private property, to complement the existing approach to managing graffiti on public property. It aims to continue to build and maintain safe neighbourhoods across the municipality. This includes encouraging communities to work in partnership with Council.

2   CONTEXT

2.1   WHAT IS GRAFFITI

Graffiti refers to the act of marking property with writing, symbols or graphics[1]. Consistent with the approach of the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) and the Victorian Graffiti Prevention Act 2007, illegal graffiti is defined, as:

> *"The writing, drawing, marking, scratching or other defacement of other people's property without their consent, so that it is not easily removed."*

In Greater Dandenong, Local Law No.2, 2011 defines graffiti as "*any form of unauthorised writing or drawing.*"

Graffiti is a worldwide problem. It affects the visual appearance of communities, influences perceptions of public safety and its removal and prevention is costly to communities (Department of Justice, Crime Prevention Strategies). A more detailed overview is attached at Appendix 1.

The most common problem in City of Greater Dandenong is "*tagger graffiti*", with over 80% of graffiti removal resources targeted to tags. Taggers want to be seen in as many places as possible and generally have an identifiable individual tag. They are usually aged between 12 and 25 years old, are often motivated by status, and peer recognition. Taggers use aerosol paints, felt tip pens to mark surfaces or scratch into surfaces to deface them.

Figure 1:   Examples of Tags

2.2   LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

2.2.1   GRAFFITI PREVENTION ACT 2007

The *Graffiti Prevention Act 2007 (Victoria)* was developed to reduce the incidence of graffiti by:
- Creating graffiti-related offences, relating to the marking of graffiti and the advertising, purchase and possession of graffiti implements; and
- Providing search and seizure powers for members of the police force.

The Act recognises graffiti as a crime and acknowledges its potential severity through penalties. The offence of marking graffiti attracts maximum fines of more than $29,000 and up to two years imprisonment.

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[1] Weisel, 2002 and White, 2001 in Morgan and Louis, 2009

Under this Act, it is illegal in Victoria to:

- Mark publicly visible graffiti on property without the owner's consent;

- Sell spray paint to someone under the age of 18 unless they have proven it is needed for employment purposes;

- Possess a graffiti implement with the intention of marking unlawful graffiti;

- Possess, without lawful excuse, a spray paint can while on or adjacent to public transport property, or when trespassing; and

- Advertise spray paint cans for sale, if the advertisement is likely and intended to incite or promote unlawful graffiti (www.crimeprevention.vic.gov.au).

The Act indicates that Councils may take any action necessary to remove or obliterate graffiti on private property if the graffiti is visible from a public place. Legislative changes in 2010 strengthened the privacy control aspects of the Act, consistent with privacy laws. This means that Council's authority to remove graffiti from private property is restricted and the processes to do this are now more complex.

2.2.2   LOCAL LAW NO. 2, 2011

Municipal Amenity, Clause 9 places an obligation on property owners/occupiers to keep their property free of graffiti.

3   LEARNING FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF OTHERS

3.1   EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES TO REDUCE GRAFFITI: THE RESEARCH EVIDENCE

The Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) has identified several useful ideas to guide the development and implementation of graffiti prevention initiatives (Morgan and Louis, 2009). Strategies to reduce graffiti should:

- Recognise that there are different types of graffiti and graffiti offenders and the complex motivations for participating in the production of graffiti;

- Be based on the nature of the problem locally;

- Target the local "*hot-spots*";

- Incorporate multiple interventions that draw upon social and environmental approaches to crime prevention;

- Aim to find a balance between prevention and more punitive responses;

- Establish mechanisms to facilitate better reporting of graffiti;

- Assist in detection and apprehension of graffiti offenders; and

- Collate and analyse data which assists in understanding the nature and extent of the problem and can measure the impact.

In order to reduce crime, the AIC indicates that the following points should be remembered:

- The Police alone cannot control crime and disorder;

- No single agency can control crime and disorder;

- Agencies with a contribution to reducing crime and disorder need to work in partnership;

- Evidence-based problem solving approaches promise the most effective tactic for reducing crime and disorder;

- Problems of crime and disorder are complex, and there is, therefore, no panacea; and

- Crime and disorder problems need to be understood in their local contexts and strategies, and need to be tailored locally. (*Source: Australian Institute of Criminology*)

3.2   FRAMEWORK FOR GRAFFITI MANAGEMENT

City of Greater Dandenong's approach is consistent with the approach undertaken by cities and local governments in Victoria, across Australia and internationally. Councils, which are the most proactive and have experienced the greatest reduction in graffiti, are those where a range of strategies have been developed in partnership with key stakeholders. Importantly, these approaches are consistent with the City of Greater Dandenong approach – the four Es: *Erase*, *Enforce*, *Engage* and *Educate*.

4   GRAFFITI MANAGEMENT IN GREATER DANDENONG

4.1   ERASE STRATEGIES

The strategies that have been in place for the removal of graffiti in City of Greater Dandenong over the past five years are:
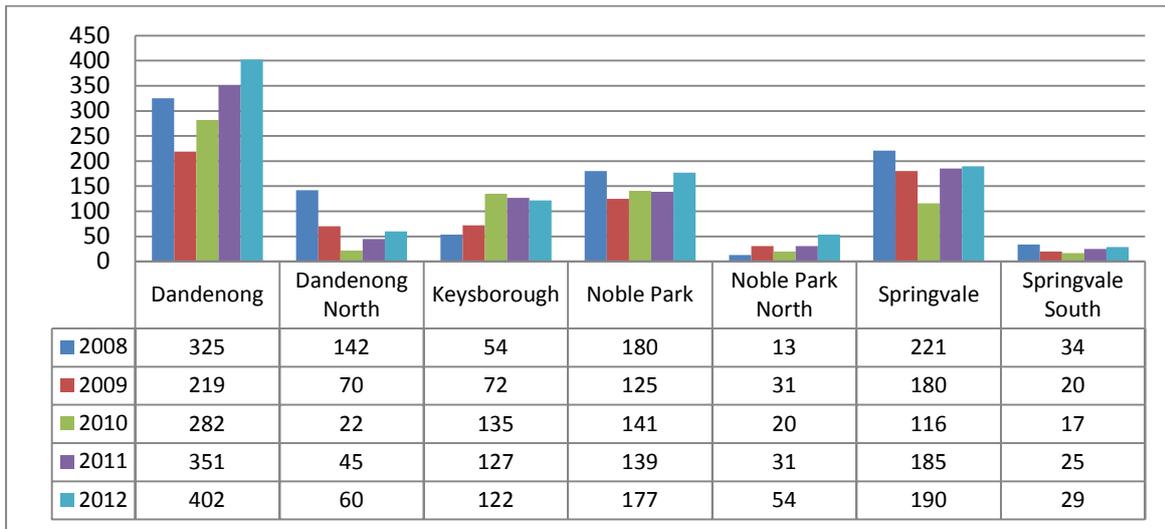
- Graffiti is removed from Council assets across the municipality by a contractor;

- Council provides graffiti removal kits free-of-charge to residents whose properties have been damaged by graffiti (private property). Residents are encouraged to report the damage to the Police. In 2012, 73 kits were provided to residents. From the end of May 2013, these kits have been made more accessible to residents through locating them at Customer Service Centres; and

- Council has established a "*user pays*" system with its graffiti removalist contractor. Property owners can phone the contractor and pay for removal with a credit card over the phone.

Figure 2 below shows the number of incidents of graffiti removal across the municipality from 2008-2012 by suburb. This data, obtained from Council's contractor, indicates that greatest number of incidents occurs in Dandenong, followed by Springvale: the two most populous suburbs.

Over the five-year period, there were increases in incidents in Dandenong, Keysborough and Noble Park North, while there was a decrease in Dandenong North. Noble Park and Springvale South remained steady over the period while there was a slight decrease in Springvale. In 2009, CCTV was placed in the retail activity centre in Dandenong North, which may explain the decrease in graffiti in this area in the period immediately following this installation. However, the data indicate that over time, the incidents of graffiti have increased slightly.

There are some variations as to when graffiti occurs. In some years, increases were experienced in school holiday periods, but not consistently. Feedback from police and the contractors indicates that spikes in graffiti at different times can be attributed to a handful of taggers who saturate an area with their tags, so a small number of active offenders can cause numbers to escalate.

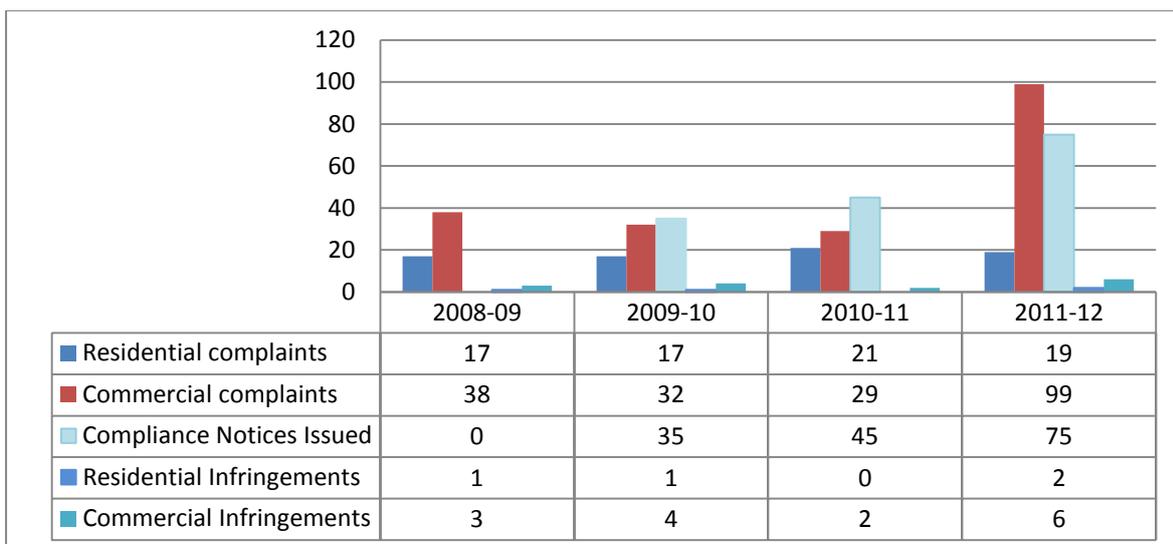**Figure 2: Incidents of graffiti removal, 2008-2012 by suburb**

	Dandenong	Dandenong North	Keysborough	Noble Park	Noble Park North	Springvale	Springvale South
■ 2008	325	142	54	180	13	221	34
■ 2009	219	70	72	125	31	180	20
■ 2010	282	22	135	141	20	116	17
■ 2011	351	45	127	139	31	185	25
■ 2012	402	60	122	177	54	190	29

Source: UMS, City of Greater Dandenong

4.2   ENFORCEMENT STRATEGIES

Figure 3 indicates the number of complaints received in relation to graffiti on private property for 2008-09 through to 2011-2012 and the compliance notices and infringements (fines) for these properties. The data indicates that there was an increase in complaints received during 2011/12 compared to the previous three years, with a corresponding increase in compliance notices issued.

The number of infringements issued was low, with just two for residential properties in 2011/12 and six for commercial properties. Table 1 shows the total for four-year period. The data indicated there was a significant increase in the complaints received about graffiti on commercial properties in 2011/2012 but all other categories remained relatively stable (see Figure 3).

Figure 3: Complaints, compliance notices and infringements for private property, 2008/09 to 2011/12

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
■ Residential complaints	17	17	21	19
■ Commercial complaints	38	32	29	99
□ Compliance Notices Issued	0	35	45	75
■ Residential Infringements	1	1	0	2
■ Commercial Infringements	3	4	2	6

Source: UMS

Table 1: Total complaints, compliance notices and infringements for private property, 2008/09 to 2011/12

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Total complaints	55	49	50	118
Compliance notices issued	0	35	45	75
Infringements	4	5	2	8
It is important to note that Police have a critical role to play in relation to enforcement, as graffiti is a crime. It is the role of the Police to apprehend and charge offenders.				

4.3   EDUCATE AND ENGAGE: PREVENTATIVE STRATEGIES

It is important to note that a community strengthening approach underpins the actions in the Educate and Engage areas of the Plan. As the management of graffiti is based on a partnership approach, Council cannot be the sole body responsible for the prevention and removal of graffiti.

Activities that aim to build resilience, civic pride and a place-based approach to graffiti removal will complement the efforts of Council and its service providers. The most effective strategies for preventing graffiti in the municipality have been those which focus on environmental design (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design, known as CPTED). Strategies include:

- Incorporating CPTED principles in all public and private spaces and buildings where possible;
- Ensuring that spaces are well lit;
- Minimising extensive blank walls, *e.g.* by using climbing plants as cover, although this can be difficult where the walls abut footpaths & roadways;
- Keeping spaces neat and clean;
- Using landscaping, where appropriate; and
- Passive surveillance and activity to deter graffiti vandalism.

Other initiatives which will engage the local community, service clubs, trader groups and community groups such as Neighbourhood Watch are noted in the Action Plan. There is provision for community involvement through 'Clean-Up Days' in key locations around the municipality that provide an opportunity for the community to be engaged actively in graffiti removals.

The City of Greater Dandenong has a good history of attracting grant funding for specific graffiti removal and engagement activities and it is expected that seeking contributory funding for community projects will continue.

With the increasing uptake of digital information and social media, Council's website can be utilised to provide video links and simple instructional information formats which will assist residents to prevent and treat graffiti. These media forms will be increasingly utilised to assist in the education of residents regarding ways to tackle a range of issues, from prevention, design solutions and home graffiti removal.

Young people from 10 to 25 years are acknowledged as being the prime graffiti offenders. Youth Services play a role in encouraging discussion and providing information about the impacts of graffiti offending and likely consequences.

In recent times, the prevalence of graffiti mural or 'pieces' has all but disappeared as an issue, however the level of tagging is a concern and a high proportion of graffiti that is removed can be attributed to a small number of persistent young offenders. Continued discussions with Police and youth agencies, and advocacy for increased Police resources are noted as key actions in this area.

5   ACTION PLAN

5.1   KEY PRINCIPLES

Consistent with the research and approaches to effective management of graffiti in Australia and internationally, prevention and management of graffiti needs to be seen within the context of developing safer neighbourhoods and environments. Consequently, City of Greater Dandenong's *Graffiti Management Plan* (GMP) is an operational plan of the broader *Community Safety Plan.*

5.2   THE FRAMEWORK AND ACTION AREAS

The framework that underpins the Plan reflects national and international best practice in graffiti management. Specifically, this focuses on four priority areas – the four Es, as outlined in Table 2.

Table 2: The four Es of graffiti management

Enforce	Erase	Engage	Educate
Offenders sanctioned	**Rapid Removal**	**Community action**	**Information provision**
• Advocate for and support enforcement of sanctions for graffiti-related property crime offences	• Remove graffiti from all Council assets	• Build community capacity to address graffiti and safety related amenity issues	• Build community capacity to develop local solutions • Educate the community about managing graffiti - report, remove, prevent

5.3   KEY PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

5.3.1   ENFORCE ACTIONS

Council officers will continue to advocate for and work collaboratively with Victoria Police in relation to reporting graffiti and supporting Police activity aimed at ensuring that offenders can be apprehended and charged with offences.

Promotion of a smart phone application will be progressed, and will enable residents to quickly and easily report incidents. The application will link to and be available on Council's website.

In a small range of situations where there is graffiti on private property, Council will continue to use existing Local Law provisions to require owners to remove that graffiti. These situations include:

1. Graffiti that is visible from and accessible from public places, where the property owner has objected, in writing, to Council removing such graffiti;

2. Graffiti that is visible from but not accessible from public places, where the property owner has refused permission for Council to enter the property and remove that graffiti; and

3. Graffiti that is visible from but not accessible from public places because of the height of the location of that graffiti.

5.3.2   ERASE ACTIONS

The priorities for removal of graffiti for the next five years are:

1. Continued, regular monitoring and timely removal of graffiti from Council assets.

2. Monitoring and removal of graffiti from all properties in key public, high visible locations across the municipality as defined by agreed criteria. These will be identified by council officers in consultation with Council's contractor and will include:

    - All properties on arterial roads, except for State and Federal Government assets where the graffiti is accessible without having to enter the property (Removal of graffiti from these properties will be the responsibility of these agencies.) Permission from owners will be required prior to removal;

    - Our three main shopping centre precincts and secondary level neighbourhood shopping centres; and

    - Other prominent buildings and hoardings where the graffiti is accessible without having to enter the property.

3. All offensive graffiti will be removed by the Council contractor, where the graffiti is accessible without having to enter the property, except where the graffiti vandalism occurs on other government or utility authority assets. In these instances, they will be reported to the asset manager for removal.

4. A free clean up is provided once annually for all other commercial and residential properties when the graffiti can be viewed from the public domain and does not require entry onto private property in order to undertake the removal.

5. For ongoing graffiti incidents on commercial and private properties, removal by Council's contractor will be offered to property owners. The rate will be set by the contractor and will be a commercial transaction between the property owner and the contractor. Graffiti removal kits will also be provided free-of-charge to residents who wish to remove the graffiti themselves. These kits will continue to be available from customer service centres.

6. Where cases of genuine hardship are evident, for example if a recipient of Council's home care services, residents will be provided with greater than one free graffiti removal per annum.

5.3.3   EDUCATE ACTIONS

Actions focussing on education within the community regarding graffiti include:
- Make graffiti prevention information widely available;
- Investigation of digital media as a mechanism for informing the community;
- Community capacity building and opportunities for community involvement; and
- Continued focus on safer design and CPTED guidelines.

5.3.4   ENGAGE ACTIONS

Actions focussing on engaging the community in prevention of graffiti include:
- Community Clean Up Days;
- Exploring opportunities for local community-led graffiti removal and prevention activities and initiatives; and
- Providing information to young people about graffiti laws and the repercussions of offending behaviour.

5.3.5   MONITORING

The actions in the Plan will be reviewed annually, assessing whether there have been any changes in the incidence of graffiti, taking into account the revised priorities for removal. A summary report on graffiti removal data and trends will be provided to Council annually.

5.4   KEY ACTION AREA: ENFORCE

Goal 1: Advocate for and support enforcement of sanctions for graffiti-related property crime offences

Key Actions	Responsibility	Timeline	Outcome Measure
Advocate for increased police resources to respond to repeat offenders, including a shared database	Victoria Police Council	Ongoing	Advocacy strategy in place
Advocate for increased enforcement activity in identified hotspots	Council Victoria Police Community Safety Advisory Committee	Ongoing	Advocacy strategy in place Police patrols in hotspot areas increased
Improve local information sharing between Victoria Police, Council and Magistrates' Court regarding graffiti-related offences	Community Safety Advisory Committee Victoria Police Department of Justice	Ongoing	Graffiti management actions are reflected in Council's Community Safety Plan 2014-2018
Enforce Local Laws in situations where private property owners are uncooperative	Council	Ongoing	Uncooperative owners encouraged to deal responsibly with graffiti

5.5   KEY ACTION AREA: ERASE

Goal 2: Remove graffiti from Council assets, commercial and private properties, in accordance with the key priorities

Key Actions	Responsibility	Timeline	Outcome Measures
Monitor the graffiti removal contract and data collection systems	Infrastructure Services Graffiti Contractor	Ongoing	Accurate graffiti removal data collected and reported annually to Council Contract is complied with according to agreed specifications
Continue to build a relationship with Corrections Victoria for removal of graffiti	Infrastructure Services Corrections Victoria	Ongoing	Corrections Victoria engaged in graffiti removal

Goal 3: Support the removal of graffiti from commercial and other private property

Key Actions	Responsibility	Timeline	Outcome Measures
Identification of key public , high visibility locations for monitoring and removal of graffiti	Infrastructure Services	December 2013	Key public, high visibility locations identified, priorities for removal established
Provide no cost removal of graffiti from affected properties once per year and establish a data base to monitor this	Infrastructure Services Graffiti Contractor	Ongoing	Data base established & analysis of removals over a 12 month period and review effectiveness of this initiative
Provide free removal kits for property owners at all customer service centres	Infrastructure Services Product supplier	Ongoing	Graffiti Removal Kits available across the municipality
Graffiti removal from private property enhanced	Regulatory Services	Ongoing	All graffiti compliance actions recorded in Council databases Criteria developed for assessment of hardship and additional services as required
Customer request system reviewed for clarity, ease-of-use and tracking	Business Systems and Contracts Regulatory Services Infrastructure Services Community Development Unit	Annually	Clearer categories, easier tracking, and user-friendly request system Customer requests resolved promptly

5.6 KEY ACTION AREA: ENGAGE

Goal 4: Build community capacity to develop local solutions

Key Actions	Responsibility	Timeline	Outcome Measures
Community Clean Up Days • Build partnership with key stakeholders to deliver Community Clean Up Days	Community Planning Unit	Yearly	One Clean Up Day conducted each year, with location determined by assessment of trends in graffiti incidences
Seek funding opportunities • Monitor and pursue appropriate funding opportunities through State and Federal Governments	Community Planning Unit	On-going	Available and appropriate funding opportunities to be pursued
Advocacy • Advocate to the State Government and other statutory agencies such as VicTrack for enhanced graffiti resources and response	**Council**	**On-going**	**Issues regarding Council's concerns about graffiti are raised in appropriate forums**
Place-based initiatives • Explore opportunities for local community-led graffiti removal and prevention activities and initiatives • Ongoing education / awareness-raising within youth population around graffiti laws and repercussions.	Community Planning Unit Youth Services	On project basis in each locality Ongoing	Community-led graffiti removal and prevention activities facilitated Information provided to identified young people around the graffiti issue

5.7   KEY ACTION AREA: EDUCATE: INFORMATION PROVISION

Goal 5: Educate the community on how to prevent, report and remove graffiti

Key Actions	Responsibility	Timeline	Outcome Measures
Make Graffiti prevention information widely available and designed in various formats • Information designed in various formats • All information available on CGD website and regularly updated • Promote existing reporting mechanisms to the community	Community Planning Unit Community Planning Unit Media and Communications Community Planning Unit	Completed September 2014 Ongoing On-going	Information developed and distributed on Council's website, Customer Service Centres and during community events Website information to include fact sheets and links to social media Key messages in community languages available in hard copy and on website Convenient ways for the community to report graffiti provided, including a mobile phone application
Investigate Digital Media Opportunities • Utilise social media platforms to distribute information regarding graffiti removal, prevention, reporting and events • Identify and promote new graffiti reporting methods	Community Planning Unit Media and Communications Infrastructure Services/Information Technology (IT)/Media & Communications	Initially September 2014 then ongoing Ongoing	Media tools developed and made available to inform the community about removal of graffiti Utilising emerging technology to explore ways for the community to report graffiti
Safer Design and CPTED guidelines • Information to be made available for commercial and residential properties	Community Planning Unit	December 2014	Information outlining CPTED principles and common-sense tips for preventing graffiti to be designed and made widely available to stakeholders
Identify areas that could incorporate innovative design solutions to prevent graffiti and provide advice to property owners in how to achieve this	Infrastructure Services Open Space Planning Community Planning Unit	March 2015	Relevant property owners involved and innovative solutions explored

6   REFERENCES

Australian Institute of Criminology (2010), *Strategies to combat graffiti, Fact Sheet,* AIC Crime reduction matters no. 81, Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology, ISSN 1448-1383, www.aic.gov.au

Callinan, R. (2002), *Dealing with Graffiti in New South Wales, Briefing paper No.8/02,* NSW Parliamentary Library Research Service, ISSN 1325-5142; ISBN 0 7313 17122, www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/WEB_FEEDPHWebContent.nsf/PHPages/LibraryPublications

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Morgan, A., Baxall, H., Lindeman, K. And Anderson, J. (2012), *Effective crime prevention interventions for implementation by local government*, AIC Reports Research and Public Policy Series 120, Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology, ISSN 1836-2079, www.aic.gov.au

Spooner, S. (2003), *Managing Graffiti and Disorder,* City of Knox: paper presented at the Graffiti and Disorder Conference convened by the Australian Institute of Criminology, Brisbane, 18-19 August, www.aic.gov.au

WEBSITES

APPROACHES BY OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Australia

City of Frankston, *Graffiti Management Plan,* www.frankston.vic.gov.au

City of Melbourne, *Graffiti Management Plan,* www.melbourne.vic.gov.au

Yarra Ranges City Council, *Graffiti Management Plan.*

City of Salisbury, *Graffiti Management Plan,* www.salisbury.sa.gov.au

Joondalup City Council, *Graffiti Management Plan,* www.joondalup.gov.au

City of Port Adelaide Enfield, *Graffiti Management Plan,* www.protenf.sa.gov.au

City of South Perth, *Graffiti Management Program*, www.southperth.wa.gov.au

City of Palmerston, *Graffiti Management Program,* www.palmerston.nt.gov.au

City of Brisbane, *Graffiti Management Plan,* www.brisbane.qld.gov.au

Waverley City Council, *Graffiti Management Plan,* www.waverley.nsw.gov.au

Blue Mountains City Council, *Graffiti Management Plan,* www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au

International

City of Edmonton, *Graffiti Management Program,* www.edmonton.ca

City of Vancouver, *Integrated Graffiti Management Program,* www.vancouver.ca

City of Toronto, *Graffiti Management Plan,* www.toronto.ca

City of Ottawa, *working together to Stop Graffiti,* www.ottawa.ca

OTHER

Department of Justice Victoria: www.crimeprevention.vic.gov.au/home/resources/action+on+graffiti

Vandaltrak: a not-for-profit organisation which has developed software for monitoring and recording incidences of graffiti. This can be downloaded as a phone application and monitored by local governments and other agencies, www.vandaltrak.com.au

APPENDIX 1: DEFINING GRAFFITI

There are many different types of graffiti and each type has a different profile. It is important to distinguish between the different types, as different management strategies and approaches are required to develop and implement appropriate responses.

Research indicates that graffiti is a complex social issue and there is a wide range of perspectives and conflicting interests between different sections of the community on its value (Morgan and Louis, 2009, referring to White, 2001). This is reflected in the management approaches and the legislation. In this context, urban art, which is often developed with the permission of the owner, can be part of the managing unsightly graffiti.

Table 3: Different types of graffiti and graffiti-related activity

Type	Purpose and profiles	Characteristics
Tagger graffiti	Notoriety, peer recognition and status Emphasis on being seen in as many places as possible Entry point to graffiti, often done by novices Often involves working in pairs or groups but with individual tags Taggers are generally aged 12-25 years Accounts for 82% of graffiti removed by Council's contractor	Quick, usually in spray paint or paint marker pen or simple throw-ups (outlines of fat bubble style lettering), pieces (murals), slogans, simple motifs Condensed calligraphic lettering, creating a special pseudonym signature (words or numbers) Highly prolific, high numbers, can escalate rapidly Frequently seen in public places with high visibility Includes 'scratchitti' (scratching or etching a surfaces, extremely costly to remove or repair)
Toilet/desk graffiti	Provides opportunity for people to participate in a public conversation or debate Done by a wide range of people	Largely involving jokes, public debate, insults and banter between anonymous contributors Content differs according to location (*e.g.* school or university desks, public toilets, bus shelters) Typically involves use of pens or scratchitti
Gang-related graffiti	Strategic and territorial Strong group activity Not necessarily associated with other criminal gang activity Facilitates strong group identity and bonding Part of larger lifestyle or involvement in a subculture Rare in Australia, including CGD	Multicoloured, complex, usually collaborative 'pieces' Highly stylised letterforms, indecipherable to the public, depicting gang / crew name Use of images and 'characters' Statements of territory; claims that this crew owns a particular neighbourhood (but may be largely symbolic) More prevalent in locations (and countries) with high levels of gang activity
Political and protest graffiti	Communicates a dissenting viewpoint, challenging the legitimacy of the current political order Can involve individual or group activity Associated with street art	Political message or comment Expressing a dissident viewpoint Typically uses legible text that is easily read or strong images Becoming characterised by use of stickers Highly emotive content (pictures of tanks, bombs, surveillance cameras, riot police, UN soldiers, refugees etc)

Type	Purpose and profiles	Characteristics
Urban art	Older participants, ranging from 15–35 years Organised, skilled activity with strong aesthetic dimension Seen as part of an international contemporary art movement The end point of a graffiti subculture 'career'; a mature and more experienced participant in graffiti culture Peer recognition, pride, aesthetic development Individually done pieces but strong social network Some property owners approve of this work and may actively seek to decorate a wall in this way	Found in some street galleries, fine art books, dedicated websites, magazines, videos (sold in specialist stores and online) Associated with hip hop culture Associated with professional development such as graphic design, screen-printing, web-design magazine illustration, entry into the high art arena in Australia and overseas Accompanied by gallery exhibitions and skate and street wear design shows Characterised by highly stylised drawing, development of signature styles and sets of characters and symbols, highly refined technique and compositions Some schools offer an Urban Art elective as part of the curriculum and is included as a legitimate course in Victorian schools

Source: Morgan and Louis, 2009, Australian Institute of Criminology