



GRAFFITI MANAGEMENT POLICY

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Strategic Objective:	Appearance of the City
Date of Adoption:	28 November, 2011
Date for Review:	June 2013
Responsible Officer:	Manager Services
Department:	Public Works and Services

GRAFFITI MANAGEMENT POLICY

1. POLICY STATEMENT

- 1.1. While Council is providing leadership in graffiti removal, graffiti management and prevention requires a collaborative approach involving Hume City Council, residents, property and infrastructure owners, the State Government and its agencies, neighbouring municipalities and other stakeholders.

2. PURPOSE

- 2.1. The Graffiti Management Policy has been formulated to enhance Hume City by minimising the impact of graffiti. This policy provides a framework that incorporates a range of actions to assist the community, residents and business to respond to the presence and incidence of graffiti.
- 2.2. Graffiti is variously described as crime, vandalism or street or aerosol art. Residents are often legitimately angry when homes, public places and open space are disfigured with graffiti.
- 2.3. Graffiti can contribute to an atmosphere of neglect and urban decay and can distort perceptions about the actual level of crime and safety. It represents an ongoing concern to the general community and incurs substantial social and economic costs to the community.

3. SCOPE

- 3.1. Council will engage with and involve the business community, community organisations, individual residents and young people as partners in reducing the incidence of graffiti and helping with the removal of graffiti.
- 3.2. Council will assume a facilitative and supportive role to assist the community remove graffiti.
- 3.3. Council is supportive of preventative approaches that will act as a deterrent to graffiti.

4. OBJECTIVE

- 4.1. To establish the broad principles which will reduce the prevalence of graffiti in Hume, reduce removal costs over the medium and longer term and allow the diversion of funds to focus on preventative, education and engagement measures.

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5. PRINCIPLES

- 5.1 The ultimate principle for Council is to eliminate graffiti altogether. Whilst this will not occur immediately the approach taken is to reduce the prevalence of graffiti based on the following principles:
 - 5.1.1 That graffiti is an issue that must be addressed through a persistent approach, focusing foremost on engagement and education, with enforcement being utilised as a last resort.
 - 5.1.2 That a range of strategies is required to reduce the incidence and prevent or minimise the occurrence of graffiti.
 - 5.1.3 That graffiti removal must be cost effective and environmentally friendly (as far as possible).

6. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Engagement

- 6.1 Council will engage all audiences and relevant stakeholders, including young people, community groups, the police, businesses and other agencies, to raise awareness of graffiti issues in the community and to work together towards possible solutions.
- 6.2 Council will consider graffiti in its wider social context in relation to the needs of young people, and will encourage and initiate programs that build on the skills of young people, engage them, and promote them in a positive light.
- 6.3 Council recognises and values the contribution that residents and young people can make to the appearance of the city through community artworks in public spaces.
- 6.4 Council may encourage the use of public art in locations that are subject to heavily repeated acts of graffiti vandalism, in order to encourage young people's ownership, skill development and a sense of pride.
- 6.5 Council will contact retailers that sell graffiti implements, such as spray cans, to raise awareness of the recent changes in law and the impact of graffiti on businesses, and to encourage and support possible sustainable solutions.

Education

- 6.6 Council will encourage the community to report graffiti to Council and other appropriate agencies by conducting public awareness information and education programs.

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- 6.7 Council will promote community pride messages and encourage the community to assist, in partnership with Council, in the removal of graffiti.
- 6.8 Council will investigate education programs within the community and schools to highlight the positive aspects of youth culture and the financial and emotional damage that results from graffiti vandalism.
- 6.9 Council will educate residents and businesses in the most effective ways to remove graffiti from their property.

Graffiti Removal

- 6.10 Council is committed to the removal of graffiti from Council assets and community property as soon as possible, upon notification.
- 6.11 Council will support and work with community members in removing graffiti from their properties through a number of specific initiatives and programs.
- 6.12 Graffiti Removal Incentive Scheme
 - 6.12.1 Council will partner with residents and businesses to support the community in graffiti removal through the following actions:
 - 6.12.1.1 Supplying residents or businesses with free Graffiti Removal Kits or vouchers for materials for self removal,
and
 - 6.12.1.2 Providing consultative advice.
 - 6.12.2 Council recognises that some residents may be unable to remove graffiti from their home and will provide assistance to residents by removing graffiti from private properties in the following circumstances:
 - 6.12.2.1 Council will remove graffiti upon request from any resident who is either a Pensioner Concession Card or Repatriation Card holder.
 - 6.12.2.2 Other residents may also apply for assistance on the grounds of special circumstances as set out in the Infringements Act 2006.
 - 6.12.2.3 Council officers or volunteers will remove graffiti from all property within the parameters of the volunteer program and in compliance with the Graffiti Prevention Act 2007.

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- 6.12.2.4 For prominent locations where, despite the cooperation of the property owner to remove the graffiti, there is an ongoing re-occurrence, consideration will be given to undertake preventative works at Council's expense for the benefit of the local community.
- 6.12.3 Council will provide ongoing support, direction, funding and development to volunteer graffiti removal programs established within the community and will encourage shared volunteer ownership and direction in the program.

Volunteer programs may include:

- (a) Community Graffiti Removal
- (b) 'Adopt a Public Space'
- (c) 'Adopt a Bus Shelter'
- (d) 'Adopt an area'
- (e) Community 'Clean up Graffiti Days'

6.12.4 Graffiti removal on private property

- 6.12.4.1 Council will be active in encouraging the removal of graffiti from privately owned property, within the scope and requirements of the Graffiti Prevention Act 2007.
- 6.12.4.2 Within 24 hours of graffiti on private property being reported to Council, an officer will inspect the graffiti and the owner/occupier/manager will be approached with a request to remove the graffiti.
- 6.12.4.3 Residents with a low level of English communication will be sent translated material and have the option of calling Council's translation service for clarification.
- 6.12.4.4 Private property owners /occupiers /managers will be given the option of removing the graffiti themselves or receiving assistance from Council's Graffiti Removal Incentive Program in the form of a free household clean-up kit.
- 6.12.4.5 Where graffiti is determined to be offensive i.e. racist or of a profane nature and the owners/occupiers/managers fail to remove or obliterate the image Council may issue a "Notice of Intention to Remove Graffiti" giving 28 days notice for the occupier to agree or object.

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- 6.12.4.6 If the owners/occupiers/managers refuse to remove or obliterate offensive graffiti and have not consented in writing to Council officers entering the property, Council must not enter the property.
- 6.12.4.7 Any enforcement imposed upon a property owner/occupier/manager will be carried out in accordance with the Graffiti Prevention Act 2007 No. 56 Part 4 Section 18 'Removal of Graffiti from Private Property'.
- 6.12.5 Graffiti Removal authority
 - 6.12.5.1 Prior to Council commencing any works on private property, a written authorisation form must be signed and completed by the property owner.
 - 6.12.5.2 The written authority gives permission to Council or its contractors to enter onto the property and undertake the works. It also indemnifies Council against any possible damage that is caused to the surface the graffiti is on when Council or its contractors remove the graffiti.
 - 6.12.5.3 The authority form is consistent with the requirements of the Graffiti Prevention Act 2007.
- 6.12.6 Council will use its best endeavours to achieve the following response timelines for removal from Council property:
 - 6.12.6.1 Where graffiti is of an obscene, racist or offensive nature and is visible to the public, the graffiti will be removed within 24 hours of notification.
 - 6.12.6.2 During normal hours of operation, removal of all other graffiti is targeted for removal within 48 hours of receipt of notification.
- 6.12.7 Graffiti removal on public assets and infrastructure
 - 6.12.7.1 Council will work to establish agreements with public authorities to allow Council to remove graffiti from their property and infrastructure.
 - 6.12.7.2 As part of this agreement, Council will seek reimbursement for its expenses from the responsible authority if graffiti is removed by Council.
- 6.12.8 Prevention: Cooperation with Victoria Police

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6.12.8.1 Council will actively provide information of known or reported offenders and will provide photographs of graffiti tags to Police, particularly of very active or highly damaging incidences of graffiti.

7. DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

7.1. **Graffiti** - For the purposes of this policy and the Graffiti Management Strategy is defined as 'images or lettering scratched, scrawled, painted or marked in any manner on property without the property owner's consent'.

8. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- 8.1. Hume City Council Local Law No.1, Part 3 Amenity, Section 3.1
- 8.2. Graffiti Prevention Act 2007 No.59
- 8.3. Hume City Council Graffiti Management Strategy Plan 2008
- 8.4. Local Government Act 1989

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