



# Policies, Procedures and Guidelines

## GRAFFITI POLICY

INF003

### BACKGROUND

Lachlan Shire Council seeks to minimise Graffiti on public and private property, encourage removal of graffiti and while still encouraging approved public art. Engaging in Graffiti, including damaging or defacing property, is an offence under the Graffiti Control Act 2008. While Council is responsible for the removal of Graffiti as outlined in this policy, the NSW Police is the agency responsible for enforcement and prosecution in relation to Graffiti offences.

### OBJECTIVE

- To remove graffiti as quickly as practicable as a strict deterrent.
- To enhance the overall appearance of Lachlan Shire's built and natural environments by reducing the visibility of graffiti.
- To work with the Police, the community and other government agencies in identifying graffiti offenders.
- To improve the perception of safety within Lachlan Shire Council's Local Government Area.
- Increase awareness in schools of the illegality of graffiti, and highlight the legal ramifications for offenders.
- Raise retailer's awareness of the problems associated with graffiti, and how they could contribute to reducing the problem, e.g. by monitoring the sale of spray paints.

### SCOPE

This policy applies to graffiti on all Council assets, private property (including community leasehold sites) and any assets covered by relevant memorandums of understanding between Council and third party assets owners.

This policy applies to all Council staff involved in asset management and planning, design, redesign, refurbishment and maintenance of Council structures.

This policy applies to both reported and observed graffiti.

Further Information: Lachlan Shire Council ☎ 0268951900 ✉ Email: <a href="mailto:council@lachlan.nsw.gov.au">council@lachlan.nsw.gov.au</a>				Page 1 of 3
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**DEFINITION**

Graffiti is defacement by spraying, writing, scratching or slashing an identifying mark or symbol on someone else's property illegally, without their consent.

Offender is the person who has caused an illegal act.

**POLICY**

This policy provides Council with a framework through which to respond to the continuing problem of graffiti in Lachlan Shire Council Area. It provides a set of principles that will cover the removal of current graffiti and deter future graffiti offenders from defacing public and private places.

**PRINCIPLES**

- Council views all graffiti as vandalism.
- Council recognises that programs that take a long term view are complementary to programs focusing on the quick removal of graffiti.
- Council recognises the need for a program that targets the removal of graffiti from its own properties; however it also recognises the need to liaise with private property owners concerning graffiti removal.
- Council recognises that all measures aimed at graffiti removals must be efficient and cost effective.
- Council recognises the importance of community consultation and support in deterring graffiti offenders, especially in the reporting, removal from private property and solutions pertaining to graffiti, and programs for youth.
- Council recognises the need to involve all departments within Council regarding solutions to deterring graffiti offenders, using design and planning concepts.
- Council recognises the role of the police and the legal aspects pertaining to graffiti perpetrators.

**ACTION PLAN**

Proposed Actions include:

- Establish a rapid response mechanism for removal of graffiti within 72 hours (from Council buildings).

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- Seek to minimise graffiti by implementing and designing public facilities and buildings that actively discourage graffiti.
- Utilise Council's CRM system for the reporting of graffiti, tracking of trends and problem areas and for technical information regarding the removal and cleaning of graffiti.
- Develop and distribute a graffiti information kit to all interested and affected property owners outlining techniques for the removal and cleaning of graffiti.
- Promote and encourage local participation in not for profit campaigns such as Graffiti Removal Day.
- Continue to support and facilitate public art projects by community groups for young people in selected areas within the Shire.
- Map graffiti sites and tags and establish a photographic record so graffiti hot-spots and repeated taggers can be identified.
- Ensure new or renovated buildings in commercial areas are treated with anti-graffiti coatings.
- Advise spray paint outlet owners of the need for vigilance regarding sale of these paints.

## RELATED DOCUMENTS

Graffiti Control Act 2008

Graffiti Control Regulation 2014

Greg Tory

GENERAL MANAGER

23/10/2019

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