

# Graffiti Management Policy

Policy Number:	2018/10	Directorate:	Community Services
Approval by:	Council	Responsible Officer:	Coordinator Community Access, Equity and Safety
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## 1. Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to outline Council’s graffiti prevention and management processes that support a coordinated and multifaceted approach to graffiti management.

## 2. Context

Graffiti is defined in the Victorian Graffiti Prevention Act 2007 (the Act) as to “write, draw, mark scratch or otherwise deface property by any means so that the defacement is not readily removable by wiping with a dry cloth”. Graffiti vandalism is a crime. It is the act of marking or defacing premises or other property without permission. The removal and prevention of graffiti is very costly to the community. The presence of graffiti in public areas or on private property has a significant impact on the community’s sense of safety, amenity and quality of the physical environment.

The implementation of this policy is intended to:

- Minimise incidents of graffiti on Council property
- Support the community to minimize incidents of graffiti on private property
- Ensure prompt identification and removal
- Advocate to owners of other public infrastructure to remove graffiti

## 3. Scope

The aim of this policy is to reduce the impact of graffiti on the social, natural, built, and economic environments in the City of Knox.

## 4. References

### 4.1 Community & Council Plan 2017-2021

- Goal 4 – we are safe and secure
- Strategy – maintain and manage the safety of the natural and built environment
- Strategy 4.4 – protect and promote public health, safety and amenity.

### 4.2 Relevant Legislation

- Graffiti Prevention Act 2007

### 4.3 Charter of Human Rights

- This policy has been assessed against and complies with the charter of Human Rights.

### 4.4 Related Council Policies

- Knox Public Art Policy
- Community Laws – in relation to amenity

#### 4.5 Related Council Procedures

- Nil

## 5. Definitions

Graffiti	As defined in the Graffiti Prevention Act 2007 (the Act) as to 'write, draw, mark, scratch or otherwise deface property by any means so that the defacement is not readily removable by wiping with a dry cloth.'
Offensive Graffiti	Means obscene in nature and has the potential to cause offence to the community or certain groups within the community.
Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)	Is an approach to crime prevention that takes into account the relationship between the physical environment and the users of the environment.
Private Property	Means ownership of property by non Governmental legal entities.
Illegal graffiti	Means graffiti installed on a property without the owner's permission.

## 6. Council Policy

- 6.1 Council acknowledges that the presence of graffiti can have a negative impact on the many determinants that contribute to the community's sense of safety. The objective of this policy is to minimise the negative impacts of illegal graffiti and deliver a coordinated and multifaceted approach to graffiti management.
- 6.2 Council acknowledges that:
  - 6.2.1 Graffiti conducted without permission is illegal;
  - 6.2.2 Graffiti impacts the health and wellbeing of our community members by adversely affecting their sense of safety, amenity and quality of the environment; and
  - 6.2.3 A multi-faceted approach is more effective than single focus strategies.
- 6.3 Council's role in managing graffiti is delivered through the following activities:
  - 6.3.1 Manage Council infrastructure to enhance community safety and amenity;
  - 6.3.2 Work with community members to proactively manage graffiti on private property and in their neighbourhoods;
  - 6.3.3 Encourage and support young people to reduce illegal graffiti through engagement and innovative programs such as community art programs check wording in arts policy ;
  - 6.3.4 Provide adequate resources to deliver graffiti programs and activities;
  - 6.3.5 Support the State Government Community corrections graffiti removal program in the community;
  - 6.3.6 Advocate to Government and Statutory bodies to manage their infrastructure;
  - 6.3.7 Provide graffiti reporting options for the community to support graffiti removal programs;
  - 6.3.8 Monitoring graffiti levels in the community to inform continuous improvement in graffiti management programs;
  - 6.3.9 Maintaining best practice and continuous improvement programs to inform Council's response to graffiti prevention and management.

## 6.4 Graffiti Prevention

- 6.4.1 Council acknowledges that effective graffiti prevention together with management is essential to creating a quality urban environment;
- 6.4.2 Best practice graffiti prevention strategies are focused on the following:

### 6.5 Primary Prevention Strategies

- 6.4.3 Providing advice on crime prevention through environment design (CPTED) such as planting appropriate vegetation along fencelines, installing lighting;
- 6.4.4 Ensuring public spaces are maintained to encourage community usage;
- 6.4.5 Educating the broader community and promoting graffiti management activities through:
  - 6.4.5.1 Engaging the community in community art projects as a graffiti prevention and education strategy;
- 6.4.6 To conduct research, monitoring and evaluation through:
  - 6.4.6.1 Evaluating the effectiveness of strategies, monitoring graffiti levels in the community, maintaining best practice and continuous improvement programs to inform Council's response to graffiti prevention and management.

### 6.5 Secondary Prevention Strategies

- 6.5.1 Supporting the community to report incidents of graffiti to Council and Victoria Police through VandalTrak app, Council's website and through Customer Service.
- 6.5.2 Managing graffiti on Council property by:
  - 6.5.2.1 Removal of all graffiti from council infrastructure throughout the municipality; and
  - 6.5.2.2 Ensuring graffiti removal response times are maintained as far as practicable (refer Section 5 below).
- 6.5.3 To support the community to manage graffiti on private property by:
  - 6.5.3.1 Providing free graffiti removal kits to residents, business and community groups; and
  - 6.5.3.2 Supporting community groups to maintain public spaces through free graffiti removal kits.
- 6.5.4 To develop and maintain responsibilities and partnerships in graffiti management by:
  - 6.5.4.1 Reporting incidents of graffiti on utilities and other public/private authorities manage graffiti levels on their infrastructure.

### 6.6 Tertiary Prevention Strategies – (interventions designed to prevent re-offending)

- 6.6.1 Working in partnership with the Department of Justice Community Corrections Program to support graffiti cleaning programs for the community.
- 6.6.2 Providing support to law enforcement activities through Council's graffiti reporting program (VandalTrak app) for the investigation of graffiti offences.

### 6.7 Graffiti Removal Response Times

- 6.7.1 **Offensive graffiti** – is removed within 24 hours on Council property, and support is also offered to residents through providing free graffiti cleaning kits, or Council's contractor will clean private property as a once off service.
- 6.7.2 (Council will utilise the provisions of the Act to remove graffiti by gaining consent from entities to clean graffiti on private property through either verbal consent or issuing notices under sections 18 (2) and (18) 3 of the Act.)

- 6.7.3 **Non-offensive graffiti** – is removed within 5 working days from Council property.
- 6.7.4 Council also supports elderly residents and people with a disability to clean private property through Council's graffiti removal contractor (free of charge), whilst other residents are provided with free graffiti cleaning kits.
- 6.7.5 The Department of Justice's Corrections Program provides a graffiti removal service to clean road reserve fencelines of graffiti. Council provides the paint for this service.

## 7. Administrative Updates

From time to time, circumstances may change leading to the need for minor administrative changes to this policy. Where an update does not materially alter this policy, such a change may be made administratively. Examples of minor administrative changes include changes to names of Council departments or positions, change to names of Federal or State Government departments or a minor amendment to legislation that does not have material impact. Where any change or update may materially change the intent of this policy, it must be considered by Council.