

GRAFFITI MANAGEMENT POLICY

October 2022

**PREPARED BY:
BUILDING OPERATIONS**



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SUTHERLANDSHIRE

1. PURPOSE

The Graffiti Management Policy represents Council's management and treatment of graffiti including property owned by Council, private property and property owned by other government departments and agencies within the Sutherland Shire. The intended outcomes of the Policy are to:

- Prevent and minimise incidents of graffiti vandalism within the Shire;
- Reduce the social, environmental and economic impact of graffiti vandalism;
- Provide Council and the community with an effective framework to respond; and
- Enhance community confidence and perception of safety.

2. APPLICATION

The Policy applies to all people who live in, work in or visit the Sutherland Shire, Council owned property and non-Council owned property.

3. PRINCIPLES

3.1 Application of Principles

No one principle should be applied to the detriment of another. Principles must be collectively considered and applied to the extent that is reasonable and practicable in the circumstances.

3.2 Council has identified and endorses the following Policy principles:

- Council believes that graffiti vandalism detracts from the visual amenity of the public domain and views the unauthorised placement of bill posters, notices and stickers as a form of graffiti;
- Council supports the apprehension and prosecution of graffiti vandals;
- Council appreciates that graffiti prevention and removal is the responsibility of all levels of government, as well as private residents, businesses and utility owners;
- Council accepts that while it does not have sufficient resources to remove graffiti from non-council owned property, it will lobby, assist, form partnerships with other stakeholders and encourage other parties to remove graffiti from their property;
- Council will work in partnership with key stakeholders to identify appropriate locations and processes for the placement of public art;
- Council is committed to a pro-active program of inspection, reporting and the rapid removal of graffiti from Council owned property; and
- Council recognises that its approach to graffiti vandalism needs to be managed holistically and transparently, and to do this has implemented a Graffiti Management Plan to support, enhance and expand on the Policy.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 Responsible Officer

The Manager Building Operations is the Responsible Officer for this policy and is responsible for:

- the implementation of the Policy.
- ensuring that graffiti prevention, removal and reporting is undertaken in-line with the Policy, including:
 - ensuring there are adequate resources to undertake graffiti removal; and
 - measuring and reporting on the effectiveness of Council's approach.

4.2 Council

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, Council is responsible for recording reported incidents of vandalism and for removing it from its property.

4.3 Directors

Directors are responsible for ensuring their Division adheres to the requirements of this Policy and provide guidance in respect of enhancing safety in the public domain through a range of programs and partnerships within their division and the organisation.

4.4 Employees

Employees must adhere to the requirements of this Policy and operate within its relevant authorities.

5. POLICY COMPLIANCE

The Manager of Building Operations will monitor, review and report on the effectiveness of the Policy.

6. RECORD KEEPING, CONFIDENTIALITY AND PRIVACY

Council adheres to and complies with the NSW State Records Act 1998 and Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 through its Access to Information Policy and Privacy Management Plan.

7. BREACHES OF POLICY

Breaches of this Policy will be dealt with in accordance with normal disciplinary procedures and will be advised to the Chief Executive Officer and/or Director Shire Infrastructure, via the Manager Building Operations where appropriate.

8. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Community Strategic Plan (2022-32)
- Graffiti Management Plan (2022-26)
- Public Art Policy (2021)
- Asset Management Policy (2020)
- Risk Management Policy (2022)
- Safer Communities Strategy (2022-32)

9. RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

- Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)
- Graffiti Control Act (2008)
- Crimes Act (1900)
- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (NSW).

10. DEFINITION OF TERMS

Term	Meaning
Graffiti Vandalism	Is the damaging or defacing of property, by means of chalk, scratching, paint, felt tip markers or other materials, including the unauthorised placement of bill posters, notices and stickers. It is illegal and an offence under the Graffiti Control Act (2008).

End of Document

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Document Name: Graffiti Management Policy		Policy Accountability Manager Building Operations	
Version: #	Approved by: Council	Minute No:	Date approved:
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SCHEDULE A: Graffiti Removal – Service Response

1. Council Property

All graffiti vandalism to Council property that is reported will be removed.

2. Non-Council Property

Reported offensive graffiti will be removed from non-Council property in circumstances where the graffiti:

- (i) Is visible from a public place
- (ii) Can be accessed safely and removed from the surface to which it is applied without the need to enter private property.

Non-offensive graffiti vandalism that is reported will be offered to be removed by Council at the asset owner's/ occupier's consent and cost.

3. Removal Response

Graffiti Type	Timeframe to Respond
Offensive graffiti (rude/offensive words, symbols, posters, notices and stickers) on Council and non-Council property.	Where possible, will be removed within 2 days of it being reported to Council.
Non-offensive graffiti (tags, stencils, unauthorised murals, posters, notices and stickers) on Council property.	Where possible, will be removed within 7 days of it being reported to Council.

4. Graffiti Removal Register

The Graffiti Control Act (2008) requires all Councils' to keep a register of all graffiti removal work that is undertaken. Council uses the Australian Graffiti Register (AUSGR) to do this.

End of Document

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