



Council Policy

Graffiti Removal Policy

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Policy

Purpose

This policy provides Council with a framework through which to respond to damaging or defacing of Council owned property in Ku-ring-gai by means of a graffiti implement as defined in Part 2 of the Graffiti Control Act 2008 (NSW). It provides a set of principles covering the removal of current and future graffiti from public places, and prescribes actions and conditions that may contribute to a reduction in the amount of new graffiti.

Objectives

- To enhance the built and natural environment by reducing the incidence of graffiti within Ku-ring-gai.
- To remove graffiti as quickly as practicable as a strict deterrent.
- To work with neighbouring Councils and the other tiers of government in reducing graffiti.
- To work with the Police, the community and government agencies in identifying graffiti offenders and in dealing with them via legal and other means such as training or community service programs.
- To develop a partnership with the local community to reduce graffiti that involves young people as partners and advisors in reducing graffiti.
- To support proactive education strategies and public art initiatives designed to decrease the incidence of graffiti.

Scope

The policy provides guidelines for Council in responding to graffiti on Council property. Council can remove graffiti without agreement of the owner or occupier where the graffiti concerned is visible from a public place (section 12 Graffiti Control Act 2008 (NSW)). Council may by agreement with the owner or occupier of any private land, carry out graffiti work on the land. To achieve an overall reduction of graffiti in Ku-ring-gai is largely dependent on public cooperation, goodwill and financial capacity.

Responsibilities

The Community and Operations departments will work together on graffiti prevention initiatives.

The Community Department will develop and communicate graffiti prevention initiatives including public art programs with educational components.

Council will also support educational programs, which are conducted in the community, and schools based on anti-graffiti education awareness and prevention principles.

Council will maintain up-to-date information on its website regarding reporting of graffiti and other community initiatives

The Operations department is responsible for graffiti removal in accordance with the removal timeframes, and for developing the necessary operational procedures to support the removal requirements.

Funding for the removal of graffiti on Council owned property will be provided from the Building Maintenance Recurrent Budget.

Controlled Document Information

Authorisation Details

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Related Document Information, Standards & References

Related Legislation:	Graffiti Control Act 2008 (NSW) Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)	Sections 11, 12, 13 Graffiti Control Act 2008 (NSW) Definition of 'public place' in the Local Government Act 2008 (NSW)
Related Policies (Council & Internal)	None	
Related Documents - Procedures, Guidelines, Forms, WHS Modules/PCD's, Risk Assessments, Work Method Statements, etc	Work Health and Safety Policy and Procedures	WHS information here relating to the safety procedures to be followed when using chemicals to remove the graffiti.
Other References	None	

Definitions

Term / Abbreviation	Definition
(list any key terms or abbreviations used in the content of the policy)	(define and describe the key terms or abbreviations used in the content of the policy)
e.g. The Act	Local Government Act 1993

Version History

Version Number	Version Start Date	Version End Date	Author	Details and Comments
1	June 2014		Greg Piconi	1 st version and Policy
2				

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Policy Statement

Background

This policy has been formulated in recognition of the continuing prevalence of graffiti within Ku-ring-gai. The presence of graffiti is of ongoing concern to the general community as well as to Council, both for its adverse impact on the environment, streetscape and for the cost in removal.

Purpose of the policy

This policy provides Council with a framework through which to respond to the proliferation of graffiti in Ku-ring-gai. It provides a set of principles covering the removal of current and future graffiti from public places, and prescribes actions and conditions that may contribute to a reduction in the amount of new graffiti.

Scope of the policy

The policy provides guidelines for Council in responding to graffiti on Council property. Because Council cannot compel private landowners to remove graffiti, it is largely dependent on public cooperation, goodwill and financial capacity to achieve an overall reduction of graffiti in Ku-ring-gai.

Objectives of the policy

- To enhance the built and natural environment by reducing the incidence of graffiti within Ku-ring-gai.
- To remove graffiti as quickly as practicable as a strict deterrent.
- To work with neighbouring Councils and the other tiers of government in reducing graffiti.
- To work with the Police, the community and government agencies in identifying graffiti offenders and in dealing with them via legal and other means such as training or community service programs.
- To develop a partnership with the local community to reduce graffiti that involves young people as partners and advisors in reducing graffiti.
- To support proactive education strategies and public art initiatives designed to decrease the incidence of graffiti.

Policy principles

Council recognises the following principles:

- the value of programs which focus on the prevention of graffiti before it occurs as being complementary to those aimed at removing it once it has been applied.
- the need for a continuing program to remove graffiti from its own property and to encourage its removal from private property.
- that all measures taken to remove graffiti need to be cost effective.
- the importance of developing and maintaining community partnerships to assist in the effort to reduce graffiti. This particularly applies to the reporting of graffiti and the identification of opportunities for public art projects.
- that any strategy to reduce the incidence of graffiti should contain an enforcement element so as to ensure that serious offenders are appropriately dealt with through the proper legal channels.
- Council will involve young people, service clubs and the general community in its graffiti management program.
- the need to help enforce an environment in which young people are valued and their needs are integral to local planning. Such actions support an environment where graffiti is minimised.

Removal

Council will remove graffiti from the following:

1. Council property;
2. Community leasehold sites – free of charge to the lessee

Council, where possible, will encourage property owners to remove graffiti from private property. Council will also work in partnership with various stakeholders to implement innovative graffiti removal strategies.

Council staff and contractors are to remove graffiti in accordance with the following removal timeframes. This policy also applies to graffiti on bus shelters that are maintained by Council's contractor.

PRIORITY 1

- Removal with 24 hours of identification/reporting
Applies to sites with obscene, racist or other offensive material.

PRIORITY 2

- Removal within 3 to 5 working days of identification/reporting
Applies to sites with a large amount of graffiti and/or highly visible sites.

PRIORITY 3

- Removal within 10 working days of identification/reporting
Applies to sites of low visibility and small amounts of graffiti.

Council does not undertake removal of graffiti on private property but can assist with the removal subject to the agreement of the property owner for any obscene or offensive material. All private property graffiti removals are excluded from the priority listing due to the time taken to gain written consent from the owner.

Responsibilities

The Community and Operations departments will work together on graffiti prevention initiatives.

The Community Department will develop and communicate graffiti prevention initiatives including public art programs with educational components.

Council will also support educational programs which are conducted in the community and schools based on anti-graffiti education awareness and prevention principles.

Council will maintain up-to-date information on its website regarding reporting of graffiti and other community initiatives

The Operations department is responsible for graffiti removal in accordance with the removal timeframes, and for developing the necessary operational procedures to support the removal requirements.

Funding for the removal of graffiti on Council owned property will be provided from the Building Maintenance Recurrent Budget.

Related Policies and Plans/Legislation

Public Art Policy.

Graffiti Control Amendment Bill 2014

<http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/parlment/nswbills.nsf/0/AF68E9D2D16E2151CA257BE2001BB9FA>

Reporting

Council staff are encouraged to report graffiti to the Building Maintenance Section, Police Assistance Line and Crime Stoppers.

Council supports a working partnership with the local Police and Community Safety Groups to encourage the reporting of graffiti offenders.

Murals

Murals on Council property are covered under the Public Art Policy. All requests regarding murals and other public artwork must be referred to the Director Community.

Document owner

Director Operations and Director Community is the owner of the Graffiti Policy.