



Council Policy GRAFFITI

Corporate Plan Reference:	Establishing new policies and strategies
Endorsed by Council:	28 August 2014
Policy Author:	Business Support Officer, Planning & Infrastructure

POLICY BACKGROUND

Graffiti is a criminal offence and causes damage to Council infrastructure, detracts from the visual amenity of our public places, fosters negative feelings of safety, can impact on property values and business operations and if left, creates an atmosphere of urban decay.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the Operational Procedure *Graffiti on Council Property*.

POLICY SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All Council buildings and infrastructure, including properties leased to third parties; and
2. Infrastructure owned by other agencies with whom Council has an agreement for the removal of graffiti.

This policy does not apply to:

1. Graffiti on private property, which is the responsibility of the property owner.
2. Street art created on a street art site which is not considered to be graffiti for the purposes of this policy.

POLICY

Council has a zero tolerance in relation to graffiti on Council property and works in liaison with Queensland Police Service to assist with identifying graffiti offenders and where possible, seeks restitution.

Methods employed by Council to deter graffiti are:

1. Prompt removal of graffiti;
2. Photographing and reporting graffiti to Queensland Police Service;
3. Graffiti removal agreements with other agencies;
4. Participation in the Youth Justice Program for graffiti removal; and
5. On occasion, public education programs.

Council staff:

1. Ensure graffiti on any property under their custodianship is removed within the designated timeframes;
2. Ensure photographs and details of the graffiti are recorded; and
3. Provide evidence of graffiti to Queensland Police Service.

Timeframes for removal of graffiti are as follows:

1. Obscene, racist or other offensive material is removed within 24 hours of notification.
2. Large amounts of graffiti or graffiti in highly visible areas is removed within three working days of notification, excluding weekends and public holidays. Graffiti requiring removal by specialist contractors or equipment may take longer.
3. Minor or other graffiti is removed within 14 days of notification.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

All council staff must comply with this policy. The following sections have specific responsibilities in the Organisational Procedure *Graffiti on Council Property* as property custodians:

1. Property & Facilities;
2. Community Facilities;
3. Civil Operations;
4. Libraries & Galleries;
5. Waste Services; and
6. Community Development.

Manager Asset Design & Investigation is responsible for maintaining this policy.

DEFINITIONS

Graffiti – destruction or damage to property, without the consent of the owner of the property, caused by:

- a) Spraying, writing, drawing, marking or otherwise applying paint or another marking substance;
- b) Applying stickers or posters; or
- c) Scratching or etching.

Street art – visual art created in locations that have been designated as street art sites, including but not limited to, murals, stencil art, sticker art and aerosol painting. Street art does not include territorial graffiti such as tags or acts of pure vandalism.

Street art site – a site that has been specifically designated by the property owner as a place where street art may be created.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

Summary Offences Act 2005

Version control:

Version	Reason/ Trigger	Change (Y/N)	Endorsed/ Reviewed by	Date
1.0	Create new		Council	28/08/2014