

Graffiti Management Policy

DOCUMENT PROFILE

Title	Graffiti Management Policy
Summary	This policy provides a summary of Council's legislative obligations for graffiti and bill poster control.
Background	This Policy upon adoption will supersede Leichhardt Graffiti Management Policy and Ashfields Graffiti Control/Bill Poster Control Policy.
Document Type	Policy
Relevant Council References	Draft Community Strategic Plan: <i>Creating Our Communities: Creating Our Inner West 2036</i> ; Public Arts Policies;
Applicable Delegation Of Authority	As per delegations' register
Other External References	Graffiti Control Act 2008
Attachments	
Record Notes	Internal or External available document
Version Control	See last page

Document:	Graffiti Management Policy	<i>Uncontrolled Copy When Printed</i>	
Custodian:	Facilities Manager	Version #	Version #1
Approved By:	Group Manager Brooke Martin	TRIM Ref #	N/A
Adopted By:	Facilities & Property Team	Publish Location	Intranet/ Internet
Adopted Date and Minute #:		Next Review Date	

1 PURPOSE

The Inner West Council (IWC) aims to minimise the incidence of unwanted tagging / graffiti through quick removal, whilst still providing avenues for legitimate social, community and public art programs.

2 OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES

1. To promote, support and encourage community and social arts programs that aid in preserving cultural heritage and street art culture.
2. To encourage local tourism through the promotion and celebration of art in public places.
3. To enhance the built and natural environment by reducing the incidence and canvases for unwanted tagging / graffiti.
4. To remove unwanted tagging / graffiti as quickly as practicable as a deterrent.
5. To encourage community support and participation in graffiti removal and prevention.
6. To work closely with New South Wales (NSW) Police and relevant agencies to record, monitor and report incidents.

3 3 DEFINITIONS

Term	Meaning
Unwanted tagging / graffiti	Any unauthorized inscription, word, figure or word design that is marked, etched, scratched, drawn, sprayed, painted, pasted, applied or otherwise affixed to a surface or an asset, including posters, notices, bill posters and remnants such as adhesives, glues and tape present after removal.
Offensive Graffiti	Graffiti as per the meaning above where the graffiti has the intent to be rude, insulting, derogatory, hurtful, discriminative or vilify, which results in a person or members of the community feeling disrespected, resentful, upset or annoyed.
Graffiti Register	The register that is required to be developed and maintained in accordance with Section 13 of the Graffiti Control Act 2008
Street Art	Art expression created in a public space that incorporates a devotion to social activism whilst playing a role in shaping and constructing cultural discourses.
Public Art	Artworks that are situated in spaces or on buildings accessible either physically or visually to the general public.
Paste-Ups	Artworks on paper prepared off-site and then quickly glued on-site.
Legal Art Wall / Permission Walls	Authorised canvas spaces self-managed by street art creators functioning as a living, constantly rotating museum.
Owner's Consent	The consent required from the owner/occupant in order to remove graffiti from non-accessible property in accordance with Section 11 of the Graffiti Control Act 2008.
Private Property	Property assets which Council requires Owner's consent to enter the property in order to carry out the graffiti removal works.
Advertising or signage	Any form of media that advertises a commercial product, Company or service.

4 SCOPE

4.1 Council

Council commits to remove unwanted graffiti on Council assets and identified hotspots within the Inner West Council LGA, both reported and observed, subject to the following:

- Removal is based on a priority table established for road and park assets based on previous reports, operational knowledge and the relative impact of graffiti on the community amenity.
- Removal is further prioritized based on the nature of the incident, with precedence given to any offensive, racist or defamatory graffiti and/or prominent sites or sites of significance within the community.
- Graffiti will not be removed from any location where a risk assessment determines that the Work Health and Safety of Council staff/contractor is placed at an unacceptable risk.
- Extra precaution is taken in the removal of graffiti from areas which are environmentally sensitive, of heritage significance. Where Council is of the opinion that any removal could damage the property, works will cease.
- Assessing the potential public art or cultural value of the work with relevant stakeholders

4.2 Private Property

Council's graffiti removal program also considers graffiti which occurs on private property which is reported to both Council and the local police. Approval of graffiti removal is subject to available resources, location and the nature of the graffiti. Applications will be considered if:

- It is visible from a public road, footpath, park or other land the general public uses.
- Removal can be safely undertaken without the use of scaffolding, specialized equipment or traffic control.
- The private property is free from any hazards such as unleashed dogs or unsafe structures.
- The property owners/ occupiers consent to removal in accordance with sections 11 and 12 of the Graffiti Control Act 2008.
- A claim for compensation under Section 12 (5) of the Graffiti Control Act 2008, is to be in accordance with Section 730 of the Local Government Act 1993.
- The site is registered as part of Council's Public Art and Street Art Register (e.g. maintaining an artwork created through Council's street art initiatives such as Perfect Match or Wall2Wall or art and cultural programs)

4.3 Community and Arts Posters or Notices

Community and Arts Posters and Notices include those with social, political and environmental comment or those that relate to events such as schools, markets, garage sales, missing persons/animals or promotion of arts (live music, exhibitions or performances at local venues).

In order to allow the community to display community posters and notices, a number of “character precincts” have been established.

Character precincts allow for extended display of notices and posters in the community interest, whilst also profiling our unique neighborhoods and centres for creative innovation and talent. Generally unwanted graffiti is removed to the schedules described above in these areas, whilst community and arts related posters and notices are removed once a week. Character precincts in the Inner West LGA include:

- Newtown: King Street
- Parramatta Road

Inner West Council also provides community noticeboards in its libraries and community centres. These noticeboards are managed by each facility and are available for the community to display posters and notices of a community interest.

4.4 Poster Pillars & Paste-Ups

Council has installed poster pillars on popular city streets to provide legal sites for the community to place posters. Poster pillars operate on a first come, first served basis, with posters removed weekly. There are currently two pillars located across the Inner West Council LGA in the following locations:

- Newtown: Newtown Square, corner King Street and Australia Street
- Enmore: Corner Enmore Road and Liberty Street

4.5 Resident Removal Kits

Council, where possible, will provide guidance to property owners on where to purchase low cost graffiti removal kits and seek advice regarding removal techniques.

4.6 Registers

Council will maintain registers for both the removal of unwanted tagging/graffiti and the legal locations of all street and public art. Unwanted tagging/graffiti carried out on both public and private property will be registered in accordance with the Graffiti Control Act 2008. The register must:

- Specify the nature of the work carried out
- Detail the location address
- Detail the costs to Council for completing the works
- Be made available to NSW police.

Legal street and public art will be detailed in Council managed registers including;

- Key street art works
- Legal art walls
- Murals

4.7 Graffiti Prevention

Council participates in programs such as the NSW Department of Juvenile Justice community service program. This program supports young people who have been sentenced to a Community Service Order to participate in graffiti removal and repairing of work in their communities. Council also offers educational, arts and cultural programs that foster creative expression as alternatives to illegal and anti-social behaviour.

5 GRAFFITI REMOVAL SCHEDULES

1. Road “Hot Spots”

Routine hot spots include streets subject to high pedestrian traffic and tend to be main arterial roads and thoroughfares. The areas in question are inspected every 1 – 2 weeks.

2. Park “Hot Spots”

Council provides for the removal of graffiti from the parks “hot spot” locations in accordance with a four tier scheduled ranging from two weekly to an “on demand” service.

3. Emergency Removal

Racist, defamatory, offensive graffiti on Council assets, private property or prominent/highly visible locations will be removed within 48 hours of notification.

4. Ad hoc Removal

Reported incidents within Council's graffiti "hot spot" locations received outside of the routine schedules will be removed within 5 working days of notification.

6 PUBLIC ART, EDUCATION AND CULTURAL PROGRAMS

6.1 Murals

Council recognizes the ongoing interest in murals and street art from artists, community members and businesses and will endeavor to play a facilitating role to enable private commissions in strategic locations through programs such as "Perfect Match".

Council will initiate plans to commission murals, and to improve open space amenity and streetscapes through;

- Formalizing a process to ensure works are commissioned in a considered manner whilst enabling timely response;
- Communicating with residents, business owners and property owners who are interested in commissioning street art or a mural;
- Providing advice on the approval process and how to search for artists and opportunities; and
- Liaising with utility providers to form joint initiatives in preventing unwanted tagging/graffiti on public utility services.
- Proposals for murals/street art that include product placement, company logos and slogans are considered commercial advertising and as such will require a DA.

6.2 Public Art, Placemaking & Street Art

Council is supportive of planned public art as a source of inspiration, pride and enhancement of community and public domain for the whole community. In contrast to unwanted graffiti/tagging, placemaking through public art is a proven means of improving neighbourhood amenity, and creating a personality, embracing the heritage, look and feel of a particular domain.

The inner west is home to one of Australia's most impressive collections of street art – reflecting the inner west's unique neighbourhoods, heritage and culture. Council's removal program is complemented and supported by Public Art programs whereby Council's Community Services and

Culture deliver a range of multifaceted strategies and initiatives involving creatives and community in fostering alternative forms of creative expression and art in public places.

For further details on public art in the Inner West Local Government Area, go to:
<https://www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/live/living-arts/public-art-and-placemaking> .

7 COMMUNITY EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT

7.1 Informing the Community

Council will educate the public on options for reducing the likelihood of attracting graffiti by posting relevant information on the Council's website

Council will educate potential offenders on the legal implications of illegal graffiti by:

- Encouraging and facilitating partnerships with local learning agencies to communicate the risks to offenders associated with trying to mark hard-to-reach locations and potential chemical exposure.
- Fostering skill development and positive street art through the promotion of legal art walls.
- Partnering with Juvenile Justice for the removal of graffiti by young people serving community service orders.
- Posting links to legal websites via the Council website.

7.2 Involving the Community

Council actively encourages the participation of the community in graffiti management by:

1. Consulting with street artists to further understand the culture behind street art and provide artists the opportunities to participate in Council programs.
2. Facilitate partnerships with education, arts and cultural sectors to develop programs that engage community members in creative and cultural expression.
3. Promoting involvement in and support of Graffiti Removal Day, a state-wide removal and prevention day run by Rotary Down Under with support from community organisations
4. Requiring the community to report occurrences of graffiti to the Police Assistance Line prior to Council actioning requests for removal or access to a graffiti removal kit

8 Planning and design

8.1 Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED)

Council promotes design strategies that reduce opportunities for graffiti on public and private assets. By incorporating CPTED principles into the IWC LGA Council aims to minimize unwanted tagging/graffiti before it happens.

CPTED principles include initiatives such as:

- Utilizing landscaping as anti-graffiti device ie. Planting vines against walls that might otherwise be tagged.
- Creating spaces which are well lit, well utilized and feel safe.
- Increasing natural surveillance by designing adequate sightlines into public space.
- Attracting the community to public spaces which receive low level usage by introducing “activity generators” such as community art, cafes and play equipment.

8.2 Council Planners

- Council planners will impose a condition of consent that blank walls in graffiti hot spots have anti-graffiti coating
- In order to assist Council in maintaining the amenity of the LGA, Council planners will impose a condition of consent that building sites must maintain hoarding/fencing surrounding the site to ensure it is free of any graffiti and bill posters of any kind or hosts authorized artworks.
- It is acknowledged that independent to this policy, Council may assess and approve applications that give consent for commercial advertising on major walls on a both a short and long term basis

9 REPORTING

Council employees and contractors are encouraged to report graffiti to the Customer Service Centre or relevant Manager.

<https://www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/live/information-for-residents/roads-and-footpaths/graffiti-management> .

10 RELATED DOCUMENTS

Graffiti Control Act 2008

Local Government Act 1993

Commercial Arbitration Act 2010

Version Control - POLICY HISTORY:

Governance Use only:

Version	Amended By	Changes Made	Date	TRIM #
1				
2				

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