


STRATHFIELD COUNCIL

GRAFFITI MANAGEMENT POLICY

27 FEBRUARY 2024

	GRAFFITI MANAGEMENT POLICY		
RESPONSIBILITY	Engineering and Operations		
DATE ADOPTED	27 February 2024	MINUTE	15/24
REVISED		REVIEW	
CM10 No	24/11141		
ASSOCIATED POLICIES/PLANS	Community Strategic Plan 'Strathfield 2035' Community Safety Strategy		
ASSOCIATED LEGISLATION	<i>Local Government Act 1993</i> <i>Graffiti Control Act 2008</i>		

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Title and Commencement

This policy is titled *Graffiti Management Policy*. This policy was adopted by Council resolution (15/24) after public exhibition from 5 October 2023 to 1 November 2023.

1.2 Background and Purpose of Policy

Strathfield Council seeks to manage graffiti in accordance with the *Graffiti Control Act 2008* and minimise incidents of graffiti on public and private property.

The purpose of the *Graffiti Management Policy* is to provide a framework to ensure efficiency and effectiveness for rapid removal of graffiti to create and maintain more liveable and safe neighbourhoods for residents, visitors, and businesses. This policy aligns with strategies set out Community Strategic Plan 'Strathfield 2035' themes of Community Wellbeing and Liveable Neighbourhoods.

1.3 Objectives of the policy

The objectives of the Policy are to:

- Maintain high standards in the aesthetic nature of the built and natural environment of Strathfield by reducing incidents of graffiti
- Support removal of graffiti from public and private property as soon as possible as a deterrent to recurrence
- Educate and involve the community in reporting graffiti incidents and taking action to minimise graffiti

- Work in partnership with community organisations and police in relation to removal and prevention of graffiti and addressing anti-social behaviours
- Monitor and report on graffiti management in Strathfield LGA

1.4 Coverage of the Policy

The policy applies to Council, Council Officers, the community, and relevant external stakeholders.

1.5 Definitions

Term	Meaning / Function
Graffiti	Any unlawful inscription, word, figure, or word design that is marked, scratched, drawn, sprayed, painted, pasted, applied or otherwise affixed to a surface or asset, including posters, notices, stickers and bill posters
Street Art	Art that is painted, marked, or otherwise affixed to the outside of the building and that is visible from a public place and has the approval of the owner of the building or any statutory authorities.
Accessible Property	Fixed property assets that are easily reached from a public place
Non-Accessible Property	Fixed property assets which Strathfield Council requires owner's consent to enter the property to carry out Graffiti removal
Owner's Consent	The consent required from the owner/occupant to remove the Graffiti from Non-Accessible Property in accordance with Section 11 of the <i>Graffiti Control Act 2008</i>
Graffiti Register	The register that Council is required to develop and maintain in accordance with Section 13 of the <i>Graffiti Control Act 2008</i>
<i>Graffiti Control Act 2008</i>	This Act outlines criminal offences and penalties which aim to reduce the amount of graffiti and deter people from marking buildings, public transport, and other public places. In NSW graffiti is a crime (vandalism) and is punishable by fines, community service orders, clean up orders, driver's licence orders or imprisonment

2.0 Policy Statement

Council acknowledges that graffiti greatly concerns the community in relation to perceptions of cleanliness, safety, and crime. The social and economic impacts relate to the cost of graffiti removal and prevention and the damage to property and items of heritage that are also factors of concern. This policy has been developed in accordance with the *Graffiti Control Act 2008* and the *Local Government Act 1993*.

2.1 Reducing Graffiti

The most effective approach in combatting graffiti is rapid removal. Rapid removal and regular inspection of Council assets and property and timely response to reports of graffiti, assist in reducing incidents of graffiti.

Council will remove from Council assets and property non offensive graffiti or bill posters from the date which council receives notification. This will be within five (5) business days for non offensive graffiti and offensive graffiti will be removed within two (2) business days.

2.2 Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) describes an approach to crime prevention which accounts for environmental factors and how users in an environment may interact with the physical space. Design principles can be used to address and reduce inherent anti-social behaviours and criminal activities by altering and improving the space. Fit for purpose anti-graffiti initiatives are identified and implemented as part of this process. Such initiatives include green screening of fences and walls, lighting and public art including commissioned murals.

2.3 Graffiti Mitigation

Several graffiti mitigation techniques are recognised as limiting the impact of ongoing graffiti. This includes interventions such as:

- Installing street art murals at graffiti hot spots
- Greening programs to obscure walls and fences and enhance the local environment
- Adapting design and surface choices on infrastructure to deter tagging activity
- Improving lighting, including the use of motion activated sensor lighting
- Creating programs and activities to activate community space

2.4 Graffiti Reporting and Record Keeping

To reduce graffiti, the best action is to report it when it is first noticed or witnessed. The community needs to be aware that graffiti is a crime under the *Graffiti Control Act 2008* and must be reported if on Council or Non-Council property (public and private).

Reporting can be made by contacting the local Police or the Police Assistance Line on 131 444 or call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or the NSW Graffiti Hotline on 1800 707 125.

Reporting of graffiti on Council property can be made through Customer Service on 9748 9999 and the incident will be logged in the Graffiti Register. Council will provide information for graffiti reporting and removal on the Council website.

2.5 Graffiti Removal

Council's Graffiti Management Program involves routine inspections and removal by Council staff and local community groups throughout the Local Government Area. The program aims to eliminate graffiti through rapid removal to prevent the recurrence.

Council is responsible for the removal of graffiti from Council property such as bus shelters, signs, council buildings, parks and playground equipment, roads and footpaths.

Council will take precaution in the removal of graffiti from structures, which has sensitive or heritage significance and will obtain approval from relevant authorities prior to commencement of work.

Where Council identifies graffiti on public infrastructure owned by a Public Authority or Utility Service Provider, Council will report the incident to the relevant authority which includes:

1. Ausgrid – for all instances of graffiti on telegraph poles, electricity boxes, sub-stations
2. Telstra - phone boxes, exchange buildings
3. Sydney Water- sewer vent stacks, water towers, pumping stations
4. Australia Post – post boxes, post offices
5. Transport for NSW – traffic signal boxes, traffic lights, railway stations, overhead bridges, sound walls
6. Jemena – gas main infrastructure

3.0 Community Education and Programs

To encourage the community to participate in programs to reduce graffiti in the Strathfield LGA, Council will:

- Provide educational material on its website related to graffiti removal and reporting
- Participate in and promote Graffiti Removal days and education campaigns on graffiti removal and prevention to community groups and schools
- Provide graffiti removal kits to the community
- Promote Community Safety Programs and raising awareness of graffiti hotspots and education programs to mitigate graffiti and provide rapid removal when required

3.1 Monitoring

Council liaises with Police and monitors reports of incidents of malicious damage to property in the Strathfield LGA from the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR).

4.0 Version Control

Date	Type	Minute
27 February 2024	Adoption	15/24