

## COUNCIL POLICY

# SCS-058 Graffiti Management Policy

TRIM Reference:

Due for Review:

August 2023

Responsible Officer: Manager Operations

## Purpose

The Graffiti Management Policy provides a framework for Council's response to and minimisation of graffiti that will support and maintain a better living environment for residents, businesses and visitors of the Surf Coast Shire.

## Policy Principles

This policy provides a guide and commitment to minimise the negative impacts of illegal graffiti by taking leadership in the removal of graffiti in a timely and safe manner and to working with the community and relevant authorities in a shared approach to manage graffiti and in accordance with the Victorian Graffiti Prevention Act 2007.

The *Victorian Graffiti Prevention Act 2007* aims to:

- reduce the significant financial and social costs of graffiti to the Victorian community
- provide a strong deterrent to perpetrators of graffiti and promote holding perpetrators accountable for their actions
- reduce the incidence of graffiti in Victoria.

## Scope

This policy applies to management of graffiti within the Surf Coast Shire (municipality) including private property and owners of other public infrastructure.

## Policy

The implementation of this policy is intended to:

1. Encourage prompt reporting of graffiti and removal in accordance with service level agreements
2. Minimise incidents of graffiti within the municipality
3. Facilitate Engagement and Education for all stakeholders
4. Support the community to minimise incidents of graffiti on private property
5. Advocate to owners of other public infrastructure to remove graffiti

### 1. Encourage prompt reporting of graffiti and removal in accordance with service level agreements

- Council is committed to the removal of graffiti from Council assets in accordance with service level agreement, Rapid removal increases town amenity and helps the community feel safe and well cared for.
- Where graffiti is of an obscene, racist or offensive nature and is visible to the public, we will endeavour to remove the graffiti within 24 hours of notification.
- Removal of graffiti will be consistent with heritage conservation principles. Due care will be taken with removal of Graffiti from Public Art Assets. Further support may be sought with the commissioner and/or owner of the work if specialist information is required.
- Rapid removal of graffiti is known to minimise the reoccurrence of graffiti.

### 2. Minimise incidents of graffiti within the municipality

- Council will encourage the community to assist in the removal of graffiti.

- Council will encourage the community to report graffiti to Council and other appropriate agencies through public awareness information including Council's website.
- 3. Facilitate Engagement and Education for all stakeholders**
- Council will engage all and relevant stakeholders, including young people, community groups, Victoria Police, businesses and other agencies, to raise awareness of graffiti issues in the community and to work together towards possible solutions.
  - Council will investigate education programs that will highlight the positive aspects of youth culture and the financial and emotional damage that results from graffiti vandalism.
- 4. Support the community to minimise incidents of graffiti on private property**
- Council will encourage the community to report graffiti to police and other appropriate agencies.
  - Council will educate and support residents and businesses in the most effective ways to remove graffiti from their property.
- 5. Advocate to owners of other public infrastructure to remove graffiti**
- In addressing problem areas Council will encourage the establishment of working groups or contact groups to engender a partnership approach in supporting a coordinated response.
  - Council will work to establish agreements with public authorities to allow Council to remove graffiti from their property and infrastructure, if the need arises.
  - Council will seek reimbursement for its expenses from the responsible authority if graffiti is removed by Council.

GRAFFITI REMOVAL – SERVICE LEVEL TIMEFRAMES		
<b>Offensive Graffiti</b>	Council will endeavour to remove within 24 hours	Council will prioritise the removal of any graffiti deemed offensive on Council assets including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buildings;</li> <li>• Open space; and</li> <li>• Private property (where consent has been provided)</li> </ul>
<b>Standard Service Levels</b>	Within 20 business days	Removal from Council assets including buildings and open space.  Times can be delayed due to inclement weather or complexity of the surface.
<b>Private property</b>	Responsibility of the private property owner	
<b>Public Infrastructure owner</b>	Responsibility of the asset owner	

### Local Government Act 2020 Principles

Principles	Applicable to policy	If yes, provide details
<b>Governance Principles</b> (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes	This policy provides a framework to guide all parties to achieve the best outcome.
<b>Community Engagement</b> (Consideration of Community Engagement Principles under s.56 LGA 2020)	Yes	Yes, community engagement/education will be undertaken with our community and key stakeholders.
<b>Public Transparency</b> (Consideration of Public Transparency Principles under s.58 of LGA 2020)	Yes	Public transparency principles apply to the implementation of all Council policies.
<b>Strategies and Plans</b> (Consideration of Strategic Planning Principles under s.89 of LGA 2020)	Yes	The community vision has been considered as laid out in the Council Plan.
<b>Financial Management</b> (Consideration of Financial Management Principles under s.101 of LGA 2020)	Yes	Financial management principles apply to the implementation of all Council

		policies. Service provided consistent with adopted budget.
<b>Service Performance</b> (Consideration of Service Performance Principles under s.106 of LGA 2020)	Yes	The implementation of this policy will be done in an equitable manner providing good value to the community. Service provision will be monitored for continuous improvement opportunities.

### Definitions

Graffiti	Defined in the Graffiti Prevention Act 2007 as to "write, draw, mark, scratch or otherwise deface property by any means so that the defacement is not readily removable by wiping with a dry cloth" without property owners' permission.
Offensive graffiti	Any graffiti of a racist or obscene nature that has the potential to cause offense to the community or certain groups within the community. It often includes offensive words or graphics or defamatory words about race or gender.
Private Property	Any property which is not owned by the Surf Coast Shire Council or non-Governmental legal entities.
Illegal graffiti	Graffiti installed on a property without the owner's permission

### Related Procedure

NA

### References

*Graffiti Prevention Act 2007*  
*Local Government Act 2020*  
*Council Plan 2021 – 2025*

### Document History

Version	Document History	Approved by – Date
1	<i>New Policy</i>	<i>TBC</i>