

Community Feedback – Amended Graffiti Control and Removal Policy

Comment received	Administration response
<p>It appears to abrogate the council’s responsibility to remove graffiti from rights of way and laneways.</p> <p>Given this is a common area of graffiti I do not agree that this change is desirable.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Management of graffiti vandalism in laneways is not specifically included/defined in the City’s current policy, so the aim of the proposed policy is to more clearly define the scope in this regard, within current resourcing and also the need to consider other prevention measures as part of a holistic approach to graffiti management (ie. looking beyond just providing a removal service).</p> <p>Whilst it is proposed that priority is given to graffiti removal on properties/infrastructure in laneways meeting the criteria in the amended policy, the City also provides other support in this regard, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Laneway Lighting program – annual budget to install lighting in priority laneways to deter anti-social behaviour and improve perceptions of safety; - Provision of free solar motion sensor floodlights to residents/businesses on request through our Safer Vincent program - Application for Safer Vincent Solar Power Sensor Light » City of Vincent; - Provision of an expanded range of free graffiti removal products to residents/businesses on request, on adoption of the amended policy (includes graffiti removal wipes, and bucket kits for painted and smooth surfaces, or brick, stone and masonry surfaces); - Working with the City’s Arts Officer and Place Planners to determine suitable locations for art installations and murals; - Apply for external grant funding through the State Graffiti Fund (WA Police) - we have previously received grants through this scheme to fund various graffiti management projects - Engagement of external contractors to undertake more significant (ie. at height or larger scale) graffiti removal works as appropriate - Through our Memorandum of Understanding with the Juvenile Justice Clean Up Program, we work with WA Police Force to identify hotspot locations, including laneways, that may be suitable to nominate for clean up <p>The proposed Policy also provides for discretion at 3.3, in that <i>Where appropriate, alternative strategies for graffiti management in hotspot areas or locations with extensive, historical graffiti vandalism will be given separate budgetary consideration.</i></p>

	<p>For further context, the City of Vincent has approximately 240 laneways, and an audit in 2021 showed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 44% were completely free of graffiti vandalism; - 30% had some graffiti present; - 15% had graffiti present which was clearly visible; and - 11% (approx. 26 laneways) had extensive, historical graffiti vandalism. <p>The new policy aims to generally provide graffiti removal support in the laneways experiencing smaller amounts of graffiti (such as removal services or provision of free products as noted above), with more targeted efforts and alternative, discretionary interventions to be considered for the approximately 11% of laneways assessed as hotspot areas.</p>
<p>Will the CoV be proactively removing graffiti on a daily basis or only responding to complaints from residents and stakeholders? Graffiti is contributing to an increased perception in the community that the area is unsafe.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The City proactively removes graffiti on City property and reports vandalism on other public assets to the appropriate agencies for removal.</p> <p>Options to provide a more proactive level of support to businesses within our town centres is currently being explored at an operational level, within existing resourcing and budgetary constraints.</p> <p>The proposed policy promotes the need for a holistic, all of community approach to graffiti management, including reporting, removal and prevention, with a number of initiatives planned to raise awareness and increase support to local businesses, residents and property owners.</p>