

GRAFFITI PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT POLICY

1. Rationale:

To ensure a consistent approach across the whole of the South Wairarapa to the prevention and management of graffiti, and to ensure consistency with the Wellington Regional Graffiti Prevention Strategy adopted by Council in July 2013 (DC2013/132).

Graffiti vandalism is an affront to civic pride. It damages the appearance of our towns to residents and visitors alike. It leads to reduced perceptions of safety in the community, and can be viewed as an indicator of the potential for more serious crimes.

South Wairarapa District Council (SWDC) and the communities of the South Wairarapa have zero tolerance for graffiti vandalism.

2. Purpose:

- 2.1 To define graffiti vandalism and provide guidance on the use of associated terms
- 2.2 To provide direction and guidance to address graffiti vandalism in neighbourhoods, communities and businesses
- 2.3 To encourage a collaborative approach to working with communities and stakeholders to promote ownership and action in preventing and removing graffiti vandalism
- 2.4 To promote a sense of ownership and safety through prompt removal of graffiti on public and private property
- 2.5 To promote the effective use of legislation in enabling our communities to be free of graffiti vandalism

3. Guidelines:

3.1 DEFINITIONS

- 3.1.1 **"Graffiti vandalism"** is the act of a person damaging or defacing any building, structure, road, tree, property or other thing by writing, drawing, painting, spraying or etching on it, or otherwise marking it:
 - a. without lawful authority; and
 - b. without the consent of the occupier or owner or other person in lawful control[Source : Ministry of Justice STOP Strategy]
- 3.1.2 The term "graffiti art" should not be used. Graffiti should always be referred to as "graffiti vandalism". The term **"street art"** can be used to describe authorised public art which incorporates elements such as the use of spray paint, stylised lettering etc.

3.1.3 A “tag” is a stylised signature.

3.2 LEADERSHIP

3.2.1 SWDC has adopted the Regional Graffiti Prevention Strategy, and will actively participate in the Wellington Regional Graffiti Forum.

3.2.2 Advice will be provided to the community on graffiti prevention and removal, and there will be mechanisms for reporting of all graffiti whether on Council property or private.

3.2.3 The use of CPTED (crime preventions through environmental design) principles will be encouraged both for Council facilities and other commercial projects.

3.3 ENGAGEMENT

3.3.1 The Community Safety and Resilience Working Party has been established under the Council to ensure the implementation of the South Wairarapa District Council Graffiti Management and Prevention Policy, and the development of a strategy to support this and other community safety initiatives. The Working Party will include representatives of the community, business and youth.

3.3.2 Joint activities with community groups, particularly Neighbourhood Support, and businesses will promote the zero-tolerance message, and encourage community and youth involvement in initiatives to beautify the towns and foster a sense of ownership and pride.

3.3.3 Public art, such as murals, will be encouraged in appropriate locations.

3.4 ERADICATION

3.4.1 Council will remove graffiti vandalism from its own properties as soon as possible, with particular urgency where the content is offensive.

3.4.2 Council will provide advice to owners of private property to encourage them to remove graffiti vandalism as quickly as possible. Graffiti removal kits will be made available free of charge from locations in each town.

3.4.3 Graffiti vandalism hot-spots will be identified and targeted for additional prevention/protection measures.

3.5 ENFORCEMENT

3.5.1 All graffiti vandalism on council properties will be reported to the Police, along with all available evidence. If offenders are identified, Council will encourage Police to follow through with prosecution under the appropriate legislation. If offenders are convicted, Council will seek reparation for the damages/repair costs.

3.5.2 The focus of graffiti vandalism monitoring will be to identify repeat offenders so as to result in their eventual prosecution.