

# Graffiti Management Policy

## Objectives

To outline the position that Council takes in the identification, removal and prevention of graffiti in the Town.

## Scope

The Graffiti Management Policy includes graffiti on public and private property and the associated actions to remove and prevent graffiti.

## Policy statement

Graffiti on Council property, in the community and on private property, impacts the lifestyle of the Town's residents by creating perceptions of poor safety and increased crime.

Graffiti can also have a negative impact on the environment through pollution (including chemical and litter runoff into waterways) and damage to items of environmental heritage.

Prompt removal is the most effective method of preventing graffiti from re-appearing.

### 1. Graffiti Removal

The Town removes graffiti from:

- a. Council assets, including leased sites
- b. Structures on public land and
- c. Under certain conditions, from private property

The Town will not remove graffiti from any utility providers' infrastructure within public or private land.

### 2. Prioritisation of Graffiti Removal on Council Assets

- 2.1. Removal of graffiti on Council assets is prioritised based on the type of graffiti, with priority given to the removal of offensive, racist or defamatory graffiti and /or graffiti on prominent sites or sites of significance within the community. The following table outlines the graffiti removal timelines on Council assets.

Type of Graffiti	Priority Removal Time
<b>Type 1</b>  Racist, defamatory, offensive graffiti on Council assets and/or prominent sites or sites of significance.	Within 2 working days from when it is reported (where possible)
<b>Type 2</b>  All non-offensive or other types of graffiti.	Within 20 working days

### **3. Graffiti removal from private properties (by consent of the owner or occupier)**

- 3.1. The Town will write to the property owner or occupier requesting that they remove the graffiti.
- 3.2. If the owner or occupier cannot arrange the removal, but agrees that it should be removed, pursuant to the Graffiti Vandalism Act 2016, the Town may carry out graffiti removal on their behalf.
- 3.3. The Town provide confirmation of the costs in writing to residential owners or occupiers in accordance with the annual “Fees and Charges”.
- 3.4. Agreement must be received in writing and the amount paid prior to the Town arranging the works.
- 3.5. The Town will not remove graffiti that is etched into glass or other materials and will make every effort to clean using appropriate products, however, cannot guarantee that there will be no shadow or permanent scarring on the cleaned surface.

It will also make every effort to match the surface colour when painting over graffiti that cannot be cleaned or removed, however cannot guarantee the colour will be a perfect match.

### **4. Graffiti removal from private properties (without the consent of the owner or occupier)**

- 4.1. The Town will write to the property owner or occupier requesting that they remove the graffiti.

4.2. Where the property owner or occupier does not respond within 21 working days or refuses to undertake the works within this period, pursuant to the *Graffiti Vandalism Act 2016*, the Town may, without agreement of the owner or occupier, undertake the removal, subject to the following:

- a. the graffiti is visible from a public place and
- b. the removal can be carried out only from a public place and
- c. the graffiti is offensive in nature

4.3. Where the Town carries out the graffiti removal work, it will then provide the owner or occupier written notice that the work has occurred and advise them of the cost they will need to provide to the Town for the completed works.

## **5. Community involvement / Reporting**

5.1. While acknowledging that investigation of graffiti offences is primarily a WA Police matter, the Council encourages the community to implement graffiti prevention strategies to their own properties or businesses.

5.2. The community are encouraged to report incidences of graffiti for removal either via the Town's Customer Service team on 9377 8000, by email to [mail@bassendean.wa.gov.au](mailto:mail@bassendean.wa.gov.au) or online through the Town's website.

5.3. The Town will keep a register of graffiti removal work carried out. The register will be available on the Town of Bassendean website and updated regularly.

The register will specify the:

- a. graffiti removal work carried out
- b. location address of the graffiti
- c. cost of carrying out the work

This information will be utilised to inform Council in its ongoing approach to the management of graffiti.

Document responsibilities:			
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Compliance requirements:			
Legislation	<i>Graffiti Vandalism Act 2016 (WA)</i>		