



## **Graffiti Management Program**

### **A COOPERATIVE APPROACH**

Evidence shows that a key element to controlling graffiti is its quick removal. The management of graffiti and its quick removal requires a unified and a shared responsibility to its removal.

The City of Palmerston will continue to engage NT Police, Darwin City Council and work with all levels of Government (including Power and Water and the Department of Planning and Infrastructure and the Palmerston Rural and Business Association to share the burden of graffiti and vandalism in the community.

### **GRAFFITI REMOVAL & MANAGEMENT**

#### **COUNCIL PROPERTY**

Council recognises that perceptions of safety and civic pride in the community are affected negatively by graffiti and vandalism. Council is committed to keeping its property graffiti free and the expedient removal of graffiti when it occurs.

- **REMOVAL**

In light of the above recommendation, Council commits to remove offensive graffiti within 24 hours and non-offensive graffiti within five working days.

Council has established a general ledger code for graffiti and vandalism that will track both costs and incidents of graffiti. This will allow Council to determine the real cost and track the preventative measures detailed below.

Council will trial a dedicated graffiti removal service provider to further isolate the issue from other repairs and maintenance issues in the City of Palmerston.

- **REWARD PROGRAM**

Council has instituted a reward program for residents who provide information that leads to the successful prosecution of an offender. The resident will be entitled to the costs recouped from the successful prosecution up to and not exceeding \$1,000.

The reward program will encourage residents to report incidents through both Crime Stoppers and the Council, if the incident occurred on Council property.

A media campaign will be developed with Darwin City Council and NT Police to promote our graffiti management programs and the reward scheme.

#### **NON-COUNCIL PROPERTY**

Council needs to work with the community to create a unified approach to graffiti management. Council will work with the NT Police, Palmerston and Rural Business Association, key community service providers, all levels of Government (including

PAWA, DPI and Darwin City Council), resident associations and residents towards the quick and speedy removal of graffiti.

Council recognises that there can be significant financial barriers in the removal of graffiti from private property and will assist residents who wish to remove the damage.

- **PAINT VOUCHERS**

Council will provide a paint voucher to the value of \$50 on receipt of proof of police report and resident status for the first incident – and further vouchers at cost.

Council will liaise with local retailers to develop a partnership to support this community initiative.

- **GRAFFITI REMOVAL KITS**

Council will investigate the option to provide a voucher to value of \$60 for a specialist removal kit on receipt of proof of police report and resident status – with further kits to be provided at cost.

Council will work with businesses in and around Palmerston to ensure the kits are available for sale.

## **LEGISLATION**

The NT Police has created a graffiti database that will be a searchable reference point for all incidents of graffiti. The public are encouraged to submit images of graffiti they encounter. The NT Police have indicated they will seek a strengthening of legislative provisions aimed at reducing graffiti.

Council has the following by-law available:

### *PALMERSTON (PUBLIC PLACES) BY-LAWS*

#### **61 Writing, defacing etc.**

- (1) A person who, without a permit, writes on, defaces or marks a power pole, sign, post, fixture, wall or pavement in a public place with writing or pictorial representation commits an offence.

Penalty: \$3 000.

## **GRAFFITI PREVENTION**

Council recognises that a single approach to managing graffiti would be ineffective and that a holistic approach is required with an emphasis on preventative measures.

- **PUBLIC ART AND STREET ART ZONES**

There has been considerable success in other urban areas in combating graffiti by introducing street art zones and the implementation of street art permits. Council currently supports the existence of a free street art zone surrounding the skate park and underpass.

Council will further investigate other appropriate venues for street art zones and the ability for residents and businesses to apply for street art permits, which will allow for the painting of murals and street art on their properties. Research shows that such spaces reduce the rate of unauthorised graffiti in surrounding area.

- **YOUTH PROJECTS**

Council encourages the positive engagement of young people through its youth projects program, which encompasses the Young Adult Program (YAP), school holiday activities, youth week events and various other cultural development initiatives. Council will further encourage the development of programs that tackle issues of youth boredom and community and civic involvement.

In particular Council will ensure young people have an input into the development of future youth recreation facilities and developments thereby creating a sense of ownership of the facility and the community.

- **RESTRICT THE SALE OF GRAFFITI MATERIALS**

Council will develop partnerships with local business and community organisations such as Amity to control the sale of graffiti materials.

Council will lobby NT Government to bring the Territory in line with other states and territories that regulate the sale of graffiti materials to children and minors.

### **EVALUATION**

Council will review the graffiti management program in twelve (12) months, with incidents of graffiti to be reported quarterly.