

## **GRAFFITI REMOVAL POLICY**

Approved By: Council  
Doc Controller: General Manager  
File: 126

Document Code: DVC-POL-054  
Version: 1  
Approved Date: 28/04/2022  
Next Review Date: 28/04/2023

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### **1. PURPOSE**

Council is committed to and responsible for maintaining a clean, safe and attractive environment that is inviting to residents, workers and visitors. Council and community assets can be substantially damaged by illegal graffiti.

Graffiti removal requires resources - financial, staff, contracted and volunteer - which could be allocated to other activities and outcomes of benefit to the community. Illegal graffiti also has a social cost, as it can lower community pride, reduce perceptions of safety and impact community cohesion.

This Policy outlines Derwent Valley Council's commitment to graffiti removal, with particular focus on assets it owns and maintains in the municipality.

### **2. SCOPE**

This policy applies to:

- Property owned or managed by Council;
- Community reports of graffiti to Council;
- Council referral to relevant entities;
- Staff, contractors and volunteers of Council.

This policy does not apply to:

- Property not owned/managed by Council;
- Entities including TasWater, TasNetworks, State Growth;
- Sanctioned public art including 'street art' created with permission of owners and other relevant authorities.

Clarification:

- Social programs and business initiatives related to Graffiti prevention and awareness are determined as part of Council's Community and/or Economic Development strategies.
- This Policy should be interpreted in conjunction with any sanctioned Public Art Policy subject to any future decision of Council.

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### 2.1 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this policy the below references are defined:

Graffiti	Written, scribbled, scratched, stenciled or painted markings or artwork on a surface. Graffiti is illegal when permission is not given by either the owner of the property and/or planning and regulatory requirements have not been met.
Offensive Graffiti	Graffiti that is racial, sexual, politically offensive, insulting to the general community.
CRMS	Customer Relationship Management System; a software system that helps streamline and track communications with clients.
Legal Graffiti Wall	A designated, maintained and signed public wall where graffiti can legally be undertaken by anyone.
Tag	Markings representing initials, nicknames or signature.
Piece	A large graffiti work that can contain a mixture of letters and/or images.
White-Washed	A process of painting over graffiti.
Public Art	Projects with strong aesthetic dimensions where the artistry and sense of place are major considerations.
Community Art	Projects where the process can take precedence over the outcome, which aim to deliver skills and benefits to contributors with or without the guidance of a professional artist.

### 3. LEGISLATION

*Evidence Act 2001*  
*Local Government Act 1993*  
*Monetary Penalty Enforcement Act 2005*  
*Police Offences Act 1935*

### 4. POLICY

Illegal graffiti is a challenge for Local Governments, and responses are necessarily resource dependent. Private property owners and property managers are responsible for removing graffiti on their property. Derwent Valley Council commits to managing Graffiti removal on assets it owns or maintains as part of the Council's Service Level provision, and in accordance with the principles below.

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### **4.1. MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES**

- 4.1.1. All Council personnel are expected to be vigilant for graffiti and report illegal graffiti through Council processes.
- 4.1.2. The resources required for Council to manage Graffiti are to be considered on an annual basis as part of operating costs in Council's budget.
- 4.1.3. Council will consider developing plans for specific sites it owns or manages where graffiti is recurrent or prolific.
- 4.1.4. Council will implement Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) strategies in the design, planning and maintenance of public spaces and buildings, to minimise the potential for graffiti vandalism ongoing.
- 4.1.5. Council will provide information and processes that enable the community to effectively report acts and incidences of graffiti in the Derwent Valley.
- 4.1.6. Council will work with Tasmania Police and other authorities in addressing illegal graffiti in the Derwent Valley.
- 4.1.7. Council will track graffiti notifications and removals through its CRMS, include the data in monthly reporting, and review the data on an annual basis to help inform Council's forward asset management plan and mitigation strategies.

### **4.2. REMOVAL PRINCIPLES**

- 4.2.1. Every effort will be made to remove or cover graffiti on Council owned and maintained assets in accordance with the timeframes outlined in its Customer Service Charter.
- 4.2.2. If graffiti on private property is visible from a public space Council will attempt to contact the property owner to negotiate removal or covering.
- 4.2.3. Contractors will be required to report incidences of graffiti on Council-owned assets via Council's reporting channels where relevant to their function.
- 4.2.4. Graffiti removal from Council assets/property by volunteers will only occur under specific direction from Council and in accordance with Council Policy, Risk Assessments and Safe Work Method Statements.

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4.2.5. Council will consider developing instructions for graffiti removal at specific sites it owns or manages where specialist skill or knowledge is required.

4.2.6. Where Graffiti occurs on memorials, cenotaphs, gravestones, murals, artworks, monuments or other sites of cultural/symbolic nature Council will inform and consult key stakeholders prior to graffiti removal.

### **4.3. MITIGATION PRINCIPLES**

4.3.1. Council will support initiatives in graffiti prevention and diversion – including social programs and local business initiatives – where aligned with Council’s Community/Economic Development strategies and the community need, partnerships and funding exist.

## **5. RELATED DOCUMENTS**

*Asset Management Policy*  
*CCTV Policy*  
*Cemetery Management Policy*  
*Customer Service Charter*  
*Enforcement Policy*  
*Information Management Policy*