



# Graffiti Management Policy

Facilities & Open Space

Date of Adoption: 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Review Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2027

## 1. Scope

The Graffiti Management Policy provides a clear direction for the management of graffiti within Wyndham and replaces the previous Graffiti Management Strategy 2017 – 2022.

## 2. Background

As outlined on the Victorian Community Crime Prevention Website, graffiti is defined as the illegal marking on property without the owner's consent.

Offensive graffiti is defined as any form of graffiti containing language of an offensive, politically, racially, religiously insulting or inciting nature, hate statements or graphically explicit images.

Graffiti vandalism not only affects the visual appearance of neighbourhoods and influences perceptions of public safety, it is also costly for communities and property owners to remove and prevent. Other problems associated with graffiti include antisocial behaviour and loitering.

Whilst Council acknowledges that it is not possible to entirely prevent the occurrence of all illegal graffiti, Council is committed to continuously reducing the overall amount of graffiti throughout the Municipality and the negative impacts it inflicts upon our Wyndham community.

In order to successfully achieve this, Council's approach towards the management of illegal graffiti is based on three Key Result Areas (KRAs) - Prevention, Removal and Enforcement.

Wyndham City is responsible for removing graffiti from its own assets, including buildings, parks and open spaces, public toilets, furniture, playgrounds, Wyndham City signage and fire hydrants.

Utility service providers and other service authorities are responsible for removing graffiti from their own premises. All graffiti on such property should be reported directly to the relevant authority.

## 3. Policy Statement

Wyndham City provides a holistic, proactive and preventative approach to decrease and deter graffiti through education programs and rapid graffiti removal services. This Policy commits to prevention, removal and enforcement activities in accordance with the following sections.

### 3.1. Prevention

- Install anti-graffiti murals in graffiti hot-spot locations to deter graffiti vandals;
- Ensure Council's mural guidelines (attachment 1) are adhered to internally and externally with a sound approval process;
- Work closely with Wyndham primary and secondary schools and local community groups to coordinate preventative mural projects and/or graffiti education programs;
- Aim to reduce graffiti by providing legal locations for street art via legal 'hit up' walls;
- Work with internal and external stakeholders to ensure paint colours are chosen correctly to deter graffiti vandals;
- Work closely with internal and external stakeholders to minimise the likelihood of graffiti through design, e.g. – planting shrubs along fences and not creating blank canvases;
- Ensure easily accessible updated graffiti information is available to the community; and
- Work with other Victorian Councils to ensure a collaborative approach with shared knowledge and resources in graffiti management.



### 3.2. Removal

- Council will remove offensive graffiti on Wyndham City Assets within 1 working day from the time the request is received;
- Council will remove general graffiti on Wyndham City Assets within 3 working days from the time the request is received;
- Provide a graffiti removal support service to residents where graffiti is visible from a public space and at a height of no more than 5 metres;
- Provide a graffiti removal support service to local businesses where graffiti is visible from a public space and at a height of no more than 5 meters. This service is offered twice yearly and up to a maximum of 5m<sup>2</sup> per removal;
- Where graffiti exceeds 5m<sup>2</sup> on a local business or is greater than 5 metres in height, the relevant owner must remove all offensive graffiti within 7 business days from the time of occurrence and all general graffiti within 10 business days from the time of occurrence. If adequate removal action is not taken within these timeframes, further action in accordance with Council's Community Amenity Local Law can be taken which may result in the issuing of an infringement notice;
- Report graffiti located on other property to the relevant company (i.e. VicRoads, Telstra);
- Provide graffiti removal kits to the community; and
- Regularly audit hot spot areas.

### 3.3. Enforcement

- Maintain Council's graffiti removal database (AUSGR) on a regular basis to ensure that tagging information is assigned and stored adequately;
- Supply tagging information to Victoria Police to assist in the prosecution of offenders;
- Liaise with local business owners to restrict the selling of spray paint to minors as per the Graffiti Prevention Act 2007; and
- Liaise with Victoria Police regarding general graffiti matters on a regular basis to maintain and strengthen relationships.

## 4. Relevant Legislation

- Graffiti Prevention Act 2007. A full copy of the Act can be found here - <https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/>
- Wyndham City's Community & Amenity Local Law (most current). A full copy of the Law can be found here – [www.wyndham.vic.gov.au](http://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au)

## 5. Planning and Reporting

The Graffiti Management Team will implement a yearly service plan highlighting key actions in relation to the above three KRAs (Prevention, Removal, Enforcement) and report to Council annually regarding delivery outcomes and achievements.

Graffiti project outcomes and statistics will be updated regularly and displayed on Council's website along with the most updated contact details for the community to report graffiti.

## Attachment 1 – Graffiti Mural Guidelines

The guidelines below are designed to assist any person or persons who may wish to apply for a Preventative Mural on their property:

- A Preventative Mural is to be completed on a structure which has been deemed appropriate in the Municipality;
- A Preventative Mural Application Form must be lodged, along with the intended mural design and maintenance program, with Council's Parks Assets Unit at 241 – 253 Old Geelong Road in Hoppers Crossing or via e-mail at [graffiti@wyndham.vic.gov.au](mailto:graffiti@wyndham.vic.gov.au). The form can be found at [www.wyndham.vic.gov.au](http://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au);
- Design to be approved by the Parks Assets Unit in Council's Facilities & Open Space Department;
- If the applicant for a Preventative Mural is not the property owner, signed permission from the owner must be attached with the Preventative Mural Application Form;
- The Preventative Mural must not contain political, racist and sexual images, discriminatory symbols, or text unless otherwise approved by the Parks Assets Unit;
- A preventative mural can be permitted to advertise a business name;
- When considering the placement of a Preventative Mural, consideration must be given to the surrounding area i.e. if on a main arterial, the mural design should not be deemed to be a possible distraction by road users (Council to make final assessment);
- All aerosol paint must be purchased from a reputable art supplier to ensure the quality is of an appropriate grade;
- If the completed Preventative Mural is coated in anti-graffiti coating as prescribed by Wyndham City's Parks Assets Team and at the mural sponsors cost, Wyndham City will maintain the mural on the owner's behalf;
- If the artwork is not coated in a prescribed anti-graffiti coating, the organiser will bare all graffiti removal costs and comply with Wyndham City's removal guidelines; and
- If upon completion the Preventative Mural does not meet these application guidelines, Wyndham City's Parks Assets department may paint over the Preventative Mural at the mural sponsor's cost.