

## MANAGEMENT GUIDELINE

Reference Number	731327
Responsible Business Unit	Community Services
Responsible Officer	General Manager Community Development
Legislation	Local Government Act 1999 Graffiti Control Act 2001 Environmental Protection Act 1993 Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016
Relevant Delegations	CEO or delegate
Related Policies Management Guidelines Frameworks	RCMB Graffiti Removal Guidelines 2020 RCMB Graffiti Removal Consent Form RCMB Graffiti Removal Consent Form – Ongoing Consent RCMB Graffiti Removal Approved Locations Safe Work Method Statement Traffic Guidance Scheme SA Standards for Workzone Traffic Management RCMB Volunteer Program Risk Assessment RCMB Volunteer Policy RCMB Graffiti Removal Volunteer Induction Manual
Link to Strategic Plan	Objective 2.2 – Care for the Community – A Safe, Healthy and Active Community
Date Adopted	12 October 2020, item 159.2
Review Date	within a Council term
Previous Revisions	10 March 2015, item 64.11

## BACKGROUND

In South Australian legislation, the definition of graffiti is considered to be any marks that change the appearance of a property without the owner's permission, including writing, drawing, marking, scratching, etching or posting something on the property.

Graffiti can have a negative impact on the public's perception of safety in the community, and can also affect a community's social, economic and environmental wellbeing.

While unauthorised graffiti is illegal in South Australia, authorised graffiti (Street Art) can make a positive contribution to the community, and provide a legitimate means for creative expression and provide a sense of community.

## POLICY STATEMENT

This policy provides a framework to guide Council in managing graffiti within the Rural City of Murray Bridge.

It outlines Council's role and responsibilities in relation to the removal of illegal graffiti, plus Council's commitment to working with the community in a shared approach to graffiti management.

The Rural City of Murray Bridge is committed to working with the community to ensure our centres, streets and public spaces are safe, inviting and support a positive image of our city.

## OBJECTIVE

Efficient, timely, effective and safe removal of graffiti within the Rural City of Murray Bridge.

## SCOPE

Graffiti removal from public spaces within the boundaries of the Rural City of Murray Bridge.

Council will engage with the community to encourage a shared approach to graffiti management, which includes community members volunteering to remove graffiti as part of the Graffiti Removal Program.

Council supports community-based activities that have a primary prevention focus, with the aim of reducing graffiti incidents.

## DEFINITIONS

**Graffiti** - any marks that change the appearance of a property without the owner's permission, including writing, drawing, marking, scratching, etching or posting something on the property.

**Council property** – means all buildings, land, reserves, and structures owned and maintained by the Rural City of Murray Bridge

**Private Property** – means any property which is not owned by the Rural City of Murray Bridge or an agency of the Crown

**Graffiti Removal Volunteer** - A Volunteer who is registered with the Rural City of Murray Bridge volunteer program and has undertaken all the required training to enable the safe removal of graffiti within the boundaries of the Rural City of Murray Bridge.

**Community Safety Officer** – Council's employed officer in responsible for co-ordinating the registered Graffiti Removal Volunteers.

## PRINCIPLES

In line with the community's vision of a Thriving Community, the Rural City of Murray Bridge is committed to developing an environment where community members feel safe to live, work and play. Council recognises that its role in enhancing the visual amenity of our streetscapes is essential to creating a liveable community, and supporting a sense of community safety.

Whilst Council's commitment to the prompt removal of graffiti is a major contributor to enhancing the visual amenity of our streetscapes, Council recognises that various other strategies such as planning, education and regulation all play an important role in the holistic management and prevention of graffiti.

Council will endeavour to prevent future graffiti vandalism by planning and designing public spaces that incorporate the principles of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED).

Council will support community-based activities that educate and engage the community (particularly youth) in being actively involved in a shared approach to graffiti management.

As part of this shared approach, community members are encouraged to join Council's team of Graffiti Removal Volunteers.

Council and the Graffiti Removal Volunteers will follow a determined procedure for responding to reports of graffiti, and this procedure is clearly outlined in the *Graffiti Removal Guidelines 2020*.

Community members can report graffiti via:

- Phone: Customer Service 8539 1100
- Council website – customer request

- External Apps: including *My Local Services* and *Snap Send Solve*, available from both the Apple and Android App Stores.

Graffiti Removal Volunteers must not undertake graffiti removal that could result in damage to property or at risk of injury to themselves or others.

In some instances where the Graffiti Removal Volunteers are not able to remove the graffiti, then the property owner will be responsible for the graffiti removal, and may need to engage the services of a private contractor at the property owner's own expense.

Council is committed to Valuing our Environment, and will use graffiti removal products and methods that are as environmentally friendly as possible.

## IMPLEMENTATION

The Rural City of Murray Bridge encourages the community to report graffiti for removal.

Where possible, offensive or high level graffiti will be removed within 48 hours.

Medium or low-grade graffiti will be removed as soon as practicable, depending on the particular circumstances, eg: volunteer availability or once the property owner's consent has been obtained.

## ATTACHMENTS

Nil