

VANDALISM MANAGEMENT

POLICY

POL-CNP 02

Objective:

To:

- 1) Deter theft, acts of vandalism and malicious damage occurring on City of Mandurah infrastructure, property and equipment;
- 2) Provide effective preventative and responsive measures to address graffiti vandalism;
- 3) Minimise the financial, social, environmental and economic impact of vandalism;
- 4) Encourage community participation toward the reporting of vandalism.

Definitions:

For the purpose of this policy:

Vandalism – means the wilful or malicious destruction, disfigurement or defacement of any City of Mandurah infrastructure, property and equipment, without consent.

Graffiti Vandalism means the illegal activity of defacing private and/or public property in ways such as the inscription, writing, spraying, scratching or other form of defacement without the prior consent of the property owner, or with the consent of the property owner but where it is of an offensive, obscene or racist nature. It includes tags, stencils and the fixing of posters.

The above may be collectively referred to as "vandalism".

Statement:

The City of Mandurah (the 'City') recognises that vandalism has a significant financial and social impact on the community, adds to an atmosphere of neglect and negatively impacts on the community's perception about the actual level of crime and safety. It understands that the ongoing concerns with this issue extends to residents, local communities, government, businesses and Police.

The City is committed to minimizing both the unsightliness and cost of vandalism to Council and the community and to enlist the community's help in reporting instances of vandalism as soon as possible.

Graffiti Removal Expectations and Service Level

Graffiti vandalism has a significant effect on the feeling of safety and perceived fear of crime within the community. The City is determined to minimise graffiti vandalism and sees prompt removal as best practice in graffiti reduction as it diminishes the level of recognition and reward achieved by vandals and also prevents assets appearing uncared for. It aims to enhance the built environment by reducing the incidence of graffiti vandalism and improving community perceptions of safety and amenity in the local government area.

The City will:

- remove graffiti found or reported to be on City infrastructure, property and equipment, including private property boundary structures abutting public reserves, public access ways and public roads, as soon as reasonably practical;

- encourage owners/occupiers to remove graffiti found on private property, where the graffiti is visible from a public place, as soon as reasonably practical;
- report graffiti on government property to the relevant government department and encourage prompt removal of the graffiti;

Vandalism Response Expectations and Service Level

The City acknowledges that property that is well maintained reduces the risk of incidence of vandalism occurring, and improves the community's perception of safety and amenity in the local government area.

Where vandalism is found or reported to be on City infrastructure, property and equipment, the City will actively repair or replace as soon as reasonably practical.

Engagement

Vandalism management is a community responsibility and a partnership approach drawing on shared resources, capacities and commitment is integral to effective vandalism prevention and reduction. The City recognises that positive outcomes in vandalism management can be best achieved through involvement with a wide range of stakeholders, including Council, State government departments, local business owners, community groups and the local community. The City recognises and values the contributions of government initiatives and programs which focus on prevention and reduction and will work to strategically complement and support these initiatives.

Reporting

The City encourages any person who witnesses, or has information regarding an act of vandalism to:

- 1) Report it to the WA Police on 131 444
- 2) Report it to the City of Mandurah on (08) 9550 3777 or email council@mandurah.wa.gov.au
- 3) For graffiti, use the [Goodbye Graffiti](#) website or call the Graffiti Hotline on 1800 44 22 55.

Information such as the time and place of the incident, description of damage, possible offender/s details and photographs are useful in these circumstances.

Rewards

The City acknowledges that vandalism management requires an element of enforcement to ensure that offenders are held accountable and dealt with through the appropriate channels.

The City seeks to deter vandalism by encouraging the community to report vandalism, with the Chief Executive Officer being authorised to offer rewards up to \$1000 to persons providing information which results in a successful prosecution.

The amount of the reward is to be based on the extent and costs of damage or loss incurred and the value to Council in securing a prosecution.

Rewards in excess of \$1000 may be offered in specific cases, subject to the approval of Council.

Elected Members, City employees or contractors, Members of State or Federal Police or persons convicted of being illegally involved in any activity relating to City property will not be eligible for a reward under the provisions of this policy.

Responsible Directorate:	Sustainable Communities
Reviewer:	Director Sustainable Communities
Creation date:	Minute G.43/12/09, 15 December 2009
Amendments:	Minute. G35/2/15, 24 February 2015 Minute G.12/2/17, 14 February 2017 Minute G.19/6/19, 25 June 2019
Related Documentation and/or Legislation:	<i>Graffiti Vandalism Act 2016</i> Form 4 — Objection under section 22 Form 6 — Warrant to Enter under Section 29