

# Stop graffiti vandalism

## Factsheet 3: Information for property owners

### HOW CAN A PROPERTY OWNER PREVENT GRAFFITI VANDALISM?

#### Keep up appearances

Make every effort to keep the appearance of your property clean and neat. An exterior appearance that suggests apathy and neglect including litter, broken fences, overgrown landscaping, and poor lighting all send a message that property owners are not attentive or do not care.

#### Build in prevention

Use the principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) to reduce the opportunity of offenders to target your property. CPTED works by increasing the risk of detection, increasing the difficulty of offending and reducing rewards to graffiti vandals. For detailed information on implementing CPTED principles in response to graffiti see Fact sheet 5 – *Preventing graffiti vandalism - Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)*.

### WHAT SHOULD A HOMEOWNER DO IF THEIR PROPERTY IS DAMAGED BY GRAFFITI VANDALISM

#### Report to the Police

Contact the police to report graffiti vandalism and ask police to complete an incident report. In NSW, graffiti vandalism can be reported to the Police Assistance Line (PAL) on 131 444. If you have information regarding graffiti vandals or people acting suspiciously, you can report it anonymously to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

#### Remove graffiti quickly

Rapid and continual removal of graffiti vandalism is the best way for property owners to protect their property and preserve the image of their neighbourhood. Removing graffiti vandalism within 24 to 48 hours makes removal easier and more effective and reduces the notoriety for graffiti vandals that results from having the graffiti vandalism on display. See Fact sheet 6 – *Graffiti vandalism removal and paint out options* for more information.

### WHAT IF GRAFFITI VANDALISM IS ON SOMEONE ELSE'S PROPERTY?

#### Ask them to remove it

If the graffiti vandalism is on a neighbour's house or business explain the benefits of rapid removal and give them a copy of this fact sheet. If the graffiti vandalism is on property owned by your local council, a government department or a utilities provider you should report it to them for removal. Some contact numbers are provided below.

### CONTACTS

NSW Police Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000  
Police Assistance Line 131 444

#### Local Councils

Telephone details can be found in the government section of the yellow pages

Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA)  
1800 816 770

For graffiti vandalism on major roads including street signs and sound walls

Telstra Public Telephones 180 22 44  
Telstra General Infrastructure 132 203

Energy Australia 131 535  
Integral Energy 131 081

#### Rail Infrastructure Corporation Hotline

1300 656 999  
State Rail Authority 131 500  
Sydney Ferries 131 500  
State Transit Authority 131 500  
Please quote the business registration number

Schools, TAFE colleges and education offices  
Report graffiti vandalism to the principal or office manager

Australia Post 13 13 18

Sydney Water graffiti@sydneywater.com.au  
Facility Operation Centre (FOC)  
1800 010 085 or 13 20 90



For more information:  
Crime Prevention Division  
email: cpd\_unit@agd.nsw.gov.au  
fax: (02) 9228 8559 or post  
post: GPO Box 6, SYDNEY 2001

Sutherland Shire Council  
4-20 Eton Street, Sutherland 2232  
Locked Bag 17, Sutherland 1499  
Phone: 02 9710 0333 Fax: 02 9710 0265  
Email: ssc@ssc.nsw.gov.au  
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