



Graffiti Hotspot Reduction Project

Aim

The aim of this project is to prevent graffiti at areas that have been identified as graffiti and vandalism hotspot locations. The choice of locations is based on an analysis of NSW Police Force recorded incidents of crime and Council's vandalism repair and graffiti removal data.

Rationale/Background

Resident consultations, such as Council's Neighbourhood Interaction and Participation Survey (NIPS) and NSW Police Perceptions of Crime Survey have consistently indicated that residents believe graffiti to be the offence which most negatively impacts on their lives and amenity.

As part of Council's overall graffiti reduction strategy, Council is targeting the top four (4) highly ranked public places which are regularly victimised with acts of graffiti and vandalism. The project has three key target areas:

1. Modifying the environment to prevent the reoccurrence of graffiti and vandalism by making it more difficult for malicious damage to occur. This could be through the provision of planting foliage in front of large blank walls, changing the texture of blank walls to create an uneven surface, developing legal art projects to eliminate the number of blank walls and/or other community activities.
2. Removing existing and new graffiti in high priority locations quickly and regularly to reduce the period of time graffiti remains visible.
3. Encouraging members of the local community and other stakeholders to participate in the creation and maintenance of hotspot locations to reduce the likelihood of graffiti and vandalism in the long-term.

Research indicates that increasing the risks and minimising the rewards to the offender in hotspot locations can contribute significantly to the reduction of the level of graffiti and vandalism occurring at those specific sites and surrounds.

Reducing the level of graffiti and vandalism at hotspot locations has many benefits to Council and the community.

1. It allows for resources to be more equitably divided across all Council facilities and public space throughout the Sutherland Shire.
2. It will reduce the impact of graffiti on the lives of local resident's and improve people's perceptions of public amenities.
3. It will reduce the cost of graffiti removal to Council and the community in the long-term.

Partners

Sutherland Shire Council

NSW Police Force represented by Miranda and Sutherland Local Area Commands

Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA)

Sydney Water

Local community

Expected outcomes

1. To prevent graffiti at locations that have been repeatedly subject to acts of graffiti vandalism through the implementation of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles including vegetation and screening or community based legal art and/or community activities.
2. To remove graffiti from Council owned property quickly
3. To reduce the opportunity for graffiti vandals to receive recognition from their peers.

