

## Vandalism Reward Scheme

# Frequently asked questions

### **How much is the reward?**

The amount of a reward will be different in every case. This is because the potential reward amount is equal to the costs to repair the vandalised or graffitied property. For example if damage was made to a council park which cost \$1,800 to repair, the potential reward for this offence would be \$1,800. The maximum amount of a reward for any individual incident is \$5,000. This means that if a range of objects in a park were vandalised in one incident, and that damage cost over \$5,000 to repair, the maximum reward payable would be \$5,000. In addition, each financial year, the reward scheme has a cap of \$20,000.

### **What types of offences are eligible?**

The reward is payable on the offence of malicious damage. Malicious damage includes graffiti and vandalism as defined in the policy. The reward is not payable for any other offences including offensive behaviour.

### **What type of property is eligible?**

For the reward to be payable the graffiti or vandalism must be committed on council-owned and managed property. Council owns many types of property including public buildings, parks and reserves, pedestrian plazas, road and road related areas.

### **Why is private property not eligible?**

Council is primarily responsible for providing and maintaining assets for the benefit of the whole community. When these assets are damaged everyone in the community suffers. For this reason, the focus of this scheme is to provide incentive to the community to report offenders who damage council-owned and managed property only.

### **Who do I call to report a crime?**

All crime, including graffiti and vandalism, should be reported to the police.

If you wish to report a crime which does not require immediate assistance, such as vandalism, the Police Assistance Line (PAL) should be contacted on 131 444.

For a crime in progress or other emergency situation, you should immediately contact 000.

If you would like to report the details of an offender anonymously you can contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000. Anonymous reports will not be eligible for a reward under this policy.

Remember that if you intend to submit a claim for a reward, council must be able to verify you as the person who provided information and therefore you should contact your local police station with that information.

## How do I make a claim for payment?

You will need to submit a Vandalism Reward Scheme Claim Form which is available from council's website ([www.sutherland.nsw.gov.au](http://www.sutherland.nsw.gov.au)). You can access the internet from any Sutherland Shire Library.

## What information do I need to provide?

The claim form requests specific information about you, a description of the graffiti or vandalism incident and other information which will allow council to verify details with NSW Police.

## What is a 'criminal proceeding'?

For the purposes of this scheme, a criminal proceeding is an action taken by the police against an individual where that individual has admitted guilt, or been found guilty of an offence in a court of law. It also includes cautions and juvenile conferences held under the Young Offenders Act 1997 where a person under the age of 18 has admitted guilt for malicious damage offences.

## What happens if I want to remain anonymous?

Your interaction with NSW Police will be bound by police policies and procedures. Unless required to do so under legislation, council will not release your name or contact details to any third party except to verify the information provided in the claim form with NSW Police.

## What if I am not happy with the decision about my claim?

You can write to council and request that the Manager Community Services reassess your application. You should provide a reason why this reassessment should be undertaken. If you are not happy with the outcome of your application you may write to the General Manager of council whose decision will be final.

## Who do I contact for more information?

Council's website contains more information about the Vandalism Reward Scheme and contact details for any further questions. Council's website is [www.sutherland.nsw.gov.au](http://www.sutherland.nsw.gov.au). Alternatively you can contact council on (02) 9710 0333.

## What sorts of claims are ineligible?

Council will not accept claims in which the person making the claim is also the identified offender. Council staff directly involved in the removal and/or management of graffiti and vandalism and their immediate family are also ineligible. NSW Police and other professionals are bound by their own policies and guidelines.

## What happens if police don't investigate?

Police will make decisions on the investigation of offences based on the available information. Should police choose not to investigate a particular incidence of graffiti or vandalism then a reward would **not** be payable.