



## Vandalism Reward Scheme

### Aim

To reduce acts of vandalism and malicious damage to Sutherland Shire Council property and to encourage the public to report acts of vandalism, graffiti and information on offenders to the NSW Police Force.

### Rationale/ Background

Resident consultations, such as Council's Neighbourhood Interaction and Participations Survey (NIP's) and NSW Police Sutherland Local Area Command Perceptions of Crime Survey have consistently indicated that residents believe graffiti to be the offence which most negatively impacts on their lives and amenity. In response to the level of graffiti incidents and perception of crime by community members, Sutherland Shire Council in partnership with the NSW Police Force implemented the Vandalism Reward Scheme.

Sutherland Shire Council is committed to providing services to the residents of the Sutherland Shire. In order to minimise both the unsightliness of graffiti and vandalism and the cost to council and the community, the community's help in reporting information about vandalism and graffiti incidents is sought. Community members may be eligible to receive a financial reward where information regarding an offence results in legal action being taken against the offender.

Council has implemented a rewards scheme for people who provide information to the NSW Police Force on offenders that leads to a criminal conviction. Council promotes this scheme through a highly publicised media campaign. The media campaign aims to:

1. Encourage reporting of crime by the local community.
2. Provide detail to Police to support their investigation of offences.
3. Reduce the excuse-making by offenders through promoting graffiti and vandalism as crimes.
4. To deter offenders from committing graffiti by increasing the risk of getting caught (i.e. more people keeping eye out and willing to report these offences and other vital information).

Council has displayed large billboard posters at key railway stations. Banners have been placed at various locations around the Local Government Area and electronic posters displayed on Council's webpage.

### Partners

NSW Police Force represented by Miranda and Sutherland Local Area Commands.  
Sutherland Shire Council.

### Outcomes to date

- Vandalism Reward Scheme has been operating since October 2006.
- Council has received a total of 13 applications (11 were approved and an award given and 2 were declined because they did not meet the strict criteria).
- Council has paid \$13,050 to community members in rewards.
- 25 (18 minors and 7 adults) offenders have been identified as a result of information provided by the community and received legal action (found guilty or admitted guilt).
- Council has recovered over \$5,000 via court order at the sentencing of offenders.
- A number of juveniles have participated in graffiti removal works (over 150hours) as a result of Juvenile Justice Conference Outcome Plans. Value costed at \$18/hour = \$2,700.

