

GRAFFITI REMOVAL POLICY

Policy/Procedure Type	Council
Responsible Department	City Infrastructure
Responsible Officer	Manager City Operations
Related Policies and Procedures	Nil
Community Plan 'Towards 2050' Link	<p>4. Places and Spaces</p> <p>4.2 We create and activate welcoming public spaces for all people to deliver memorable experiences that inspire connection, foster a strong sense of place, and strengthen our City's identity whilst enhancing its unique brand.</p>
Date Originally Adopted	25 October 2010
Last Review Date	8 December 2025
Next Review Date	December 2028
ECM Document No.	9171024

1. PREAMBLE

- 1.1. Council seeks to minimise incidents of Graffiti throughout the community in collaboration and partnership with residents, businesses, service authorities, State Government Departments, SAPOL and volunteers. Council is committed to coordinate and/or facilitate graffiti removal by encouraging stakeholders and asset owners to promptly remove graffiti, with the vision to enhance the City of Unley's urban environment by controlling and minimising the impacts of graffiti related vandalism.

2. SCOPE

- 2.1. This Policy applies to the management of graffiti on public and private property within the City of Unley.

3. PURPOSE/OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. Council's objective is to facilitate the removal of graffiti as promptly as practicable from Council owned land/property, and to seek and encourage removal of graffiti where other agencies, asset or property owners are responsible for the defaced and damaged property.

3.2. Through this policy Council seeks to:

- minimise the incidence of graffiti on both public and private property;
- ensure the prompt removal of graffiti;
- provide legitimate avenues of artistic expression;
- increase community participation in volunteer graffiti removal programs;
- be proactive in the prevention of graffiti; and
- minimise the cost burden to the community

4. DEFINITIONS

<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
the Act	is the <i>Graffiti Control Act 2001</i>
Council	means the Corporation of the City of Unley
DIT	means the Department of Infrastructure and Transport
Graffiti	is the illegal application of writing or drawings to property without the owners' permission. Graffiti is the unwanted marking and adornment of the physical environment. It is considered to be visual pollution of the environment and an affront to property owners, whether public or private
Tag	is an individual mark in the form of a signature or identification logo defined as graffiti
SAPN	is SA Power Networks

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

<u>Role</u>	<u>Responsibilities</u>
Elected Members	Responsible for the approval and adoption of this Policy
Manager City Operations	Application and Review of this Policy
Co-Ordinator City Operations	Implementation of this policy including management of the Graffiti Volunteer program
All Employees	Must comply with and facilitate the requirements of this Policy

6. STATEMENT

Principles

6.1 The following measures in accordance with the *Graffiti Control Act 2001*, are designed to keep the built environment in the City clear of graffiti as much as practicable, and to work in partnership with other agencies and individuals in combating the problem.

6.1.1 Council at its' discretion may utilise legislative powers to remove or obliterate graffiti in accordance with Section 12(1) of Part 4 of the Act:

Council may enter private property and take any action necessary to remove or obliterate graffiti on the property that is visible from a public place if –

(a) a notice under this section was served on the owner or occupier of the property at least ten (10) days prior to the action being taken; and

- (b) the owner or occupier on whom the notice was served has not objected, in accordance with the notice, to the action being taken.
- 6.1.2 Council may, if safe to do so and at its discretion, remove offensive graffiti from within private land provided notification has been given in accordance with the Act.
- 6.1.3 For frequently targeted properties a 'standing' authorisation to remove graffiti deemed to be offensive (reflecting racial, political or sexist images or language) may be sought under Section 12(2) of the Act from property owners/occupiers/agents so that the Act requirements are streamlined.
- 6.1.4 Council reserves the right to enter into agreements with property owners or business owners for the purpose of recovering all or part costs incurred by Council for the removal of graffiti from private land/property, (if Council has deemed it appropriate to facilitate the removal)
- 6.2 Council will coordinate and administer a community volunteer graffiti removal program to assist in creating a graffiti free community environment. City Operations will manage the volunteer register and will ensure that volunteer resources supplement Council resources only.

Council Sites and Public Spaces

- 6.3 Graffiti deemed to be offensive (reflecting racial, political, sexist images or language) will be removed from Council-owned assets within three (3) working days and non-offensive graffiti within ten (10) business days of notification when feasible.
- 6.4 Council will discourage graffiti through physical design or social responses, whenever opportunities arise to do so. Council will pro-actively identify opportunities to treat surfaces with anti-graffiti coatings and/or introduce chemical free graffiti removal practices where possible.
- 6.5 Appropriately designed and legally placed murals are acceptable to Council and require consultation with Council's Coordinator Cultural Development prior to commissioning. Murals are considered a positive form of art or decoration and are considered a deterrent to graffiti.

Non-Council sites

- 6.6 Council will not remove graffiti from building construction sites, demolition sites, enclosed/secure premises, vacant land or abandoned buildings. Council will liaise with property owners to facilitate prompt graffiti removal.
- 6.7 Council will not remove graffiti from businesses and shop frontages, unless Council enters into an agreement as per 6.1.4. Council will liaise with business owners to facilitate prompt graffiti removal.
- 6.8 Council may assist residential property owners with the removal of graffiti from their property frontage fencing only or by supplying advice on graffiti removal practices.

Shared Spaces and Utilities

- 6.9 Council will remove graffiti from all fences that directly abut Council owned shared use paths, linear walks and trails. e.g. Charles Walk and Wilberforce Walk.
- 6.10 Council will coordinate the removal of graffiti from all fences that directly abut shared use paths owned by DIT for which Council has entered into maintenance agreements. e.g. Mike Turtur Bikeway

6.11 Where it is deemed safe and appropriate, Council may remove graffiti from assets owned by DIT, SAPN and other utilities providers, which directly abut Council owned assets. However, Asset owners will be notified in the first instance to remove graffiti from their assets.

7. DELEGATIONS

7.1. Full information about the sub-delegated powers and duties is contained in the Council Delegations Register.

8. LEGISLATION

- *Local Government Act 1999*
- *Graffiti Control Act 2001*
- *Graffiti Control Regulations 2013*

9. AVAILABILITY OF POLICY

9.1. The Policy is available for public inspection during normal office hours at:

The Civic Centre,
181 Unley Road, Unley SA 5061.

A copy may be purchased for a fee as determined annually by Council.

It is also available for viewing, download and printing free of charge from the Council's website www.unley.sa.gov.au.

10. DOCUMENT HISTORY

Date	Version No.	Comment
25 October 2010	Version 1	C758/10
25 July 2016	Version 2	C526/16
23 September 2019	Version 3	C106/19
22 March 2021	Version 4	C0471/21
8 December 2025	Version 5	C1677/25