

**ITEM NO: 14**

**SUBJECT: GRAFFITTI MANAGEMENT POLICY**

**FILE NO: F00088**

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**By Councillor Van der Kley:**

- 1. That the Council look into adding to the Graffiti Management Policy that we offer a reward of up to \$2500 on conviction.*
- 2. That this be included in the a report to Council on the options for Graffiti Management as outlined at the Council Meeting on 3 June 2008*

**Background provided by Dubbo City Council:**

Dubbo's Vandalism Policy has been in place for about a year (adopted by Council). In this period the costs attributed to vandalism has dropped from \$200,000 in the previous year to \$30,000 in the current year (\$170,000 reduction). There have been no convictions and no-one has formally applied for the \$2,500 reward.

Dubbo's peak vandalism times are the school holidays and during summer, mainly in playgrounds and parks. There are several key contributors to the reduction in costs from vandalism over the past 12 months:

The Vandalism initiative created a lot of publicity and community talk about vandalism, graffiti and anti-social behaviour (only \$10,000 was spent on advertising e.g. local paper and radio station).

- Council has established a good relationship with local police, and photos of tags are taken and handed over to Police once a month or so for their records and investigation;
- There is a new Licensing Sergeant in town who has targeted anti-social activities such as public drinking;
- The wetter summer has also helped in breaking habits of night-time gatherings and under-age drinking;
- As there has been a reduced need for irrigation this summer, there has been less cost in damaged irrigation assets (i.e. one incident the year before required \$80,000 to fix a vandalised irrigation system);
- Strategies such as on-site discussions with kids in skate parks, explaining that the more vandalism that happens, the less that will be able to be provided to them (eg. skateboard parks), with the potential for removal if the vandalism clean-up becomes cost-prohibitive.

On the negative, there is a risk of false accusation for the reward (there have been some accusations as "paybacks" between local kids).

It was also suggested that it could be beneficial to establish a periodic formal meeting with the police and appropriate stakeholders eg RTA, community members, Councillor and Council representatives.

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