

Council Policy – Graffiti

Responsible Directorate	Operations
Responsible Business Unit/s	Operations
Responsible Officer	Manager Operations
Affected Business Units	Operations Facilities Community Safety Community Activation

Objective

The objective of this Policy is to provide a framework for the removal and reporting of Graffiti within the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale (the Shire). The Shire aims to provide graffiti removal services to all Shire owned properties, infrastructure, and shared boundaries areas.

Scope

This Policy is intended for use by Shire staff, Elected Members, Shire contractors, property owners and other relevant stakeholders.

Policy

Introduction

It is a crime to deface another person’s property without permission. The Shire will commit to clean, remove, or cover up graffiti on Shire managed buildings, fences, and structures, and private residential property where certain requirements are met. This is inclusive but not limited to parks, reserves, buildings, public access ways and road reserves.

The Shire aims to:

- remove graffiti as quickly as practicable,
- reduce the occurrence and visibility of graffiti,
- improve the community’s notion of safety,
- reduce the financial impact of illegal graffiti,
- encourage the reporting and removal of graffiti on private assets, and
- educate community on preventative measures, such as the use of anti-graffiti paints or design strategies.

Reporting

The Shire has a variety of user-friendly reporting methods, which the community can access via telephone, online forms, email, or mobile applications. These methods of reporting will be promoted through the Shire’s various communication platforms (social media, website, notice boards etc.).

The Shire has a working partnership with the WA Police to encourage the reporting of graffiti offenders through the Goodbye Graffiti website and mobile application. This program automatically directs the reports to the relevant local government authority or asset owner, for removal.

The community is encouraged to contact the WA Police, via the above method, if a graffiti offence is witnessed or in progress.

Removal

The Shire will remove graffiti from:

- Shire property and assets (reserves, footpaths, street furniture, bus stops, sculptures, artworks, buildings), and
- private property boundary fences (fences or walls that abut public access ways or roads that face parks or reserves)
- private residential properties at no cost where the landowner has reported it to the Police, obtained a police report number and provided an indemnity to the Shire for any damages

The Shire will ensure graffiti is removed within a timely manner, by Shire staff or Contractors.

Removal timeframes are outlined below:

Removal within 1 working day	Removal within 3 working days	Removal within 5 working days
Sites with obscene or offensive material.	Applies to highly visible sites.	Applies to all other graffiti.

Note: timeframes are conditional upon resourcing limitations as determined by the Shire.

Exemptions

It may be necessary to deviate from the targeted timeframes on a case-by-case basis. Exclusions include but are not limited to:

- surfaces which require specialised treatment, including chemical removal,
- temporary fences are referred to the property owner or fence hire company,
- urban art where an artist is required to repair the artwork,
- temporary memorials where a sensitive approach is appropriate,
- sites that present work health and safety constraints (e.g., height restrictions), and

- public artwork subject to Copyright.

The Shire encourages property owners and commercial businesses to remove all graffiti from their property as soon as possible and report vandalism to the police.

Non-Shire Assets

Service utility providers such as Public Transit Authority WA, Main Roads WA, Western Power, Telstra, or Water Corporation are responsible for the maintenance and repair of their own assets and infrastructure within the Shire. If graffiti or vandalism is noted on any assets listed below, it is recommended to report the offense to the relevant stakeholder for removal.

Asset Owner	Asset
Western Power	Transformer Box
	Distribution Poles
	Streetlight Poles
	Green Dome
	Substation Walls
	Electrical Cabinets
Telstra	Payphone
	Pit Covers
Main Roads WA	Sound Walls
	Pillars
Public Transport Authority WA	Rail Infrastructure
Water Corporation	Manhole Covers
	Pipework

Definitions

Graffiti means the destruction or damage to property in a public place, or visible from a public place, caused by spraying, writing, drawing, marking or otherwise applying a paint or other substance to the surface. Graffiti also refers to scratching or etching of a surface to cause damage.

Urban Art refers to public art inclusive of murals, digital printed ‘wraps’, projections, and other applied treatments through standardised methods.

Relevant Policies/Council Documents

- Shire Waiver Form – Graffiti Removal (E26/3561)

Legislation/Local Law Requirements

- *Local Government Act 1995*
- *Graffiti Vandalism Act 2016*

Amendment Record

Relevant Delegations		7.0 Graffiti Vandalism Act 2016 in the Register of Delegations and Authorisations	
		Date	Resolution Number
Council Adoption		17/11/2025	OCM-317-2025
Version	Date	Resolution Number	Amendment Details