



Graffiti Management

Strategy for Wanganui 2011-2013

Adopted: Wanganui District Council
Date: 14 November 2011



Graffiti Management Strategy for Wanganui

Goal: Graffiti Free Wanganui

Objective: To remove graffiti from public and private property, particularly in highly visible areas such as:

- Arterial routes
- Suburban Shopping Centres
- City Entranceways
- Central Business District
- Public walkways
- Tourist locations
- Infrastructure assets (*in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and the companies*)
- Parks and Council owned property

The strategy is based on a three tier approach:

1. **Eradication** – to ensure graffiti is removed as quickly as possible
2. **Enforcement** – to increase penalties, reporting and notifications
3. **Prevention** - to prevent the likelihood of graffiti occurring.

Objectives	Methods
Adopt a rapid removal policy – removal within 24 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proactively visit frequently tagged sites and target highly visible areas • Utilise the: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Graffiti Team 2. Probation Service • Engage support from utility companies through Memorandums of Understanding. • Seek sponsorship for equipment and materials.
Increase and improve identification and notification processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce and streamline a centralised reporting system with a dedicated telephone number to report graffiti. • Develop and distribute information advising people how to report and deal with graffiti.
Increase use of intelligence and assessments of repeat target areas and repeat offenders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build database of repeat target locations, offenders and tags. • Analyse trends and patterns to predict where next graffiti hits might occur. • Work with law enforcement agencies.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) site assessments in repeat areas and address contributing factors such as surface and surveillance issues.
Reduce access to graffiti tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a database and use appropriate mapping tools to identify retailers and offenders. • Encourage retailers to reduce accessibility of paint spray cans and other graffiti tools or adopt a no sale policy to under 18 year olds. • Monitor trends – provide feedback to retailers.
Increase enforcement and penalty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a database of offenders and known tags. • Engage schools and youth groups to help identify known taggers • Provide information to police about known offenders and frequently tagged sites.
Prevention action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting Community Pride through messages of zero tolerance. • Encourage Crime Prevention through Environmental Design in all areas of Wanganui. • Report all incidences of graffiti. • Provide direction and support to community organisations and groups to undertake educational initiatives such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art mural spaces and programmes • Diverting taggers into other forms of art and expression • Educating youth about the impact of graffiti, installing community pride and responsibility

1. Graffiti Policy - Zero Tolerance

Council Property

Council will remove graffiti from the following:

1. Council property
 2. Council leasehold sites – free of charge to the lessee
- Council staff and contractors are to remove graffiti in accordance with the following removal timeframes. This policy also applies to graffiti on bus shelters that are maintained by Council's contractor.
 - A Graffiti Team will be established under Council direction using Work & Income New Zealand services.

- The Council will also utilise the services of the Wanganui Probation Services through supervised teams on weekends, public and statutory holidays.

Priority 1 Areas

- Removal within 24 hours of notification to Council.
Applies to sites with obscene, racist or other offensive material.
Applies to private and public property in highly visible areas.
During weekends and statutory holidays, there will be no graffiti removal by the Graffiti Team.
For removal outside working hours 5.00pm until 8.00am the following day, Monday to Friday On-Call security services will log the call and inform Council at the commencement of work at 8.00am.
- Removal within 2 hours
Applies to the War Memorial Hall

Priority 2 Areas

- Removal within 3 working days
- Applies to sites that do not contain obscene, racist or other offensive material, or are of low visibility

2. Private Property

- The Council will remove graffiti from private property in highly visible areas within 24 hours of written permission from the landowner being obtained. This excludes weekends and statutory holidays.
- The Council will utilise the Graffiti Team in removing graffiti from private property.
- If contractors and/or the Probation Service is required for removal, a screening process will be provided and details to the Council to ensure appropriate personnel are used.

3. Working with Others

Private and Crown Utility Structures

The Council will pursue and develop Memorandums of Understanding or actively encourage implementing current graffiti removal policies adopted by the following:

Private Utility Companies

- Powerco

- Wanganui Gas and its two independent trading divisions, Energy Direct NZ and GasNet)
- Telecom
- Telstra Clear
- Toll New Zealand

Government Owned

- On Track
- Housing New Zealand
- Transit New Zealand

4. Community Awareness

- The Council will develop and provide information packs to the local papers and radio stations and promote the zero tolerance messages to residents of Wanganui through Council's communications.

5. Public Enquiries

- The Council will provide a dedicated telephone line for reporting graffiti.
- Members of the public can report incidences of graffiti to the Council Customer Services Centre on a dedicate telephone line. Incidences of graffiti reported to the Council Customer Services Centre will be removed within 24 hours of obtaining the property owners written consent, excluding weekends and statutory holidays.

6. Offenders

- Graffiti or any unauthorised inscription, word, figure, picture, or design that is sprayed, marked, cut, posted, pasted or otherwise affixed, drawn or painted on any surface of public or private property is illegal in Wanganui and is reported to the Police as vandalism. Offenders will be prosecuted under Section 33 of the Summary Offences Act, 1981.
- The Council will utilise the services of Restorative Justice and Community Service programs to remedy damage on Council property.
- The Council will seek financial restoration from offenders for the damage caused by graffiti and a letter of apology to the victim.
- A graffiti tracking database jointly monitored and administered by the Council and the Police will be actively maintained.
- Photographs of graffiti tags will link tags to offenders by comparing the signatures of one tag with another. This photographic evidence will be used for identifying "hot spot" areas, prosecutions, the costs of removal and reinstatement associated with graffiti.

7. Heritage Structures

- Special care shall be taken in removing graffiti from heritage structures and monuments. Approvals for removal shall be obtained from the Council's Conservation Consultant prior to the removal of graffiti from heritage structures.

Further Enquiries

Wanganui District Council
P O Box 637
101 Guyton Street
Wanganui
Telephone 349 0001
Fax 3490000
[www:wanganui.govt.nz](http://www.wanganui.govt.nz)
New Zealand