

PURPOSE	To control and reduce the adverse community impacts resulting from graffiti vandalism.
OBJECTIVES	To reduce the occurrence of graffiti vandalism and maintain the overall visual amenity of the Shire. To actively engage with the community in programs that reduce the potential antisocial behaviours expressed through graffiti vandalism. To facilitate cooperation and coordination between all stakeholders with responsibility or interest in reducing the incidence of graffiti.
SCOPE	This Policy applies to all persons, groups, organisations and businesses seeking to use or access Council services or resources in combating graffiti.
DEFINITIONS	<u>Council Services or Resources:</u> Are services or resources provided by Council and may include but not limited to the following: – Staff time and expertise – Tools and equipment – Promotional or advertising materials – Meeting rooms or work spaces – Training programs – Community education materials – Counselling services <u>Graffiti:</u> Any unauthorised application of words, symbols, diagrams or pictures by painting, drawing, stencilling or any other application method on any public or private asset in a public place or visible from a public place. <u>Offensive graffiti:</u> Offensive graffiti includes but is not limited to words, slogans, diagrams, symbols or pictures that express or contain material that: – Vilifies a person or group on the basis of race, sexuality or religion – Includes any remark, statement or illustration with sexual connotations – Is deemed indecent, insulting, or abusive
POLICY	Non-offensive graffiti shall be removed from all Shire assets within 5 working days of notification. Offensive graffiti shall be removed from all Shire Assets within one working day of notification.

POLICY Contd.	The Shire will actively encourage graffiti to be removed from non-Shire assets as soon as practicable Graffiti will be dealt with as a criminal offence and all practical steps will be taken to identify and prosecute offenders.
PROCEDURE	Graffiti will be treated as an unlawful activity and every practical effort will be made to discourage persons or groups from participating in this antisocial activity. Officers dealing with graffiti will generally follow the steps below: 1. Alert the property owner to the graffiti and discuss options for removal; a. Evidence will be taken as appropriate to assist identifying offenders b. Photographs of distinctive graffiti images and tags will be taken and supplied to Police for recording and identifying individuals and groups that may be involved in multiple offences. 2. Council will provide either a discount voucher for the purchase of a suitable paint to cover the graffiti or supply a graffiti removal kit. 3. Where the extent of graffiti involved cannot be treated by the standard graffiti removal kit the Shire will provide advice to the owner on commercial graffiti removal services they may wish to engage. 4. If the circumstances warrant arrangements may be made for the removal to be undertaken as part of a more general graffiti removal program as part of a Keep Australia Beautiful Campaign or Clean Up Australia Day activity. As noted above this will require agreement that works may be undertaken by volunteers on private assets. 5. Examine opportunities to undertake works to limit access to surfaces being used for graffiti e.g. planting of a suitable vegetation barrier or other protective treatment to reduce the attractiveness of the site to offenders. 6. Seek cooperation from relevant stakeholders such as police businesses and property owners to achieve greater surveillance of the area. 7. Assess opportunities to increasing public use of the area to reduce its isolation and increase its passive surveillance.

PROCEDURE Contd.	Shire officers will also have regard to the issues and approaches set out in the protocol attached to this policy.
RESPONSIBILITY	All Directors For ensuring the policy is appropriately applied in their respective areas of control. Manager Infrastructure Maintenance, Manager Environment Protection and Community Safety, Manager Children, Youth & Family Services, Manager Recreation & Leisure, Team Leader Social Planning & Community Development Responsible for ensuring that the policy is applied in their respective areas of control. Responsible for ensuring that team members and volunteers are aware of the policy when engaging in any graffiti management activity. <u>All employees</u> Responsible for reporting any incidents of graffiti on Council assets and promoting the policy as appropriate.
RELATED POLICIES	
RELATED LEGISLATION	Graffiti Prevention Act 2007 Mornington Peninsula Shire General Purpose Local Law.
REFERENCES	Nil
REVIEW	This Policy shall be subject to review within 12 months of the next general Council election to be held in October 2012.