

AGENDA

COMMUNITY SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Community Safety Advisory Committee will be held in Manly Town Hall on

THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2025

Beginning at 9:00 AM for the purpose of considering matters included in this agenda.

Quorum

A majority of members plus the Mayor or another Councillor.

Committee Members

Cr Sue Heins	Frenchs Forest Ward – Mayor - Chair
Cr Candy Bingham	Manly Ward
Cr Ruth Robins	Narrabeen Ward – Deputy Mayor (alternate)
Cr Vincent De Luca OAM	Narrabeen Ward (alternate)
Cr Rowie Dillon	Pittwater Ward
Cr Nick Beaugeard	Curl Curl Ward
Supt John Duncan	Northern Beaches Police Area Command
Aileen Ogilvie	Northern Beaches Community Drug Action Team
Vacant	Northern Beaches Domestic Violence Network
Doug Brooker	Northern Beaches Liquor Accord
Sarah Sweeney	Northern Beaches Mental Health Interagency
Sam King	Northern Beaches Youth Interagency
Michele Bell	Northern Sydney Community Network (Seniors sector)
Sarah Kingsbeer	Northern Sydney Housing and Homelessness Interagency
Melissa Palermo	Northern Sydney Local Health District
Eugene McGarrell	Northern Sydney Health Network Northern Sydney PHN
Wendy Finianos	Community Representative – Curl Curl Ward
Libby Paulsen	Community Representative – Frenchs Forest Ward
Lucy Band	Community Representative – Manly Ward
Mary Brearton	Community Representative – Narrabeen Ward
Kylie Ferguson	Community Representative – Pittwater Ward
Dr Sophie Scamps	Federal Member for Mackellar
Zali Steggall OAM MP	Federal Member for Warringah
Matt Cross MP	State Member for Davidson
James Griffin MP	State Member for Manly
Jacqui Scruby MP	State Member for Pittwater
Michael Regan MP	State Member for Wakehurst

Council Officer Contacts

Scott Phillips	Chief Executive Officer
David Kerr	Director Community and Recreation
Kylie Walshe	Executive Manager Community, Arts and Culture
Azmeena Kelly	Executive Manager Environmental Compliance
Jeremy Smith	Executive Manager Parks & Open Space
Will Wrathall	Manager Community Development
Kath Young	Community Safety Coordinator
Helen Askew	Program Support Officer Community Development

**Agenda for a meeting of the Community Safety Advisory Committee
to be held on Thursday 13 February 2025 in the Manly Town Hall
Commencing at 9:00 AM**

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NEXT MEETING Thursday 8 May 2025

1.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

As a sign of respect, Northern Beaches Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of these lands on which we gather and pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

2.0 APOLOGIES

All members are expected to attend the Community Safety Advisory Committee meetings or tender their apologies to the Chair or Committee liaison person. If members are unable to attend they may delegate their position to another member of their organisation, with the approval of the Chair.

3.0 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Members should disclose any "**pecuniary**" or "**non-pecuniary**" interests in matters included in the agenda. The [Northern Beaches Council Code of Conduct](#) (the Code) provides guidance on managing conflicts of interests.

A **pecuniary interest** is defined in Section 4 of the Code as:

A pecuniary interest is an interest that you have in a matter because of a reasonable likelihood or expectation of appreciable financial gain or loss to you or a person referred to in clause 4.3.

A **non-pecuniary conflict of interest** is defined in Section 5 of the Code as:

A non-pecuniary conflict of interest exists where a reasonable and informed person would perceive that you could be influenced by a private interest when carrying out your official functions in relation to a matter.

If you required further information or guidance about disclosing an interest please contact Governance at councilmeetings@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au.

4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER 2024

Amendment to draft Minutes

Bridge Housing requested amendment to draft meeting Minutes of 14 November 2024 to read:

~~Recently Bridge Housing purchased a property on the Northern Beaches in Dee Why to provide supported temporary accommodation which will be staffed onsite by Mission Australia. This will reduce the need for Once the new premises are open, current commercial providers will not be used for temporary accommodation. Suitable temporary accommodation Placements for women and children are still an area of unmet need.~~

The proposed amendment is highlighted in the revised Minutes at page 8.

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Community Safety Advisory Committee Meeting held on 14 November 2024, copies of which were previously circulated to all members, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

5.0 ACTIONS UPDATE**ITEM 5.1 ACTIONS UPDATE****ISSUE**

To update the Committee on actions arising from previous meetings.

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	PROGRESS
6.4.1	The Liquor Accord engage with relevant stakeholders to investigate options for a community education campaign.	Doug Brooker	13 February 2025
6.4.2	That the Council resolution from 13 November 2024 on Graffiti Management be reported to the next Community Safety Advisory Committee meeting in 2025 for consideration.	Kath Young	To be addressed at Agenda Item 6.4
6.5	Links to the E-micromobility Action Plan and P-CEP training opportunity be emailed to Committee.	Kath Young	Completed
7.1	Link to Manly Wharf Development Application DA2024/1249 be emailed to Committee.	Kath Young	Completed

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee:

- a. Receive and note the information.
- b. Confirm the amended draft November 2024 Minutes as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Reporting officer	Community Safety Coordinator
TRIM file ref	2024/925520
Attachments	Nil

6.0 AGENDA ITEMS

ITEM 6.1 POLICE REPORT - SUPERINTENDENT JOHN DUNCAN - 30 MINUTES

ISSUE

This is a standing item on the agenda. The Commander, Northern Beaches Police Area Command will brief the Committee on relevant crime and safety issues.

BACKGROUND

The Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) publish recorded crime statistics for NSW each quarter. Recorded crime statistics for selected major offence categories over the period October 2019 to September 2024 for the Northern Beaches Local Government Area and NSW are attached for the information of Committee members.

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be received and noted.

Reporting officer	Community Safety Coordinator
TRIM file ref	2024/925624
Attachments	1 Recorded Crime Statistics - October 2019 – September 2024 - Northern Beaches LGA

ATTACHMENT 1 : RECORDED CRIME STATISTICS - OCTOBER 2019 – SEPTEMBER 2024 - NORTHERN BEACHES LGA - ITEM 6.1 - COMMUNITY SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE - 13 FEBRUARY 2025

Northern Beaches LGA Recorded Crime Statistics October 2019 – September 2024

Incidents of crime recorded by the NSW Police Force in Northern Beaches LGA: number, rates[^] and trends^{^^}

Major offence category ^{BOCSAR}	Incidents of crime recorded by NSW Police Force in Northern Beaches LGA					Rate per 100,000 population Oct 2023– Sep 2024 [^]		2 year trend and annual % change ^{^^} (Oct 22 – Sep 24)		10 year trend and average annual % change ^{^^} (Oct 2014 – Sep 2024)	
	Oct 2019 – Sep 2020	Oct 2020 – Sep 2021	Oct 2021 – Sep 2022	Oct 2022 – Sep 2023	Oct 2023 – Sep 2024	Northern Beaches LGA	NSW	Northern Beaches LGA	NSW	Northern Beaches LGA	NSW
Murder	0	1	0	0	1	0.4	0.9	nc	Stable	nc	Stable
Domestic violence related assault	385	317	252	264	327	124.2	463.5	Stable	Stable	Stable	Up 3.0%
Non-domestic violence related assault	577	518	477	513	593	225.2	426.8	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable
Sexual assault	129	170	161	148	156	59.2	122.4	Stable	Stable	Up 7.3%	Up 8.2%
Sexual touching, sexual act and other sexual offences	160	145	156	137	162	61.5	105	Stable	Stable	Stable	Up 2.9%
Robbery without a weapon	32	20	21	25	17	6.5	13.3	nc	Stable	nc	Down 4.7%
Robbery with a firearm	0	0	1	2	0	nc	1.1	nc	Stable	nc	Down 9.1%
Robbery with a weapon not a firearm	6	11	7	6	6	2.3	9.4	nc	Stable	nc	Down 3.2%
Break and enter dwelling	227	260	224	221	214	81.3	239.4	Stable	Stable	Down 9.0%	Down 5.4%
Break and enter non-dwelling	130	127	60	106	142	53.9	101.8	Stable	Stable	Down 5.4%	Down 4.4%
Motor vehicle theft	175	180	165	179	187	71	178.6	Stable	Stable	Down 1.9%	Stable
Steal from motor vehicle	728	684	456	379	463	175.8	335	Up 22.2%	Stable	Down 6.7%	Down 4.5%
Steal from retail store	350	444	505	683	687	260.9	339.9	Stable	Stable	Stable	Up 2.8%
Steal from dwelling	336	293	245	301	316	120	198.9	Stable	Stable	Down 3.9%	Down 3.2%
Steal from person	51	43	30	24	27	10.3	25.5	Stable	Stable	Down 16.0%	Down 10.8%
Fraud	1147	1150	1056	1106	984	373.7	545.5	Stable	Down 6.7%	Down 3.2%	Down 1.5%
Malicious damage to property	1102	1023	785	791	824	313	606.5	Stable	Stable	Down 5.9%	Down 2.9%

Source: Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR)

^{^^} Shows the results of a statistical test for a significant upward or downward trend in the monthly number of criminal incidents recorded. Where the trend is significant (i.e p<0.05) the average annual percentage change over the five and two year period is shown. Significant upward trends are highlighted in red; significant downward trends are highlighted in green. 'Stable' indicates there was no significant upward or downward trend and 'nc' indicates that the number of incidents recorded was too small for a reliable trend test to be performed.

ITEM 6.2 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE REPORT - 15 MINUTES

ISSUE

This is a standing item on the Committee agenda. The Executive Manager, Environmental Compliance will brief the Committee on relevant compliance and regulatory issues.

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be received and noted.

Reporting officer	Community Safety Coordinator
TRIM file ref	2024/925654
Attachments	Nil

ITEM 6.3 REVIEW OF ALCOHOL FREE ZONES - 30 MINUTES

ISSUE

The Community Safety Coordinator will provide information to the Committee on Alcohol Free Zones and the review process.

BACKGROUND

Northern Beaches Council currently has 19 Alcohol Free Zones (AFZs) in place throughout the LGA.

AFZs apply only to road related areas such as streets, adjacent footpaths, laneways, and public car parks.

The [Office of Local Government NSW](#) advises that:

- AFZs may be used by councils to prohibit alcohol consumption in public places to reduce antisocial behaviour and crime.
- These measures can help councils to keep public spaces and streets safe and enjoyable for residents and visitors while not discriminating against particular community groups.
- AFZs should be used where there is demonstrable community need, deal with short-term issues and regularly reviewed to see if they are still needed.

Sections 642 - 648 of the Local Government Act 1993 and the associated [Ministerial Guidelines for Alcohol Free Zones](#) outline requirements for consultation, establishing, operating and enforcing AFZs.

Section 644B of the Local Government Act 1993 states that:

- 1) After complying with the procedures set out in [sections 644](#) and [644A](#), the council may, by resolution, adopt a proposal (with or without modifications) to establish an alcohol-free zone.
- 4) An alcohol-free zone may be re-established from time to time, in accordance with this Part, for further periods each not exceeding 4 years.

Section 644 of the Local Government Act 1993 states that:

- 4) The proposed alcohol-free zone may comprise either or both of the following:
 - a) a public road or part of a public road,
 - b) a public place that is a car park or part of a car park.
- 5) The proposal may provide for an alcohol-free zone to be established for a period not exceeding 4 years.

Police and Rangers enforce AFZs. Any person observed to be drinking in an AFZ may have the alcohol in their possession immediately seized and tipped out or otherwise disposed.

All existing AFZs across the Northern Beaches are due to expire between 31 August 2025 and 30 June 2026. Council is reviewing all AFZs in 2025 to provide consistency for community members.

Council acknowledges that the need for AFZs varies over time in response to changing community needs and behaviours. Examples include; the development of suburbs and resulting changes to transport, people movement and gathering places; changes to the number, type and location of licensed premises; changes in attitudes toward alcohol consumption; and changes to the ways that people are socialising post pandemic.

Council and Police have consulted on this review and a report is being submitted to the 18 March 2025 Council meeting seeking approval to place recommendations on public exhibition.

The Community Safety Coordinator will provide information to the Committee on Alcohol Free Zones and the review process to support their understanding of these issues and their discussions with community members.

It should be noted that AFZs are distinct from Alcohol Prohibited Areas (APAs) which apply to non-road-related public places such as a park, beach or reserve. APAs are established in a separate process and a review of all APAs was endorsed by Council in May 2024.

RECOMMENDATION

That this information be received and noted.

Reporting officer	Community Safety Coordinator
TRIM file ref	2024/925675
Attachments	Nil

ITEM 6.4 GRAFFITI - 15 MINUTES
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ISSUE

A presentation on graffiti will be provided to the Committee to support consideration of Council resolution 291/24.

BACKGROUND

At the 12 November 2024 Ordinary Council meeting, in response to Notice of Motion 8/2024, Council considered a report on graffiti management.

The report at Attachment 1 was provided to the November 2024 Council meeting in response to Resolution 073/24.

Following consideration of the report it was resolved at 291/24 that Council:

1. *Note the report.*
2. *Request that the Community Safety Committee include graffiti related issues as a standing item.*
3. *Request the Community Safety Committee to consider establishing a subcommittee for graffiti related matters.*

At the Community Safety Advisory Committee meeting held on 14 November 2024, the Committee received this request. The Committee asked that Council resolution 291/24 be reported to the next Community Safety Advisory Committee meeting in 2025 for consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee

1. Note the presentation.
2. Recommend a position in response to the Council request.

Reporting officer	Community Safety Coordinator
TRIM file ref	2024/925683
Attachments	1 Report to Council in response to Notice of Motion No 8/2024

ITEM 10.1	RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF MOTION NO 8/2024 - GRAFFITI TASKFORCE/WORKING GROUP
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PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide a response to a Council Resolution in respect of Notice of Motion No 8/2024 on establishing a Graffiti Taskforce or Working Group.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Council's current approach to graffiti management is principally through application of a 'rapid removal' approach.
- Council provides proactive inspections to remove graffiti from known hotspots and has coordinated street art and murals with local young people at key locations to reduce the incidence of graffiti in public spaces.
- As main roads and sound walls are state owned and managed assets it is the responsibility of Transport for NSW to manage graffiti on these assets.
- A review of the current approach of other councils regarding graffiti management has been undertaken to inform this report.
- Some larger city councils and state bodies have established taskforces or working groups in recent years and while varying in scope and focus, the effectiveness of these groups has varied and relied on engagement of key stakeholders (including state agencies) and provision of dedicated resources.
- The coordination of a specialised graffiti taskforce or working group would require Council to reprioritise projects to enable the allocation of required resources and funding.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the report.

ITEM 10.1 NORTHERN BEACHES COUNCIL MEETING - 12 NOVEMBER 2024

BACKGROUND

At the 28 May 2024 Ordinary Council meeting, in respect of Notice of Motion 8/2024, Council resolved (Resolution 073/24):

That:

1. Council note:
 - a. Council's graffiti removal program operates under a contract provision model, where costs are determined by a lump sum based on the number of contractor staff provided and the terms of the contract. Despite any rise in graffiti incidents, there is no corresponding increase in cost to Council throughout the contract period. As a result, accurately quantifying the costs of graffiti removal for each ward is not feasible. Council budgets over \$500,000 for graffiti removal each year. Currently Cleansing Services is undergoing contract negotiation with service provider UMS to establish a new combined graffiti and bus shelter cleaning contract.
 - b. Council currently lacks specific policies addressing graffiti. At the March 2020 Ordinary Council meeting, it was resolved to revoke the 3 graffiti policies previously held by the former Manly, Warringah and Pittwater Councils. These policies were deemed obsolete, as the identification, removal, and reporting of graffiti are now managed through Council's operational and procedural processes.
 - c. Under the service provision, reported graffiti incidents are to be inspected and removed and the database updated within 5 days of lodgement. Approximately 90% of graffiti is removed within 2 days. Offensive graffiti must be removed within 24 hours from the time of reporting.
 - d. Council's responsibility solely encompasses graffiti removal from assets owned by Council itself, excluding private property, state, or crown-owned assets. These include public transport facilities, sound barrier walls, fences adjoining public land, footbridges over state-designated roads, hoardings, abandoned buildings, shopfronts, utility assets such as AUSGRID poles, green kiosks, and Transport for NSW signal boxes, etc. Given that these are under the authority of their respective owners and not maintained by Council, reports concerning them are forwarded on to the respective owners and stakeholders, via the owner's reporting mechanism. Additionally, the number and frequency of reports are high which limits the ability of Council to follow up on all reports, and many asset owners do not have direct customer facing mechanism to follow up on reports.
 - e. Engaging in graffiti, whether through damaging or defacing property, constitutes an offense under the Graffiti Control Act 2008. While Council assumes responsibility for removing graffiti from council property and assets, enforcement and prosecution related to graffiti offenses fall under the jurisdiction of the NSW Police. Crime statistics typically do not separate graffiti as an individual category; instead, it is grouped under 'malicious damage to property.' Consequently, there is no distinct data specifically attributed to graffiti incidents of vandalism.
2. Council receive a report outlining the opportunities to establish a specialised taskforce or working group within 6 months, inclusive of essential community stakeholders such as a Councillor from each ward, local Members of Parliament, representatives from the local area command, residents' associations, local schools, sporting groups, youth organisations, chambers of commerce, local businesses, property owners, and individual community representatives. This collaborative initiative is dedicated to formulating pragmatic solutions for the various graffiti-related challenges. The goal is to develop a comprehensive graffiti mitigation strategy and action plan that addresses the distinct needs of each ward and the broader Local Government Area (LGA).

This report outlines current graffiti management approaches on the Northern Beaches and a review of approaches across the local government sector and other agencies. Options are presented for consideration regarding the establishment of a taskforce or working group, including relevant staffing and operational resourcing impacts and considerations.

ITEM 10.1 NORTHERN BEACHES COUNCIL MEETING - 12 NOVEMBER 2024

Community engagement identified graffiti as an important issue in the development of Council's Community Safety Plan 2021 – 2026. This Plan identifies Council's commitment to continue to implement our Rapid Graffiti Removal Program and the use of public art to discourage graffiti and improve the community's feeling of safety.

DISCUSSION

Understanding graffiti

Graffiti vandalism is the damaging or defacing of property, by means of chalk, scratching, paint, felt tip markers or other materials, including the unauthorised placement of billboards, posters, notices and stickers. It is illegal and an offence under the *Graffiti Control Act 2008*.

Visible graffiti impacts negatively on Council and the community. In public places it lends itself to a perception of poor safety, and impacts negatively on social, environmental and financial outcomes. Public areas being free from illegal graffiti vandalism therefore supports Council's vision of 'a safe, diverse, inclusive and connected community that lives in balance with our extraordinary coastal and bushland environment.'

Research undertaken by the NSW Government (Department of Justice) indicates that graffiti vandalism and tagging is most frequently done by young people under 18 years. However, there is evidence that people into their 20s and 30s can still have an appetite to undertake the application of illegal graffiti. This generally comes in the form of tagging, stencilling, throw-ups (between tagging and murals) and un-commissioned murals.

It is a widespread issue that has proven hard for local government to prevent and minimise. In public places it tends to lend itself to a perception of poor safety and has financial impact, with expenditure on preventative initiatives and ongoing maintenance programs to manage and remove graffiti vandalism. It is widely recognised by NSW Police and other NSW Councils that a multi-faceted and collaborative approach needs to be employed to effectively combat this issue.

Current approach to graffiti management

The Graffiti Management Policies of the former Pittwater, Manly and Warringah Councils were rescinded in March 2020. At that time, Council's cleansing principles were incorporated into operational processes and community development and street art components included in the Public Art Policy, adopted 2019. This approach supports effective operational management of graffiti removal and youth engagement projects.

Graffiti removal

Council routinely removes graffiti from its assets and reserves as part of public cleansing services. Council provides a reactive, 'rapid removal' approach widely regarded as an effective prevention strategy. An online graffiti removal request form is available on Council's website, with requests fulfilled within 5 business days, or 1 business day if offensive.

Graffiti incidence data is used to schedule proactive inspections to remove graffiti from around 10 known graffiti hotspots across the local government area.

Graffiti may also be removed by Council from adjoining private property that is visible and accessible from a public place under Council's graffiti removal contract and consistent with section 12 of the *Graffiti Control Act 2008*. The 2024/25 operational budget for the graffiti removal service is approximately \$600,000.

Graffiti that is visible but not accessible from a public place is out of the scope of Council's contracted graffiti removal service. Whilst Council has certain rights to remove graffiti from land which is visible from a public space or with agreement of the owner of the land, Council cannot force another property owner to remove graffiti from their property. This includes equipment owned by Ausgrid, Telstra, Sydney Water, Electric Vehicle charging stations and certain Transport for NSW infrastructure such as sound walls and footbridges. These agencies have their own graffiti removal services in place and procedures for receiving and actioning graffiti removal requests from customers. Council routinely relays requests on to the relevant agency on the customer's behalf.

ITEM 10.1 NORTHERN BEACHES COUNCIL MEETING - 12 NOVEMBER 2024

Council's graffiti removal services were consolidated across the Northern Beaches Council area in November 2018. Service data below shows the total number of graffiti removals recorded as completed 2020-2024.

Graffiti Removal Jobs Completed 2020-2024*					
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
January	452	556	570	730	321
February	394	456	725	733	245
March	439	467	575	834	195
April	393	596	663	600	200
May	369	596	1053	618	235
June	470	493	1490	329	207
July	433	652	793	393	340
August	408	551	888	291	257
September	703	560	810	357	285
October	678	590	671	362	
November	573	787	909	343	
December	454	519	781	311	
Total (CY)	5766	6823	9928	5901	
Average/Month	481	569	827	492	254

*As with any request-based data, variability occurs due to the volume, nature and scope of requests. A request management system change in May 2023 improved data quality and substantially reduced the number of duplicated records, which is reflected in the table above in the blue highlighted sections.

Over the past 12 months, Council has received about 2,500 customer requests to remove graffiti. Combined with around 1,400 incidents of graffiti located and cleaned through proactive graffiti patrols, this results in the removal of an average between 1,000 to 2,500 m2 of graffiti each month. About 5 to 9% of graffiti removal requests relate to private property.

Customers that report graffiti to Council are highly satisfied with the service (4.1/5). Low satisfaction often relates to third party issues, especially Snap Send Solve and Transport for NSW.

Other strategies

Council also uses a number of other strategies to prevent graffiti, particularly in identified areas of concern. Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles are applied to new spaces or buildings, as well as making changes to existing susceptible spots to reduce the occurrence of graffiti.

Public art, particularly murals, are also effective in preventing graffiti in susceptible spaces or locations including laneways and objects such as signal boxes. These make locations less attractive for graffiti and can be given protective coatings to ease removal of illegal graffiti.

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In 2020, Council facilitated a large mural at Bungan Lane, Mona Vale funded by the Crime Prevention Division of the NSW Department of Communities and Justice to reduce the levels of anti-social behaviour and damage in public spaces around Mona Vale and Newport. Since installation, there have been no reports of graffiti on the painted mural surfaces.

In 2023, Council facilitated four murals at identified locations in Curl Curl, Manly and Mona Vale, funded by a \$71,500 Graffiti Management Grant from the Department of Communities and Justice. Through this funding Council engaged local young people to participate in skills development alongside the contracted artist as these programs can be effective when involving young people who are engaging in anti-social or illegal behaviour.

In response to these murals and youth engagement activities, instances of graffiti and tagging have reduced. Since completing the murals there has been a reduction of 39% in incidents and 72% in square metres of graffiti removal in Park Street, Mona Vale and a reduction of 63% in incidents and 91% in square metres of graffiti removal in Village Park Reserve, Mona Vale.

Programs like this typically range from \$5,000 to \$20,000 per mural, depending on the size, surface and location and require up to 100 staff hours to manage the project. Crime Prevention Division NSW announced the closure of graffiti management grants in 2023.

Council also works with local businesses to identify areas of concern on private property and develop prevention approaches including activation of spaces, vegetation or other prevention strategies. Activation of spaces can also include outdoor dining, busking, street performers, events, lighting and pedestrian zones.

There are also five Council managed legal graffiti walls in the Northern Beaches Council area located in Allambie Heights, Manly Vale (two), Collaroy, and Belrose that seek to provide a legal opportunity for creative expression for young artists.

Graffiti management across Local Government Sector and relevant agencies

Local councils typically have graffiti removal as a part of facilities and infrastructure maintenance or public place cleansing services, and opt for a rapid removal as a key strategy in ongoing prevention of graffiti. They may also elect to remove graffiti which is visible from a public place from land if it can be carried out from a public place, in accordance with the *Graffiti Control Act 2008*, Part 4.

A survey and research reviewing approaches taken by 13 other Councils was undertaken, with the following an overview of the main approaches:

- Many councils have a graffiti policy however only a few have a specific graffiti management strategy or plan outlining graffiti prevention initiatives.
- None of the responding councils have or have had a previous graffiti taskforce or working group.
- Councils are typically adopting a rapid removal strategy, attending to graffiti on council property within 2 to 7 days of it being reported, or 1 to 2 days if the graffiti is offensive.
- Councils vary in their approach to graffiti on private property, with several removing graffiti from private property when it is accessible from a public place, and others only for when it is offensive or after obtaining prior agreement/indemnification from the property owner.
- Two councils offer graffiti removal kits targeted at encouraging graffiti removal by private property owner/occupiers, and most offer advice online about preventing graffiti and signposting to the Police Assistance Line for reporting graffiti vandalism on private property.
- Most councils have details on their website of how community members can report graffiti so it can be removed quickly. The NSW Graffiti Hotline receives reports from members of the public and refers to the appropriate agency.

ITEM 10.1 NORTHERN BEACHES COUNCIL MEETING - 12 NOVEMBER 2024

- Reports of graffiti on assets or property owned by other bodies such as State Government or Utility companies is passed on to the appropriate organisation for response and usually take longer for removal.
- Several programs engage community volunteers in removing graffiti to support rapid removal, often on non-council assets, however these rely on having committed community members to sustain them and can be difficult to recruit volunteers to participate.

Specialised taskforce and / or working groups

Some larger CBD city councils and State bodies have established graffiti taskforces or working groups in recent years, identified through desktop research.

In 2006, the NSW Government established the Anti-Graffiti Action Team led by the Department of Justice and Attorney General, with representation State agencies. The focus of this initiative was increasing the use of Community Service Orders to make offenders repair the damage caused by graffiti vandalism. This program was discontinued with a change of government in 2011 and there is no available information on the outcomes of this initiative.

Brisbane City Council established a Taskforce Against Graffiti in 2008 as a joint initiative between Queensland Police and Brisbane City Council. The Taskforce has a focus on identifying and charging offenders and provides graffiti education in schools and work with community groups, residents, and small businesses to help reduce the impact of graffiti in the community. Council committed \$6M over four years for this taskforce. A media article in 2016 reported that graffiti had almost halved over the first 8 years since the group had been started. Over that time, it was responsible for identifying 754 offenders and more than 28,000 charges being laid.

The Western Australian (WA) Government established a State Graffiti Taskforce in 2010. Led by the WA Police Force it has high level multi-agency representation including several State government departments. Their strategies included establishing a juvenile clean-up referral program, a graffiti unit within WA Police and in every metropolitan policing district; and \$2.45 million in funding to local governments and non-profit organisations for graffiti removal and reduction strategies. In 2017 it was reported that the State Graffiti Taskforce had reduced graffiti by 55 per cent from 2011-2017 and a 65% success rate in preventing re-offending.

Options for consideration

The following options are presented for consideration and either of these could achieve Council's role outlined in adopted strategic documents to varying degrees.

Option 1: Status Quo

This option will include the following:

- Continue to employ rapid removal approaches, in partnership with contracted agencies and other stakeholders.
- Seek grant funding to provide targeted skills developed opportunities for at risk young people, in partnership with NSW Police and specialist youth services.
- Address any ongoing safety issues as they arise via Council's Community Safety Advisory Committee.
- Continue to work with Transport for NSW and other State agencies/landowners to identify strategies to minimise graffiti through reducing access to State owned assets.

There is no additional funding required for this option as the activities are currently included in existing project workplans and would not require the formation of a specialised taskforce or working group.

Option 1 will be achieved if Council supports the recommendation and resolves to note the report.

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Option 2: Establish a Graffiti Management Working Group

Council establishes a Graffiti Management Working Group made up of key stakeholders to develop a graffiti management strategy that identifies key challenges and actions required to address graffiti related challenges on the Northern Beaches.

Key stakeholders that could be considered to participate in the Working Group include:

- local businesses, chambers of commerce
- private property owners
- representatives of key agencies with assets targeted by graffiti, such as Australia Post, Energy companies and Transport for NSW
- Police local area command
- Youth Justice (NSW Department of Communities and Justice)
- local Members of State and Federal Parliament
- young people (through Youth Advisory Group, youth services, organisations and schools)
- community groups and associations
- individual community members
- representatives of relevant Council teams (in an advisory capacity)

A clear scope, purpose and Terms of Reference would be required to guide the Working Group which should include developing a comprehensive understanding of the challenges related to management of illegal graffiti in the Northern Beaches. It would identify stakeholders required to implement solutions and collaboratively develop a set of strategies and actions to address the challenges through a graffiti management strategy.

This approach would require staff resources to coordinate the Working Group and manage the development of a graffiti management strategy and actions. Once a strategy or action plan is endorsed it would require ongoing resources to oversee the implementation of the actions. This will require re-allocation of resources and de-prioritisation of other services and initiatives.

The group would be very large and similar in resourcing to the existing Community Safety Advisory Committee, requiring operational budget of \$50,000 per annum and a one-off project budget of up to \$100,000 for expert consultants to develop a strategy and action plan in consultation with the Graffiti Management Working Group.

To fund a working group, a reallocation of a discretionary program budget will be required. There are numerous areas across Council's business where funding could be reallocated with the following motion providing only a small number of options.

Should Council seek to adopt Option 2, an appropriate motion would be:

That Council:

1. Establish a Graffiti Management Working Group to advise on draft strategies and action plans.
2. Reallocate \$150,000 from one or more of the following programs for FY2024/25 and FY2025/26, with funding used for graffiti management activities:
 - a. Community Grants Program reduced by \$150,000 to \$70,000 for both the Arts and Creativity and Community Development streams. (\$150,000 per annum)
 - b. Defer the 2025/26 Environmental Grants program to later years (\$100,000 per annum)

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- c. Defer the 2025/26 Eco Schools Grants to later years (\$10,000 per annum)
- d. Youth programs and activities, with Youth Week and the Youth Advisory Group not delivered. (\$150,000*)
- e. Seniors and community development activities, with Seniors Week and It takes a Village program not delivered. (\$150,000*)
- f. Defer the 2025/26 Sporting and Recreation Infrastructure Grant Program to later years (\$100,000 per annum).

* Note items (d) and (e) above would also include staff costs.

CONSULTATION

The detail in this report incorporates feedback from five councils across NSW through a survey conducted through the Local Government Community Safety and Crime Prevention Network (LGCSCP) in July 2024. It also includes desktop research of eight Sydney Metro Councils and research at a national level.

TIMING

Option 1 will continue as business as usual.

If Council approves the reallocation of funding in the December 2024 Quarterly Review to implement Option 2, the implementation of this option will commence in early 2025.

It is expected that the process will include approximately 6 months to establish the Working Group, and up to 18 months to develop pragmatic solutions and test their efficacy. Long term commitment to this approach should only be considered after a review of the efficacy of these strategies.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Funding to support Option 1 is included in the existing budget.

The funding for Option 2, establishment of a Working Group, will require the allocation and reprioritisation of funds. The initial required funding includes an operational budget of \$50,000 per annum for staff resources to establish and manage the Working Group and up to \$100,000 one-off project budget for expert consultants to develop a strategy and action plan.

The ongoing financial impact is uncertain and dependent on the scale of actions and strategies identified through the strategy. Staff from several areas across Council would be required to effectively deliver the agreed outputs of the Working Group. This would require reprioritisation of existing workplans and resourcing and will require Council to identify projects to be delayed or deferred to enable delivery of identified actions and strategies.

GOVERNANCE AND RISK CONSIDERATIONS

If Option 2 were implemented, the expectations of the Graffiti Management Working Group members on the role, functions, and outputs of both the Group and Council staff is a key consideration. This will be required to be managed with appropriate resourcing and governance from Council. The Terms of Reference would clearly articulate that the function is advisory only and not directly involved in making decisions of Council, with meeting minutes to be published on Council's website.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

The effective management of graffiti increases perceptions of safety and has a positive impact on environmental outcomes and general public amenity. WHS and environmental procedures, including the use of non-toxic chemicals in graffiti removal, mitigate any potential environmental risks.

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SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Graffiti removal has the potential to deliver enhanced social outcomes for the community. Identification of additional strategies may result in improved public amenity and sense of safety and wellbeing. Strategies that engage young people in creative projects can provide important mentoring and skills development opportunities, and an increased sense of belonging and respect for local public amenity.

LINK TO STRATEGY

This report relates to the Community Strategic Plan Outcomes and Goals:

- Community and belonging - Goal 8 Our community feels safe and supported.
- Housing, places and spaces - Goal 12 Our community has access to spaces that enable healthy and active living and allow for a broad range of creative, sporting and recreational opportunities to be enjoyed.
- Vibrant local economy - Goal 13 Our businesses are resilient, well-connected and thrive in an environment that supports innovation, entrepreneurialism and economic growth.

Reporting team	Community Development
TRIM file ref	2024/541562
Attachments	Nil

ITEM 6.5 COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE - 10 MINUTES

ISSUE

This is a standing item on the agenda for the Community Safety Coordinator to provide an update.

BACKGROUNDPolice and Council Operational meeting

A meeting was held on 5 December 2024 with the following key topics of discussion:

- Upcoming events to February 2025
- Community member correspondence regarding:
 - Dee Why Park, Dee Why
 - Boondah basketball courts, Warriewood
 - Freshwater Beach
- Discussed locations including:
 - Incidents at Burnt Bridge Creek Deviation
 - Brookvale industrial area safety audit
 - Walter Gors Park, Dee Why
 - E-bikes on The Corso, Manly
 - Ruskin Row Avalon - tree removal
 - West Esplanade CCTV
- Liquor Accord matters
- Open Space and general matters

A further meeting was held on 6 February 2025. An update of key topics of discussion will be provided to the Committee during the meeting.

The next meeting will be held on 3 April 2025.

Suicide Prevention Working Group Update

A half day workshop was held on 6 November 2024 which included a presentation on local data and updates on the activities being led by the Sydney North Health Network and the Northern Sydney Local Health District. The workshop included several activities recognising achievements to date, identifying current and future opportunities, stakeholder action planning and a review of the role of the Working Group.

Sydney North Health Network (SNHN) are in the late planning stages for a new Northern Beaches Wellbeing Collaborative, one of several place-based collaboratives for the Northern Sydney region. An Expression of Interest (EOI) for the PHN-led community collaborative is anticipated to open in late February 2025 following a launch event scheduled for 25 February 2025 (register [here](#)).

The Wellbeing Collaborative will serve as a platform for community and sector stakeholders to co-design solutions, align efforts, and address local health priorities, including suicide prevention, through a collective impact approach.

The Northern Beaches Suicide Prevention Working Group will convene its next meeting in April 2025 to allow time for initial collaborative engagement and alignment following the EOI. This meeting will further consider the ongoing role of the Group and whether it is required once the Wellbeing Collaborative is established.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee receive and note this information.

Reporting officer	Community Safety Coordinator
TRIM file ref	2024/925706
Attachments	Nil