



10. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Policy 10.12

VANDALISM

Version 3

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OBJECTIVE:

To encourage the public to report acts of vandalism with the intention of minimising public unsightliness and the cost of vandalism to the community.

DEFINITIONS:

Graffiti:

Any inscription, word, figure or word design that is marked, etched, scratched, drawn, sprayed, painted, pasted, applied or otherwise affixed to or on any surface without the owner's consent and includes any remnants of same such as adhesives, glues, tape, shadows or colour variations remaining after the removal.

Incident:

An incident refers to an offence of malicious damage occurring in one location or in a specific timeframe by the same offender or group of offenders, and as such may refer to more than one specific action.

Vandalism:

The wilful or malicious destruction, disfigurement, or defacement of any property, without consent.

POLICY:

That the Council offer a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the conviction of any person or persons committing wilful damage (including graffiti) to or theft of Council property, equipment, shrubs, trees and plants in parks and gardens, public recreation areas, streets and other public places in the Lithgow City Council area.

Any persons who witnesses, or has information regarding an act of graffiti or vandalism should in the first instance report the matter to the nearest police station or should contact the Police Assistance Line (13 44 44). Information including the following should be provided:

- Incident time / date
- Description of damage
- Possible offender's details
- Photographs

The Police will investigate the offence and obtain relevant information from Council, where necessary. The complainant will be required to comply with the requirements of the Police and any investigation or proceedings commenced as a result of the report.

Council will, where appropriate, seek compensation for graffiti and vandalism offences where an offender has been identified and admitted or been found guilty.

Should an offender be identified, and either admit guilt or be found guilty, the informant should then write to Council seeking payment of the reward. Determination of the reward will be at the absolute discretion of the General Manager or Director Infrastructure Services.

All applications for the reward will be verified with NSW Police and Lithgow City Council records to ensure compliance with the policy. Fraudulent and/or misleading claims will be ineligible for current and any future claims under this policy. Should an application be found to be fraudulent or misleading, Council may seek to recoup the reward and all costs associated with this action.

REWARDS

DAMAGE AMOUNT	REWARD
Up to and including \$5,000	\$500
Above \$5,000	\$1,000

CONFIDENTIALITY

The following documents will arise from this process:

- Letter from applicant claiming reward
- Response letter to applicant
- Financial transaction records

All documentation held and created in relation to applications made under this policy and which includes information which indicates the identity of the applicant shall be treated as confidential.

For purposes of protecting the safety of individuals, the identity of complainants and public interest, documentation held and created in relation to applications held under the policy, may not be subject to release to members of the public.

Maintained by Department:	Infrastructure Services	Approved by:	Council		
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