# Kingston Graffiti Action Plan 2020-2025

An action plan of the City of Kingston's Public Health and Wellbeing Plan



community inspired leadership

# Aboriginal Acknowledgement

Kingston Council acknowledges and pays our respects to the Elders, past and present and people of the Kulin nation and recognise them as the custodians of the land on which the Kingston municipality is situated.

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# Introduction

Everyone has a right to feel safe and a responsibility to contribute to a safer community. Perceived levels of safety (how people feel about their safety) can have a real impact on actual safety. For example, if an area is avoided due to poor perceptions of safety, the area may become a haven for anti-social and criminal activity. Perceptions of safety can also limit people's participation in activities that would make the community safer and build their personal resilience.

Graffiti can have a significant impact on community perceptions of safety; through diminishing amenity, making people feel unsafe in public spaces that appear uncared for and uncontrolled, and directly impacting property owners who incur the inconvenience and cost of repairing damaged surfaces to their property. Tax and rate payers also incur additional costs through government removal, investigation and enforcement against graffiti.

In areas with more prolific graffiti, graffiti can be a factor in higher insurance premiums and lower property values. Graffiti can also be dangerous for those performing it, when done in unsafe locations or when leading to a conflict with other graffiti writers. Conversely, graffiti can also have a positive socialisation aspect for those performing it, and sometimes can lead to artistic skills development and careers in the arts. Additionally, some graffiti can have positive beautification and economic benefits to areas.

Ongoing work is required to reduce undesirable graffiti in Kingston. Kingston's Graffiti Action Plan 2020-2025 is a Council document that outlines Council's role in the management of graffiti across the Kingston municipality. Council is responsible for the management of graffiti on Council property and is well placed to take a leading role in the management of graffiti on other properties within the Kingston municipality due to its strong partnerships and collaborative approach in working with residents, community organisations, and the Victorian Government.

For the purpose of Council's management of graffiti, Council distinguishes between various types of property owners. The type of property owner has implications for Councils involvement in the removal of graffiti, or ability to alter the physical environment for the purpose of establishing a mural or 'target hardening' a location to reduce the likelihood of graffiti.

| Property Category   | Description  | Council's Role  |
|---|--|---|
| Council Property  | Property owned by Council  | Responsible for all graffiti management.  |
| Utility provider and Victorian or<br>Australian Government property | Property owned by other levels<br>of government or a utility<br>provider, such as rail corridors,<br>arterial roads, electricity boxes<br>etc. | Report graffiti to relevant<br>authority for their<br>management.   |
| Large sized commercial business                                     | Property owned by large<br>commercial businesses (such as<br>Bunnings, Woolworths, Harvey<br>Norman etc.)                                      | Report graffiti to relevant<br>commercial business for<br>their management; or issue<br>a notice to comply with the<br>Community Local Law. |
| Small - medium sized businesses                                     | Property owned by a small –<br>medium local business (Cafés,<br>Milk bars, Beauty Salons, small<br>retail shops etc.)                          | Partner with the business<br>owner to arrange the<br>management of graffiti on<br>their property.   |

| Residential property  Privately owned residence | Make graffiti removal<br>materials available to the<br>property occupier; or seek<br>the property owners'<br>permission to manage<br>graffiti. |
|---|--|
|---|--|

# Priority 2: A Safe and Secure Community

#### Guided by Council's Public Health and Wellbeing Plan

Kingston's Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (PHWP) is an overarching strategic plan for addressing key health and wellbeing issues in Kingston. There are a range of action plans / strategies across Kingston Council that deliver the priorities of the PHWP, including the Safe and Secure Action Plan which outlines the strategic objectives that Council undertakes to improve safety and security for the community. The Graffiti Action Plan 2020-2025 responds to the objectives of the Safe and Secure Action Plan, by improving perceptions of safety through the management of graffiti.

- Kingston's Public Health and Wellbeing Plan
- Kingston's Safe and Secure Action Plan
- Kingston's Graffiti Managment Action Plan 2020-2025

# Actions

The National Crime Prevention Framework was developed by the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) to outline the most effective approaches to the prevention of crime, including:

- address the environmental conditions that promote and sustain crime;
- eliminate risk factors and enhance protective factors to reduce the likelihood that individuals will engage in offending behaviour;
- strengthen communities by addressing social exclusion and promoting community cohesiveness; and
- enhance the capacity of criminal justice agencies to prevent crime and reoffending.

This framework has been used to determine Council's approach to managing graffiti in Kingston.

The Action Plan below provides an outline of Council's activities to manage graffiti, corresponding with the responsible department for leading the implementation of the actions and measuring to evaluate the actions effectiveness. Not all actions are useful to measure, or able to be measured within Council's current resources. As such, priority has been given to measuring actions that are achievable and provide a useful indication of Council's performance in managing graffiti. The measures include both 'output' and 'outcome' measures: where 'output measures' describe what was delivered; and 'outcome measures' describe the impact of what was delivered.

The actions will be implemented over the life of this Action Plan.

# PRIORITY 1: ADDRESS THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS THAT PROMOTE AND SUSTAIN CRIME

"Environmental approaches to crime prevention include both situational approaches and broader planning initiatives where the aim is to reduce crime by designing and/or modifying the physical environment to reduce the opportunities for crime to occur." (National Crime Prevention Framework, p.5)

The amenity and aesthetic of public spaces significantly impacts how members of the community experience and use the space. Graffiti 'hot spots' i.e. locations where graffiti tagging is prevalent, often prompts fear of crime. Aesthetically pleasing design responses can improve the amenity of public spaces and reduce areas that experience high levels of tagging or vandalism. Activated spaces which invite natural surveillance and legitimate use of the area contributes to positive feelings of community safety.

| Objectives | Actions   | Responsible<br>Department | Output<br>Measure   | Outcome<br>Measure          |
|------------|---|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
|            | 1.1.1 Remove Graffiti<br>from Council assets<br>within 7 days of it | Community<br>Buildings    | 100% of<br>graffiti | Reduction in the visibility |

| 1.1.1 Reduce the visibility of<br>undesirable graffiti in<br>Kingston | being reported to<br>Council<br>1.1.2 Remove<br>obscene or offensive<br>graffiti within 24<br>hours of it being<br>reported to Council  | Road<br>Infrastructure<br>Parks and<br>Open Space<br>Community<br>Buildings<br>Road<br>Infrastructure | removed<br>within 7 days<br>of being<br>reported to<br>Council.<br>100% of<br>offensive<br>graffiti<br>removed<br>within 24 | of<br>undesirable<br>graffiti in<br>Kingston,<br>gauged by a<br>reduction in<br>the volume<br>of annual<br>reported<br>graffiti |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   | Parks and<br>Open Space   | hours.  | (Source:<br>Council<br>Pathway  |
|   | 1.1.3 Continue to<br>consider application<br>of anti-graffiti<br>coatings to Council<br>buildings where the<br>potential cost of<br>rectification or<br>restoration may<br>outweigh the cost of<br>a protective coating | Community<br>Buildings  | Assess 2 sites<br>per year for<br>their<br>suitability for<br>an anti-<br>graffiti<br>coating.                              | Data)   |
|   | 1.1.4 Continue to<br>provide an incentive<br>scheme for Council<br>staff to report graffiti<br>and other<br>maintenance issues<br>in the municipality   | Customer Care   |   |   |
|   | 1.1.5 With property<br>owners' permission,<br>remove graffiti from<br>residential or small -<br>medium business<br>owners property<br>that is highly visible<br>to the community  | Community<br>Buildings  |   |   |
|   | 1.1.6 Continue<br>membership of the<br>Inner South<br>Metropolitan<br>Mayors Forum<br>(ISMMF) to advocate   | Community<br>Buildings  |   |   |

to asset owners to improve their graffiti removal practices.

1.2 Re-develop public spaces using design principles that reduce the likelihood of undesirable graffiti, such as applying anti-graffiti film or coatings, screen planting, and incorporating mural artwork at key graffiti hot spots. 1.2.1 Finalise and **City Strategy** Implement Council's Street Art Guidelines to guide the implementation of murals at appropriate locations. 1.2.2 Implement **Kingston Arts** Council's Public Art Policy to ensure the provision of quality, progressive and varied public art into the urban landscape. 1.2.3 Have regard Urban to the Urban Planning **Design Guidelines** Community for Victoria's Buildings guidance for the development of Parks and public spaces and **Open Space** community assets. 1.2.4 Conduct Social Safety Audits of Development 'hot spot' locations for graffiti and apply for funding to implement Target Hardening or **Crime Prevention** 

Through Environmental Design (CPTED) outcomes.

## PRIORITY 2: ELIMINATE RISK FACTORS AND ENHANCE PROTECTIVE FACTORS TO REDUCE THE LIKELIHOOD THAT INDIVIDUALS WILL ENGAGE IN OFFENDING BEHAVIOUR

"Developmental crime prevention, which involves intervening early in critical transition points in a person's development to address those factors that may lead them on a pathway to future involvement in crime, is an important crime prevention measure. There are positive outcomes for young people, their families and the broader community." (National Crime Prevention Framework, p.6-7)

Council provides support to young people during their transition into adulthood through Council's Youth Services team guided by the Kingston Youth Strategy. This Graffiti Action Plan will complement the efforts of the Youth Services team by engaging young people in the community in graffiti prevention activities. Given graffiti offenders are generally aged between 12 and 25 years in Kingston, there are opportunities for increased provision of alternative creative outlets to divert young people who are likely to engage in graffiti tagging. Graffiti art programs, mentorship opportunities and graffiti education workshops can effectively redirect young people towards permissible street art. Vibrant, colourful places that reflect the experiences of young people in Kingston are more likely to be respected by young people.

| Objective  | Action  | Responsible<br>Dept.  | Output<br>Measure   | Outcome<br>Measure                             |
|--|---|-----------------------|---|--|
| 2.1 Support young people to<br>reduce the likelihood of their<br>engagement in illegal graffiti<br>activity. | 2.1.1 Implement<br><u>Kingston's Youth</u><br><u>Strategy</u> to support<br>healthy decision-<br>making, encourage<br>participation in<br>legitimate<br>opportunities, and<br>value young people's<br>contribution. | Youth Services        |   |  |
|  | 2.1.2 Work with<br><u>Common Cause</u><br><u>Australia</u> to develop<br>values-based<br>messages that<br>increase young  | Social<br>Development | Values-based<br>message/s that<br>communicate<br>the value of<br>public assets to<br>young people | Reduction in<br>graffiti on<br>Council assets. |

| people's<br>understanding of the<br>value of public assets<br>and importance of<br>not defacing them<br>with graffiti.   |                       | were developed<br>with young<br>people and<br>promoted by<br>Council.   |
|--|-----------------------|---|
| 2.1.3 Involve young<br>people in the<br>development of local<br>mural projects and<br>other artistic<br>projects identified<br>through Council's<br>Public Art Policy and<br>informed by Street<br>Art Guidelines.   | Kingston Arts         | Percentage of<br>murals<br>commissioned<br>by Council that<br>involved young<br>people in the<br>murals'<br>creation. |
| 2.1.4 Partner with<br>schools, Council's<br>youth consultative<br>committees, and<br>local organisations to<br>gather young<br>people's feedback<br>and input into graffiti<br>prevention strategies<br>when developing<br>Graffiti Prevention<br>Grant funding<br>applications. | Social<br>Development | Percentage of<br>graffiti grant<br>applications<br>where young<br>people were<br>consulted.                           |

# PRIORITY 3: STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES BY ADDRESSING SOCIAL EXCLUSION AND PROMOTING COMMUNITY COHESIVENESS

"The risk of becoming involved in crime, or being victimised, is greater in those communities that experience high levels of social exclusion or a lack of social cohesion." (National Crime Prevention Framework, p.7)

Graffiti tagging requires a whole-of-community response. The responsibility to manage graffiti cannot solely lie within Council, Victoria Police and the Department of Justice. Effective strategies depend upon localised, place-based activities which build stronger connections within the community to increase social ties and community cohesion.

| Objective  | Action  | Responsible<br>Department                           | Output<br>Measure  | Outcome<br>Measure  |
|--|---|---|--|---|
| 3.1 Engage the community to report graffiti.                                     | 3.1.1 Promote<br>community reporting<br>of graffiti to Victoria<br>Police:  | Social<br>Development                               | KYC article,<br>media release,<br>and social<br>media post   | Increase in<br>graffiti reporting<br>to Victoria<br>Police each                             |
|  | Call 000 to report<br>graffiti in progress<br>If you have<br>information on<br>illegal graffiti<br>offences, contact<br>your local police<br>station or call Crime<br>Stoppers on 1800<br>333 000. You can<br>provide information<br>to Crime Stoppers<br>without giving your |   | during<br>Community<br>Safety Month<br>(October)<br>promoting<br>graffiti<br>reporting.                    | year.   |
|  | details.<br>3.1.2 Encourage the<br>community to report<br>graffiti to the<br>relevant government<br>or utility provider via<br>information<br>provided on the<br>Council website.   | Social<br>Development                               |  |   |
| 3.2 Provide the opportunity for community involvement in the removal of graffiti | 3.2.1 Provide group<br>volunteer<br>opportunities for the<br>community to<br>remove graffiti using<br>Council's graffiti<br>removal equipment.  | Community<br>Buildings and<br>Social<br>Development | Facilitate 3<br>community<br>graffiti clean-up<br>sessions per<br>year.                                    | Increase in<br>participants'<br>feelings of<br>community<br>connection and<br>contribution. |
|  | 3.2.2 Provide free<br>graffiti removal kits<br>and wipes to the<br>community to<br>remove graffiti from<br>their property.  | Social<br>Development                               | Increase in the<br>use of graffiti<br>removal kits and<br>wipes as<br>indicated by<br>Pathway<br>requests. |   |

| 3.2.3 Continue to<br>support the<br>Community Work<br>Order program of<br>Corrections Victoria<br>for the removal of<br>graffiti by criminal<br>offenders. | Community<br>Buildings            |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 3.2.4 Promote<br>Graffiti Information<br>Packs to local<br>businesses<br>requesting<br>assistance to<br>manage graffiti.                                   | Economic Growth<br>and Innovation |

# PRIORITY 4: ENHANCE THE CAPACITY OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE AGENCIES TO PREVENT CRIME AND REOFFENDING

"Criminal justice agencies make a valuable contribution to effective crime prevention strategies. There is strong evidence that effective criminal justice processes can contribute to reductions in offending behaviour." (National Crime Prevention Framework, p.8)

Graffiti management must be actioned in alignment with local and state laws. Instances of nonpermitted graffiti will be dealt with in accordance with laws enforceable by Victoria Police under the Graffiti Prevention Act (2007).

| Objective  | Action   | Responsible<br>Department | Output<br>Measure   | Outcome<br>Measure   |
|--|--|---------------------------|---|--|
| 4.1 Administer local laws relating to graffiti.                                | 4.1.1 Continue to<br>enforce Kingston's<br>Community Local<br>Law to issue a Notice<br>to Comply to<br>property owners to<br>clean an unsightly<br>property. | Local Laws                |   |  |
| 4.2 Support Police in the investigation and prosecution of graffiti offenders. | 4.2.1 Continue to<br>maintain accurate<br>graffiti removal<br>records for<br>enforcement<br>purposes.  | Community<br>Buildings    | Council<br>continues to<br>collect data on<br>graffiti reported<br>and removed by | Council supplies<br>Police with<br>information<br>about graffiti<br>removal upon<br>request. |

# Council and its contractors.

| 4.2.2 In consultation |
|-----------------------|
| with Victoria Police, |
| erect CCTV cameras    |
| in hot spot locations |
| for graffiti.         |

4.2.3 Establish a

Police to update

outcomes of any

to Police about

graffiti offenders.

information supplied

Council on the

reporting process for

Community Buildings

Community

**Buildings** 

Number of graffiti hot spot locations where temporary or fixed cameras are installed.

A reporting process is established for Police to update Council on the outcome of any evidence supplied by Council to Police in relation to graffiti. Council supplies Police with CCTV footage evidence of graffiti upon request.

Council has records of the outcomes of graffiti offences where Council supplied evidence.

# **Background information**

## DEFINITIONS OF GRAFFITI

'Tagging' and 'street art' are terms related to graffiti that are commonly confused with one another. Whilst both terms represent subversive art movements, they can also be described as a method of communication seeking to reach different audiences.

There are various forms of graffiti including tags, etching, stencils, pieces, throw-ups, paste-ups, stickers and murals.

| Tags                    | 'Tagging' or 'tags' are acts of personal branding by scratching, marking or spray<br>painting a signature-like marking into a wall or infrastructure identifying an<br>individual through an alias. Tagging most frequently occurs without permission<br>from the property owner.  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Etching                 | Etching involves scratching or applying acid or mordant to cut into a surface.   |
| Stencils                | Stencil graffiti makes use of a paper, cardboard, or other media to create an<br>image or text that is easily reproducible. The desired design is cut out of the<br>selected medium and then the image is transferred to a surface using spray paint<br>or roll-on paint.  |
| Pieces                  | A "piece" is a more elaborate representation of the artist's name, incorporating<br>more stylized letters, usually incorporating a much larger range of colours. A<br>"blockbuster" or "roller" is a large piece, almost always done in a block shaped<br>style, done simply to cover a large area solidly with two contrasting colours. A<br>more complex style is "wildstyle", a form of graffiti usually involving interlocking<br>letters and connecting points. These pieces are often harder to read as the<br>letters merge into one another in an often-undecipherable manner. |
| Throw-ups               | Also known as a "bombing", throw-ups are normally painted very quickly with<br>two or three colours, sacrificing aesthetics for speed. Throw-ups can also be<br>outlined on a surface with one colour.   |
| Stickers /<br>Paste-ups | Stickers or paste-ups are drawings or words on paper that are applied to surfaces<br>with an adhesive. They can be quite detailed and are often used in conjunction<br>with other materials.   |
| Street Art /<br>Murals  | 'Street art' is often undertaken in the public realm by artists, some of whom are formally trained, with permission or commissioned by property managers.  |

'Street art' often uses different materials to tagging, such as stickers, stencils, wheat-paste posters, and use symbolic imagery to create an emotional response.

As identified in the Consultation Report, tags are the most controversial form of graffiti in Kingston. This Plan differentiates 'graffiti tagging' from 'street art,' where street art is defined as artwork that has been deliberately permitted and commissioned in public areas of Kingston.

## REASONS FOR GRAFFITI

Illegal acts of graffiti involve personal risk that give graffiti a counter-culture, anti-establishment edge. People who 'tag' are generally seeking to communicate with other graffiti writers, and may be marking territory, related to feelings of belonging to a group, challenging ideas of the status-quo, seeking notoriety from other 'taggers' or are simply engaging in anonymous mark-making. Many are also seeking to destroy or vandalise public property.

Street art or murals are often created to be viewed by and engage everyone, seeking to disrupt their day-to-day experience.

## ABOUT GRAFFITI WRITERS

Kingston's local Police Inspector identified the following demographic characteristics of graffiti offenders in Kingston:

The general demographic of graffiti offenders is between 12 and 25 years with a median age of 15 years. Those that are involved do come from all socio-economic environments, however the largest percentage are from mid to high-level income families. This information is supported after analysis of the age of offenders processed for graffiti incidents in Kingston Police Service Area (PSA) since 01-Jan-2019. It is noted that youngest offender processed was aged 12 years and the oldest 26 years. All of the offenders processed were male.

This profile generally reflects the feedback collected through the community consultation.

## IMPACT OF GRAFFITI

The following information shows the financial, location, time, and criminal impacts of graffiti in Kingston.

#### COST OF GRAFFITI

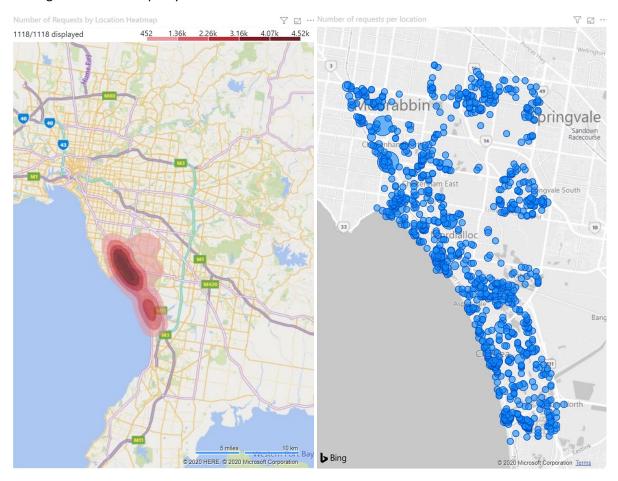
A complete picture of the cost of graffiti to the Kingston municipality is unable to be obtained due to the multiple agencies involved in removal, and undefined variety of other graffiti management activities. However, Council is able to provide data on the annual cost of graffiti removed by Kingston City Council. The annual graffiti removal cost to Kingston fluctuates, with the average annual cost for the past 4 years equalling just over \$100k annually.

| Financial Year           | 2015-16  | 2016-17   | 2017-18  | 2018-19   | 2015-2019 Average |
|--------------------------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-------------------|
| Cost of Graffiti Removal | \$83,903 | \$111,506 | \$95,467 | \$114,122 | \$101,249.5       |

(Kingston City Council, 2020)

#### WHERE GRAFFITI OCCURS

The following heat map and location map shows the location of graffiti in Kingston from January 2016 - January 2020. Graffiti predominantly occurs on public assets or public facing assets throughout the municipality.



The following is a breakdown of graffiti by postcode of Kingston:

#### Number of graffiti removal requests per postcode by financial year

| Postcode | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | Grand Total |
|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------------|
| 3169     | 1       |         |         |         | 1           |
| 3190     | 1       |         |         |         | 1           |
| 3194     | 2       |         |         |         | 2           |

| 3195  | 2   |     |     |     | 2    |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| 3196  | 1   |     |     |     | 1    |
| 3197  | 1   |     |     |     | 1    |
| 3167  | 3   | 8   | 5   | 4   | 27   |
| 3169  | 18  | 14  | 20  | 24  | 88   |
| 3172  | 34  | 36  | 38  | 75  | 194  |
| 3189  | 10  | 36  | 47  | 69  | 196  |
| 3190  | 23  | 29  | 24  | 42  | 130  |
| 3192  | 15  | 30  | 35  | 50  | 142  |
| 3194  | 62  | 121 | 91  | 35  | 327  |
| 3195  | 77  | 150 | 238 | 259 | 821  |
| 3196  | 39  | 61  | 98  | 89  | 335  |
| 3197  | 21  | 45  | 40  | 43  | 173  |
| 3202  | 5   | 1   | 1   | 2   | 10   |
| Total | 315 | 531 | 637 | 692 | 2451 |

(Kingston City Council, 2020)

The 3195 postcode, incorporating suburbs of Aspendale, Aspendale Gardens, Braeside, Mordialloc, Parkdale and Waterways clearly stands out as the predominant area where graffiti is requested to be removed. This may reflect the dominance of graffiti in this area and/or a lack of tolerance for graffiti by residents in the 3195 postcode.

#### WHEN GRAFFITI OCCURS

Although the following table is not a complete picture of all graffiti removal per square metre performed by Council, as it only captures graffiti removed by Council's removal contractor and not by Council Officers, it does however provide an indication of the busier times of the year for graffiti removal. These times tend to co-inside with school holidays and warmer weather.

#### 'GraffitiRid' Monthly Graffiti Removal 2018-19 by Square Metres

| Month       | Total sq. Mtrs |
|-------------|----------------|
| June 2018   | 439.5          |
| July 2018   | 450.5          |
| August 2018 | 472            |

| September 2018 | 566.5  |
|----------------|--------|
| October 2018   | 570.7  |
| November 2018  | 270    |
| December 2018  | 882    |
| January 2019   | 791    |
| February 2019  | 513    |
| March 2019     | 514.5  |
| April 2019     | 740.25 |
| May 2019       | 634    |

(Kingston City Council, 2020)

#### RECORDED RATES OF GRAFFITI

Most instances of graffiti are not reported as a criminal offence. Many variables can impact recorded crime statistics, such as: public awareness, reporting culture, report handling, data collection methodology etc. For these reasons, reported crime statistics do not always match actual crime rates, or other data sources such as Council's graffiti removal records. The table below shows the annual record of graffiti in Kingston reported to Victoria Police. There has been a reduction in the average number of incidents of graffiti recorded as a criminal offence; from a 5-year average of 231.4 from 2010-2014; to a 5-year average of 128.4 from 2015-2019.

| <b>Kingston Graffiti Criminal Offences</b> | (Category B22 Graffiti) Recorded by Calend | ar Year |
|--|--|---------|
|  |  |         |

| 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2010-2014 average |
|------|------|------|------|------|-------------------|
| 433  | 229  | 171  | 155  | 169  | 231.4             |
| 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2015-2019 average |
| 100  | 124  | 200  | 121  | 97   | 128.4             |

(Victorian Crime Statistics Agency, 2020)

In addition to a record of individual instances of graffiti reported to Police, the Victorian Crime Statistics Agency provides rates of crime per 100,000 population, which allows for crime levels to be compared to other locations or crime types. The table below shows the annual record of graffiti reports per 100,000 population and compares Kingston's reported graffiti to neighbouring municipalities and the Victorian average. Reporting of graffiti in Kingston is higher than the state average, which may relate to higher rates of graffiti, or lower tolerance for graffiti and increased willingness to report graffiti.

|           | 2010  | 2011  | 2012  | 2013  | 2014  | 2015 | 2016 | 2017  | 2018 | 2019 |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|-------|------|------|
| Bayside   | 73.2  | 121.7 | 114.5 | 114   | 63.1  | 80   | 80.7 | 54.7  | 53.9 | 39.3 |
| Frankston | 190.6 | 101.3 | 160.4 | 144.4 | 182.8 | 84.2 | 92.5 | 112.3 | 68.4 | 67   |
| Glen Eira | 186.8 | 113   | 84.1  | 87.8  | 54.3  | 59.6 | 57.2 | 105   | 63.7 | 56.6 |
| Greater   | 17.8  | 38    | 33.8  | 38.4  | 41.4  | 51.3 | 22.5 | 31.8  | 15.1 | 10.7 |
| Dandenong |       |       |       |       |       |      |      |       |      |      |
| Kingston  | 293.7 | 154.4 | 113.7 | 101.7 | 109.6 | 64   | 78   | 124.2 | 74.0 | 58.7 |
| Monash    | 92.8  | 69.9  | 37.7  | 27.3  | 37.6  | 33.3 | 48.3 | 42.7  | 32.5 | 32.1 |
| Victorian | 58.9  | 68.2  | 58.5  | 61.9  | 54.6  | 54.6 | 52.7 | 48.7  | 42.3 | 46.2 |
| Average   |       |       |       |       |       |      |      |       |      |      |

Graffiti Criminal Offences (Category B22 Graffiti) Rate per 100,000 population comparing Kingston to Victorian Average

(Victorian Crime Statistics Agency, 2020)

Overall the impact of graffiti in Kingston is multifaceted and difficult to quantify. However, some clear trends emerge from the data above and the community consultation:

- Graffiti removal costs Council approximately \$100k annually. However, this is not the complete cost of all graffiti removal across Kingston, nor the complete cost of all Council graffiti management activities.
- Graffiti writers prefer to graffiti public assets or publicly facing assets.
- Most illegal graffiti in Kingston is performed by young people and in school holidays, particularly during the warmer months.
- Graffiti is of particular concern in the 3195 postcode, which incorporates the suburbs of Aspendale, Aspendale Gardens, Braeside, Mordialloc, Parkdale and Waterways.
- Kingston's graffiti is under-reported to Police. However, graffiti in Kingston is being reported to Police more often than the Victorian average.

### LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

Kingston's Graffiti Action Plan 2020-2025 was developed with reference to the national, state and local plans, strategies, frameworks and guidelines, as listed below:

#### AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

<u>National Crime Prevention Framework</u>

#### VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT

- Victorian Graffiti Prevention Act 2007
- Summary Offences Act 1966
- Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019-2023
- Urban Design Guidelines for Victoria

#### KINGSTON CITY COUNCIL

- Public Health and Wellbeing Plan
- Public Art Policy
- Draft Street Art Guidelines
- Community Local Law, specifically: clause 27 that enables Council to consider premises *'unsightly'* and issue a Notice to Comply to the property owner; and clause 120 that prohibits any person/business who sells aerosol spray paint cans to store or display the cans in an area accessible to the public.

## DATA AND DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Collation and analysis of data and demographics from a variety of sources such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics, VicHealth and the Crime Statistics Agency Victoria informs the development of the PHWP and Safe and Secure Action Plan. This is presented in the City of Kingston Health and Wellbeing Profile and is available on Kingston Council's website: <u>www.kingston.vic.gov.au</u>

### HOW WE DEVELOPED THIS ACTION PLAN

The actions and partnerships detailed in this action plan were identified within the development process for the PHWP 2017-2021; and through the development of this Graffiti Action Plan in 2020. Data and information was gathered during these processes to inform the development of the PHWP and its action plans. The process involved an analysis of relevant data and demographic information, policy and legislative contexts, and stakeholder and community consultation. The consultation process for developing this plan included a co-design workshop with internal Council stakeholders, an online survey, workshops with advisory committees, phone call interviews with graffiti artists and taggers, and pop-up events in a local reserve and skate park. The Graffiti Action Plan consultation was partly funded by the Victorian Government's Community Crime Prevention Program.

#### DATA AND LITERATURE

The data and literature review consisted of:

• An evaluation of Council's Safe and Secure Action Plan 2017-2021, and previous Graffiti Management Plan 2012-2017.

- A review and analysis of other local government, state and federal policies and literature from the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC).
- Collation and analysis of health and demographic data from a variety of government sources such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics, VicHealth, Crime Statistics Agency Victoria, and Council's graffiti removal records.

#### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The following engagement activities were held for the development of this Action Plan:

- Council engaged CAPIRE Consulting to consult the Kingston community, key stakeholders and graffiti writers in Kingston between February March 2020 to gather local information about, and attitudes towards, graffiti in Kingston. The consultation report is available via Kingston's website.
- Kingston Council's 2016 Health and Wellbeing Survey, which provided a representative sample of Kingston's residents and their views on health, wellbeing and safety in Kingston.
- Consultation with other local government officers who manage graffiti action plans.
- Discussions with internal Council staff to identify opportunities manage graffiti through Council's services.

### HOW WE WILL IMPLEMENT THIS ACTION PLAN

This action plan outlines details about what Council commits to doing to manage graffiti in the municipality. Each action lists what will be done, which team in Council will lead the initiative, and where appropriate, how the initiative will be evaluated for its effectiveness.

The Social Development Team will oversee the development and co-ordination of this Action Plan and support and guide other teams with their actions. Working collaboratively within Council and with external organisations and with the community is an important aspect of implementing the identified actions.

## HOW WE WILL MONITOR THIS ACTION PLAN

An annual review of output and outcome measures will provide short term feedback about the successes and challenges of this Action Plan, informing any amendments to the Graffiti Action Plan 2020-2025 during its lifecycle, and tracking how Council is progressing in achieving its safe and secure objectives of the PHWP.

Councillors will be informed of the outcomes of all health and wellbeing work across Council and their impact on the long-term measures of the PHWP objectives in this Action Plan. This will also be available to the Kingston Community via the Kingston website every four years. The Graffiti Action Plan 2020-2025 will be redeveloped in line with the review and redevelopment of the PHWP in 2025.

### REFERENCES

CAPIRE Consulting, 2020, *Graffiti Management Plan Community Engagement Report*. Available at <u>www.kingston.vic.gov.au</u>

Crime Statistics Agency Victoria, *Crime Statistics* and *Crime by Location*. Available at <u>https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/</u> Accessed April 2020.

Department of Justice and Regulation, 2018, *Graffiti Prevention Grants 2016-2017 Summary of Evaluation Findings* 

Inner South Metropolitan Mayors Forum, 2017, *Inner South Metropolitan Mayors Forum*. Available at <u>http://ismmf.com/</u>

Kingston City Council, Graffiti Records, Pathway system. Accessed March 2020.



- 1230 Nepean Highway,
  Cheltenham, VIC 3192
  PO Box 1000, Mentone, VIC 3194
- 1300 653 356

131 450

info@kingston.vic.gov.au

kingston.vic.gov.au