

## COUNCIL POLICY

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|------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>TITLE:</b>          | <b>Graffiti Vandalism</b> |
| <b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> | 1 September 2016          |
| <b>REVIEW DATE:</b>    | August 2021               |
| <b>FILE REFERENCE:</b> | 110515                    |

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### **1 Background**

Kawerau District Council (Council) works with police, property owners and others to reduce and remove graffiti vandalism in the Kawerau District. Council's previous policy on graffiti, adopted in 1994, has seen the incidence and severity of graffiti fall in recent years. It is intended that adopting a new policy at this time, which reinforces current practice, will underpin further improvements.

### **2 Policy Objectives**

The objective of this policy is to set out Council's approach to the prevention, management and enforcement of graffiti vandalism in the Kawerau District.

### **3 Principles**

This policy is guided by the following principles:

- Preventing the incidence and severity of graffiti vandalism is preferable to removal
- Council should partner with other organisations in relation to graffiti prevention, management and removal
- Swift removal of graffiti vandalism takes away the reward of public display and thereby discourages recurrence
- Council should take responsibility for graffiti on Council-owned buildings
- Graffiti is a community issue, so the owners or occupiers of privately owned buildings should be encouraged to seek support to prevent and remove graffiti on their premises.

## 4 DEFINITIONS

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>CBD</b>                         | The commercial area bounded by Plunket, Onslow and Islington Streets.  |
| <b>Graffiti/graffiti vandalism</b> | Uninvited and unwelcome painting, drawing or writing on a building or facility, including the form known as 'tagging'.                         |
| <b>Public building</b>             | Any building owned by Kawerau District Council   |
| <b>Public facility</b>             | Any facility (such as public toilets, children's playgrounds and the Maurie Kjar Memorial Swimming Pool) owned by the Kawerau District Council |
| <b>Public structure</b>            | Infrastructure such as roads, footpaths, fences, stormwater drains and cesspits owned by the Kawerau District Council.                         |

## 5 Policy Statement

### 5.1 Working Together

Council will work with the Police, local community groups and other crime prevention agencies to develop shared approaches to keep reducing the incidence and severity of graffiti in Kawerau.

Council will engage with the owners and/or occupants of privately-owned buildings in the CBD and other highly visible areas to encourage them to take responsibility and appropriate action to prevent and manage graffiti on their premises.

### 5.2 Prevention

In designing or redesigning public areas, Council will incorporate a range of crime prevention design techniques such as lighting, visibility and CCTV cameras to help prevent the risk of graffiti vandalism.

Council will also consider using murals in public areas as a way to prevent graffiti.

### 5.3 Management

Council will remove graffiti from public buildings and facilities in the Kawerau District on no fewer than two separate days per calendar week.

Notwithstanding that graffiti on a private building, facility or structure is primarily the responsibility of its owner and/or occupant, where it is judged by a Council officer as

being offensive, Council may undertake its removal with or without notifying the owner or occupant.

#### **5.4 Enforcement**

Council will allow footage from its CCTV camera network to be used to identify those responsible for graffiti vandalism on any building, facility or structure, public or private, in the District.

#### **6 Relevant Delegations**

The Chief Executive Officer or his/her nominee has delegated authority for the implementation of this policy.

#### **7 References and Relevant Legislation**

Kawerau District Plan

Kawerau District Council General Bylaw Part 2 – Public Places