



Hon Greg Smith SC MP

Attorney General
Minister for Justice

MEDIA RELEASE

14 March 2012

NSW GOVERNMENT HELPS COUNCILS TO COMBAT GRAFFITI

The NSW Attorney General, Greg Smith SC, today announced \$800,000 in funding to help councils in Sydney, the Hunter region, the Central Coast and the South Coast to combat graffiti through clever environmental design.

The seven councils selected for this year's Graffiti Hotspot program are Bankstown, Leichhardt, Liverpool, Marrickville, Maitland, Shoalhaven and Wyong.

"Using Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design techniques, the Graffiti Hotspot program will make vulnerable public areas safer, more attractive to the community and more resistant to graffiti," Mr Smith said.

"Changes to the urban landscape can render frequently targeted walls inaccessible to graffiti vandals or increase the likelihood of offenders being caught in the act."

While each program will be tailored to meet the challenges of the local community, the anti-graffiti techniques used may include:

- Green Screening – using landscaping to act as a natural barrier to protect walls from graffiti;
- surface treatments – applying an anti-graffiti coating to walls to facilitate the fast removal of spray paint;
- signs to encourage the community to respect community facilities; and
- the installation of community-based art.

Mr Smith said members of the community would also play a key role in reducing graffiti.

"Some people have become reluctant to visit graffiti-damaged public areas, such as parks, because they feel unsafe.

"The Graffiti Hotspot program will encourage public use of these areas, which will increase natural surveillance and make it harder for graffiti vandals to avoid detection," Mr Smith said.

Mr Smith said the program was part of the NSW Government's comprehensive anti-graffiti strategy.

"Graffiti costs the community more than \$100 million a year and combating this scourge is among the O'Farrell Government's highest priorities.

“The NSW Government is working with a range of community organisations such as Rotary Clubs to establish volunteer graffiti removal squads across the state.

“With the support of local councils, the government will also hold its annual day for community action against graffiti.

“I encourage the community to report graffiti to the government’s new Graffiti Hotline on 1800 707 125,” Mr Smith said.