MEDIA RELEASE

2 October 2014

GIVE VANDALISM THE BOOT ON GRAFFITI REMOVAL DAY

Sports clubs, community groups and local residents are being urged to throw their support behind NSW Graffiti Removal Day on Sunday 26 October.

Wests Tigers NRL star, Curtis Sironen has joined Attorney General Brad Hazzard, Minister for Police and Emergency Services Stuart Ayres and Strathfield MP Charles Casuscelli in launching Graffiti Removal Day - a joint initiative between the NSW Government and Rotary Down Under to encourage people to say ‘no’ to graffiti vandalism.

“A footy club can’t succeed without teamwork and the same can be said about Graffiti Removal Day,” said Mr Sironen.

“By turning out in big numbers on Graffiti Removal Day, we will send a clear message to vandals we will not tolerate criminal behaviour or destruction of public property,” Mr Hazzard said.

“Graffiti is estimated to cost NSW more than $100 million every year – although these figures are conservative as it isn’t always reported to Police.

“The NSW Government is committed to working closely with local councils, property owners, government agencies, community groups, businesses and the public to identify, remove and prevent graffiti.”

“Last year a record number of more than 1,000 volunteers rolled up their sleeves to help clean up over 23,000 square metres of graffiti across the State,” Mr Ayres said.

“The operation was incredibly successful with volunteers saving nearly $1.5 million in graffiti removal costs.”

Strathfield MP, Charles Casuscelli said Graffiti Removal Day was a great opportunity for residents to take action against graffiti vandalism.

“Getting involved in cleaning up graffiti in your local area is a really positive and practical way to help us fight vandalism,” Mr Casuscelli said.

To volunteer or nominate a clean-up site complete the online registration form at www.graffitiremovalday.org.au
All volunteers are provided with training, graffiti removal equipment and protective gear on the day.

The NSW Government established a free and confidential graffiti hotline in 2012 to make it easier to report and remove graffiti vandalism found on public assets, community facilities or private property. In 2013/14 it received 830 calls.

To report graffiti in NSW call 1800 707 125 between 9am-5pm on weekdays.

“I hope Graffiti Removal Day causes some vandals to think about the consequences of their actions,” Mr Sironen said.

“Young people may turn to graffiti because they are bored but getting involved in sport is a much healthier and productive cure for boredom,” Mr Sironen said.