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LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRAFFITI SURVEY

The Department, in partnership with the Crime Prevention Division, NSW Attorney General's Department, is conducting a survey of councils about the extent of graffiti in their areas; their graffiti recording practices; and initiatives in place to deal with graffiti.

This survey forms part of a large-scale research project to describe the extent and cost of the graffiti problem in NSW and identify counter-measures to reduce the incidence and consequences of graffiti. Other key agencies that are affected by graffiti will also be surveyed as part of the project.

The research will be undertaken through the recently established Anti-Graffiti Action Team, which is a key component of the Government's comprehensive strategy to drive down the incidence of graffiti. This multi-agency Action Team, chaired by the Attorney General's Department, will develop and oversee the implementation of initiatives to tackle graffiti, including: increased removal of graffiti by identified offenders and community groups; increased enforcement and surveillance of graffiti 'hot spots'; and working with councils and government utilities on the development of Graffiti Management Plans targeting high graffiti environments.

An electronic survey has been emailed separately to all councils to obtain up-to-date information on graffiti. Councils are requested to electronically complete the survey and return it to the department by the date indicated on the survey form. All councils are encouraged to complete the survey to enable comprehensive and meaningful data to be collected. Even if graffiti is not a problem in your area, it would be appreciated if the survey is completed and returned.

The survey will provide valuable information for agencies wanting to deal with graffiti. It is intended that the survey be conducted on a regular basis, for example, every two to three years. This will help to monitor over time the incidence and expenditure on graffiti. It is intended that a report on the findings from the survey will be made available to all NSW councils.

The information provided by councils in response to this survey will be held by the department and the Crime Prevention Division and will only be used for the purposes stated in this Circular. Only aggregated data will be presented in the report and the names and contact details provided by councils will not be included. However, the Crime Prevention Division may wish to highlight some

innovative and effective practices in its report. In this case the Crime Prevention Division will seek the permission of the relevant council or agency before reporting on individual practices. Councils should be aware that any information provided by them is subject to the provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 1989*.

If you would like more information or have any queries regarding the survey, please contact either Joanne Baker on telephone 02 9228 8057 or email: joanne_baker@agd.nsw.gov.au, or Paula Cheng on telephone 02 9228 8032 or email paula_cheng@agd.nsw.gov.au at the Crime Prevention Division of the Attorney General's Department.

Your assistance in completing the survey is appreciated.



Garry Payne
Director General