

Street art and graffiti removal

Policy scope

This policy determines decision making regarding the management of graffiti and unauthorised street art across the City of Fremantle on both public and private property.

Policy statement

Graffiti or graffiti vandalism refers to the illegal activity of defacing private and/or public property without the consent of the property owner. Urban art refers to legal work, where permission to mark a surface has been granted by the owner of the property.

Graffiti is words or drawings on walls without permission. There are four main types of graffiti:

- Tags which are written or etched on any surface using pens, paint, spray cans. Pieces which are large or small mural style works that may incorporate a signature and may have artistic merit.
- Slogans which are words about an issue, idea or thought, could be applied with paint, on stickers, paste ups or etched into the surface.
- Stencils where a template has been used to create a design and spray painted onto a surface.

All graffiti will be assessed by the City's graffiti removal team and removed within twenty-four to forty-eight hours of reporting. Priority is given to removing offensive or obscene graffiti.

All graffiti on heritage places will be removed under the guidance of heritage advice.

Graffiti that falls into the category of *pieces*, *slogans* or *stencils* and may have cultural or artistic merit and considered to be "unauthorised street art" will be photographed and referred to the Director Community Development for a decision about its removal or retention. The director will liaise with the City's public art officer, and/or the public art advisory group as required to make a determination, and instructions will be relayed to the graffiti removal team in relation to the retention or removal of the graffiti.

Unauthorised street art on private property that is deemed to have cultural or artistic merit will be left in place unless there is a request to have it removed made by the property owner. This will be discussed with the property owner. A register of retained street art will be maintained.

The City will continue to work with the state government and young people to develop graffiti reduction programs and the youth urban art program to promote responsible street art and reduce graffiti hotspots.

Definitions and abbreviations

Nil

Responsibility and review information	
Responsible officer:	Manager Arts and Culture
Document adoption/approval details	23 January 2013 – SGS1301-1
Document amendment details	Reviewed 22 September 2021 – FPOL2109-16
Next review date	22 September 2025