

## 1 Policy History

Revision No.	Council Meeting Date	Minute No.	Adoption Date
1	Before 24 Apr 1990	-	Before 24 Apr 1990
2	14 Jan 2003	25	14 Jan 2003
3	11 May 2010	0142	11 May 2010
4	22 Jan 2013	0004	22 Jan 2013
5	11 Nov 2014	0390	11 Nov 2014
6	11 Sep 2015	15/240	11 Aug 2015
7	12 Jun 2018	18/174	13 Jul 2018

## 2 Policy Objective

To encourage the general public to play a role in safe guarding the assets of the community.

## 3 Policy Statement

Council shall pay a reward of up to \$5,000 to members of the public supplying information which results in the successful prosecution of a person or persons responsible for damaging Council property via acts of vandalism, graffiti or rubbish dumping.

Persons providing information must be aware that they may be required to attend a police station and make a formal statement and/or appear in court to give evidence.

### 3.1 The Reward

The reward is different in every case as the potential reward amount will be an amount equal to the calculated cost incurred by Council for the clean-up, repair or removal of the vandalism, graffiti or rubbish dumping and is capped at \$5,000 per application. Additionally, the total of rewards issued will be capped each financial year at \$20,000.

### 3.2 Eligibility for Reward

The reward relates to damages including acts of vandalism, graffiti, rubbish dumping or any other damage to Council property.

- To make a reward claim the vandalism, graffiti or rubbish dumping must have been reported to police and the information supplied leads to police taking legal action against the offender. The reward will not be paid unless the offender is convicted of the offence(s) connected in the relevant act of vandalism as by reported by the person seeking the reward.

- Council will not accept claims in which the person making the claim is also the identified offender.
- Any person providing information must not be associated with the criminal offence as determined by the court.
- Council staff directly involved in the removal and/or management of graffiti and vandalism, and their immediate family are also ineligible.
- Councillors, Council staff, law enforcement officers and security services personnel are not eligible for a reward.

### **3.3 Legal Action Taken by Police**

Police legal actions for the purpose of 'Vandalism, Graffiti and Rubbish Dumping – Reward for Information' policy include:

- A criminal proceeding resulting in a conviction or finding of guilt, or an offence proven in a court of law in relation to incidents of graffiti or vandalism.
- A Juvenile Justice Conference administered where a person under the age of 18 has admitted guilt for damage to a property or graffiti offence.

### **3.4 No Legal Action Taken by Police**

The police make decisions on the investigation of offences based on available information. If they decide not to investigate a particular incident, the reward will not be payable.

### **3.5 Private Property**

The policy does not include private property as Council is primarily responsible for providing and maintain assets for the benefit of the whole community. When these assets are damaged everyone in the community suffers. For this reason, the focus of this scheme is to provide an incentive for residents to report information about offenders who damage community property only.

### **3.6 Confidentiality and Anonymous Reports**

Unless required to do so under legislation, Council will not release names or contact details to any third party except to verify the information provided on the claim form with police. Interaction with the police will be bound by their policies and procedures

To report information about offenders anonymously, phone Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000. Information can also be reported online at [www.crimestoppers.com.au](http://www.crimestoppers.com.au). Anonymous reports are not eligible for the reward.

### **3.7 Application for Reward**

The claimant must submit a completed 'Vandalism - Reward for Information Form (PG-FO-114)' to Council, providing personal details and a description of the graffiti, vandalism or rubbish dumping to allow Council to verify the claim.

If the application is successful, Council will organise payment of the reward which is an amount made in accordance with the rules of this policy.

If the application is not successful, Council will advise as to why this decision was made.

Council will maintain a confidential register of applications and outcomes of the applications.

## **4 Definitions**

None

## **5 Exceptions**

None

## **6 Legislation**

Graffiti Control Act 2008 Section 13

## **7 Related Documents**

(PG-FO-114) Vandalism – Reward for Information Form

## **8 Directorate**

Infrastructure & Operations