

VANDALISM REPORTING REWARD SCHEME

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OBJECTIVES

- To reduce the acts of vandalism and malicious damage to Orange City Council and private property
- To provide a mechanism for encouraging and rewarding members of the public who provide information that leads to the successful prosecution and conviction of anyone found vandalising Orange City Council–owned property.

APPLICABILITY

The application of this policy is limited by a number of factors, including:

- The amount of any reward would be equal to the remediation costs of the vandalism (as determined by Council) capped at a maximum of \$2,000 per event.
- The reward scheme is subject to an annual cap of \$20,000 per financial year.
- All persons providing information must be aware that they may be required to attend the Police Station and make a formal statement and/or appear in Court and give evidence.
- A reward under this scheme will be payable for information leading to a criminal proceeding resulting in a conviction.
- Any individual supplying information that leads to the successful prosecution and conviction of anyone found vandalising land owned by Orange City Council.
- A reward may only be paid to a person or persons and no reward will be paid to any corporate, business club or other organisation.
- Fraudulent and/or misleading claims will be ineligible for payment of the reward. Council may seek to recoup the reward and costs associated with this action should an application be found to be fraudulent or misleading.

GENERAL

Vandalism is of ongoing concern to Council and to the Orange community because of its continuing visibility, detrimental impact on the local streetscape, and high cost of removal.

Council recognises the value of programs that focus on the prevention of vandalism before it occurs as being complementary to those aimed at removing it once it has been applied.

DEFINITIONS

Graffiti

Any inscription, word, figure, or word design that is marked, etched, scratched, drawn, sprayed, painted, pasted, applied or otherwise affixed to or on any surface without owners consent and includes any remnants of same such as adhesives, glues, tapes, shadows or colour variations remaining after removal.

Vandalism

The willful or malicious destruction, injury, disfigurement, or defacement of any public property.

Criminal proceeding

A criminal proceeding is an action taken by the Police against an individual for a malicious damage offence. Criminal proceedings include an individual being charged for the offence, where that individual has admitted guilt, or been found guilty of those charges in a Court of law.

Incident

An incident refers to an offence of malicious damage occurring in one location or in a specific timeframe by the same offender or group of offenders, and as such may refer to more than one specific action.

Malicious Damage Offence

An incident which may result in the charge of malicious damage as defined under the Summary Offences Act.

Council Property

Property owned or managed by or Orange City Council.

PROCEDURE

- Any person who witnesses, or has information regarding an act of graffiti or vandalism should in the first instance report the matter to the Orange Police Station.
- The police will examine the information and may investigate the offence. Should an offender be identified, and admit guilt or be found guilty, the informant should then complete a "Vandalism Reward Claim Form" available on Council's website.
- Council's Manager Corporate Governance will assess each claim and make a recommendation to the General Manager on the payment of the award. This recommendation will be based on information provided by the NSW Police.
- The claimant will be advised of the outcome of their claim in writing.

PRIVACY

- All documentation held and created in relation to applications held under the scheme and which includes information indicating the identity of the applicant shall be marked confidential.
- Any person who makes an application under the scheme will be deemed a complainant to Council.
- For purposes of protecting the safety of individuals, the identity of complainants and public interest, documentation held and created in relation to applications held under the scheme, may not be subject to release to members of the public.

Responsible Area – Corporate and Commercial Services

REVISION					
	DATE	RESOLUTION		DATE	RESOLUTION
1	16 July 2009	09/282	6		
2	August 2014	14/955	7		
3	17 Nov 2015	15/541	8		
4	3 July 2018	18/308	9		
5					
All policies can be reviewed or revoked by resolution of Council, at any time.					

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS

Amendment Date	Section/Reference and Amendment
July 2018	Formatting Updates Only.
October 2015	Formatting updates. Clarification that the reward applies to graffiti on Council owned land (Objectives).
August 2014	Formatting changes Additional clause inserted under "Applicability" heading – fraudulent and/or misleading claims will be ineligible for payment of the reward.

VANDALISM – REWARD SCHEME APPLICATION FORM

Council has a policy to offer a reward of up to \$2,000 for information leading to the successful prosecution and conviction of anyone found vandalising public and private property.

To claim a reward, complete the details below:

Claimant Details

Name of Applicant-----

Address-----

Phone-----

Date of Incident----- & Time-----

Incident Details-----

Location-----

Act of vandalism-----

Police event-----

Name/identify of offender (if known)-----

Date-----

Signature-----

THE INFORMATION YOU PROVIDE IS PERSONAL INFORMATION FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE PRIVACY AND PERSONAL INFORMATION PROTECTION ACT 1998.

THE SUPPLY OF THE INFORMATION BY YOU IS VOLUNTARY. IF YOU CANNOT PROVIDE OR DO NOT WISH TO PROVIDE THE INFORMATION SOUGHT, COUNCIL MAY BE UNABLE TO PROCESS THE CLAIM.