

# SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM

## ASHFIELD COUNCIL

WORKSHOP - 3 MAY 2011

ASHFIELD CLEAN TEAM UPDATE. Adam Hughes - Assistant Parks & Trees Supervisor. Report submitted.

(03/05/11)

Governance - Management Plan

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**WS 8.4 Attached**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 1/3 That Council maintain the ACT and its commitment to operational removal of incidences of graffiti on a permanent basis.**
- 2/3 That Council purchase a utility vehicle with a spray unit to maintain current levels of service to residents for the purposes of Weed Growth Control for the 2011/12 Budget**
- 3/3 That Council maintain one fully equipped truck (for three (3) person operation) to service and maintain current Graffiti Control requirements.**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>ASHFIELD CLEAN TEAM UPDATE</b>
<b>File Ref</b>	Governance - Management Plan
<b>Prepared by</b>	Adam Hughes - Assistant Parks & Trees Supervisor

This discussion paper provides an update on the operations of the ACT. It also includes information on the impact of changes to the operations of the Ashfield Clean Team (ACT) which have been trialled for efficiencies in terms of maintaining service levels and the proposal to deliver financial savings.

As part of the 2010/11 Budget Review process it was recommended that the Ashfield Clean Team (ACT) be reduced from a 5 people - two truck team to a 3 people - one truck team to assist with delivering financial savings to Council while maintaining the existing service levels.

### **Level of Service - Customer Request Management**

Rapid response has been proven to be the most effective way of substantially reducing the graffiti in the highly visible areas throughout our LGA. The more rapidly graffiti is removed the less notoriety graffiti vandals achieve in terms of the malicious damage they cause. A fact not just germane to our municipality.

Anecdotal responses from members of our business community and indeed the community generally are very positive. Our team are often thanked while 'on the job' for their efforts.

Statistics hereunder indicate that graffiti vandalism is seasonal in terms of the amount of graffiti in areas committed by juveniles. Incidences of graffiti can appear to be higher on a comparative seasonal basis. As juveniles' age; enter the work force; and others 'move on', they are replaced with a new crop of younger offenders who believe that tagging is the cool thing to do.

### **Graffiti – Customer Request Management (CRMs)**

<b>Month</b>	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2009-10</b>	<b>2008-09</b>	<b>2007-08</b>
July	6	19	11	13
August	10	18	9	14
September	8	14	6	5
October	8	8	7	8
November	14	7	4	9
December	6	9	4	6
January	9	5	3	7
February	12	12	7	11
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>73</b>
March		16	10	11
April		8	8	4
May		4	10	21
June		8	11	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>118</b>

Incidences of graffiti removal in square metres for the last four years are shown in the statistics below. During the warmer months from November through to April, a greater focus on growth control was required to maintain the aesthetic appeal of the municipality on balance.

***Graffiti – square metres removed***

Month	2010 - 11	2009 - 10	2008 – 09	2007 – 08
July	2556	3004.00	2435.00	4899
August	2214	2202	1440	1362
September	1676	1498	1814	1042
October	890	2469	821	526
November	1325	729	863	311
December	740	1324	1245	525
January	1386	100	1476	846
February	1466	811	1153	516
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>12,253</b>	<b>12,137</b>	<b>11,247</b>	<b>10,027</b>
March		2099	1187	423
April		359	954	1036
May		1026	3605	2117
June		1324	3305	1441
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,253</b>	<b>16,945</b>	<b>20,298</b>	<b>15,044</b>

These statistics demonstrate that the level of customer requests has stabilised not increased during the period of the trial. For the same period CRMs have not increased ie 92 reduced to 73 comparing 2010-11 and 2009-10.

By better focusing on the program the team focus have been able to maintain the previous level of service.

**Growth Control of weeds**

Prior to the second Ashfield Clean Team truck being leased to Marrickville Council work carried out by this team included both graffiti removal and the weed control within the municipality. Since leasing of the second vehicle to Marrickville, growth control has had to be shared between weed contractors and parks staff to remediate areas of weed growth.

***Impact of Climate***

The climatic effects of El Niño and La Niña constitute a significant challenge in the control of weeds in our LGA. El Niño relates to the extensive warming of the central and eastern Pacific that leads to a major shift in weather patterns across the Pacific. In Australia (particularly eastern Australia), El Niño events are associated with an increased probability of drier conditions. The drying out of surfaces produces extensive cracking providing greater opportunity for the seeds of weeds to germinate in deeper areas of cracking.

La Niña relates to the extensive cooling of the central and eastern Pacific Ocean. In Australia (particularly eastern Australia), La Niña events are associated with increased probability of wetter conditions. These wetter conditions allow for quicker germination of weeds which lay dormant in cracks, consequentially producing a higher growth rate in weeds, necessitating more frequent attention.

**Comparative CRM requests for Growth Control**

Month	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08
July	4	4	0	2
August	0	4	2	1
September	6	9	5	0
October	14	8	7	1
November	16	11	8	1
December	6	5	4	2
January	1	11	6	5
February	5	7	8	5

Month	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>17</b>
March		5	5	8
April		7	2	2
May		2	6	2
June		0	5	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>30</b>

As shown above CRMs for growth control are on the increase, and will only increase due to climatic effects as noted above

**Financial Implications:**

The current members of the ACT are fully funded through the Operations Department’s annual budget. Disposal of the larger truck requires the acquisition of a smaller utility vehicle to manage weed growth control. This is necessary to ensure timely response to customer requests, and for ongoing management of incidences of growth throughout the Municipality, from an aesthetic and propagation perspective.

Projected requirements & related cost:

	Projected Costs
Ford Tray Top Ute –gas powered	\$30,600
Ute Mounted Spray Unit – 600L Tank with 30m hose	\$ 4,360
Toolbox	\$500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$35,460</b>

The 2011/12 Budget has been structured to maintain current service levels with respect to graffiti removal and now to include a greater focus on growth control including the purchase of a ute as described above.

**Other Staff Comments**

Nil

**Public Consultation**

The establishment of the ACT was in response to negative public sentiment related to incidences of graffiti, their impact on the aesthetics of the Municipality generally, and the perceptions of residents and visitors alike. Since the establishment of the team, Council has seen a reduction in graffiti related malicious damage of 10.3% ranking Ashfield Council 131 out of the 141 Councils for Malicious Damage in 2009/10.

There was no requirement for public consultation prior to this report going to Council.

**Conclusion**

The view is taken that introduction of the ACT on a trial basis has been successful. Successful on the basis customer expectations are being met and to a greater degree perceptions related to the aesthetics of our Municipality are being mitigated.

Council's aims are:

- a) Continual improvement of graffiti removal efforts within the Ashfield CBD and the Municipality generally.
- b) Continual review of related work processes, and practices, to increase effectiveness and efficiencies in the removal of graffiti.
- c) To strengthen liaison with utility providers with the view to achieving more mutually beneficial arrangements related to graffiti removal from utility providers' properties.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

There are no supporting documents for this report.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

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STEPHEN JOANNIDIS  
Director Works and Infrastructure