



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC**  
**Attorney General**  
**Minister for Citizenship**  
**Minister for Regulatory Reform**

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**Monday 19 July 2010**

### **\$100,000 GRANT HELPS SUTHERLAND TACKLE GRAFFITI**

Sutherland Shire Council is using a \$100,000 NSW Government crime prevention grant to make parks more resistant to graffiti, Attorney General John Hatzistergos announced today.

NSW Attorney General, John Hatzistergos together with Member for Menai, Alison Megarrity and Member for Miranda, Barry Collier today congratulated Mayor Lorraine Kelly for Council's work in aiming to reduce graffiti in the community.

"This grant was awarded to Sutherland Council as part of the Keneally Government's \$1.61 million commitment to support grass roots crime prevention strategies across NSW," Mr Hatzistergos said.

"It has involved changing the environmental design of graffiti hotspots to make it harder for vandals to deface property and avoid being caught," Mr Hatzistergos said.

"As part of its project Council is in the process of green-screening walls at a number of its parks, which has involved planting vegetation that acts as a natural barrier to graffiti.

"Other anti-graffiti measures have included improving lighting and removing obstacles that would prevent 'natural surveillance' in parks."

Ms Megarrity said that while the rate of malicious damage in the Sutherland Shire is below the NSW average, Council surveys have shown graffiti is the offence that residents believe has the most negative impact on their lives.

"Vandalism is an offensive and malicious crime that costs local residents, businesses and local government enormous amounts of money in repairs.

"The Council's existing Graffiti Hotspot Strategy is focusing on rapid removal of graffiti and encouraging the community to report vandalism to police and I commend council for stepping up its campaign in this area and implementing their crime prevention strategy," Ms Megarrity said.

Mr Collier also commended Council for its work on the plan.

"This is about sending a clear message to vandals that malicious damage in the community will not be tolerated and that we will all work together to do whatever it takes to prevent it,"

"I congratulate Sutherland Shire Council for listening to the community and acting to make us feel safer," Mr Collier said.

In addition to supporting local government crime prevention initiatives across NSW, the Keneally Government has also introduced a range of measures to combat graffiti including:

- Doubling penalties for graffiti vandalism to 12 months in prison;
- An annual Graffiti Action Day;
- Giving police the power to confiscate spray paint from unsupervised juveniles in public;
- Setting up the Police/Rail Counter Vandalism Taskforce to target graffiti and vandalism on the rail network; and
- Making it illegal for juveniles to carry spray cans unless for education, employment or legal art.

Mayor of Sutherland Shire Council, Lorraine Kelly said that Council will continue working with community groups, the police and residents to tackle all types of anti-social behaviour including graffiti.

"Funding support from the State Government is a key contributor to the success of council's ongoing campaign to combat graffiti in this Shire," Cllr Kelly said.

Council is implementing Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design measures at:

- Parc Menai;
- Como Pleasure Grounds;
- Gunnamatta Park, Cronulla; and
- Shelly Park, Cronulla;