

6.1 Melbourne Cleaning and Graffiti Management Outcomes Update

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Executive Summary

1. This paper reports to the Future Melbourne Committee the actions taken by management in response to conditions 1.7 and 1.8 of the Council resolution at the Future Melbourne Committee meeting on 17 February 2026 regarding Item 6.4, Melbourne Cleaning and Graffiti Management – Outcomes and Next Steps.
2. The resolution of Council required management to report to Councillors the outcome of any proceedings that Council has provided a Victim Impact Statement; and by 21 April 2026, details of high-cost graffiti or vandalism cleaning jobs that may be suitable for civil proceedings.
3. Management can report that two matters are currently being prosecuted by the Victoria Police where Council has or will provide information to Victoria Police and have requested seeking a compensation order as part of criminal proceedings.
4. Council will seek a compensation order to recover the cost of graffiti removal and damage to Council owned and operated assets. If possible, Council will seek a compensation order for the removal costs from private property that are incurred as part of our graffiti removal contract.
5. Management can report that if a compensation order is made by the Court and subsequently not paid by the accused, Council may enforce the order as a debt due in civil proceedings.
6. Management can report that if a Victoria Police prosecution is not successful, it will not take further action to seek reimbursement of the cost of graffiti removal.

Recommendation from Management

7. That the Future Melbourne Committee resolves to:
 - 7.1. Request management approach Victoria Police to seek compensation orders in relation to the two matters currently being prosecuted and note that Victim Impact Statements will or have been provided to the Victoria Police in those matters.
 - 7.2. Note that management has identified one high-cost graffiti or vandalism cleaning job and is currently assessing if it is suitable for civil proceedings.
 - 7.3. Note that a further update will be provided to Councillors in June 2026.

Purpose

8. The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Future Melbourne Committee on high-cost and profile graffiti jobs that may be suitable for civil proceedings.

Background

9. On 17 February 2026, management provided a report to the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) on Melbourne Cleaning and Graffiti Management – Outcomes and Next Steps. The report outlined key deliverables and achievements as part of the first Council resolution in February 2025.
10. The report to FMC highlighted the complexity and costs associated with pursuing graffiti offenders through civil proceedings.
11. Management notes that Council can only issue civil proceedings to recover damage that occurs on Council owned land or to a Council owned asset. Council cannot take civil action on behalf of a private property owner. Civil proceedings require the offender to be known, located and Council must be able to prove who made the mark (i.e. eyewitness, security camera). Taking civil proceedings will be resource-intensive and costly for Council.
12. Management have completed a review of current court proceedings that include graffiti related crimes within the municipality of Melbourne.

Key considerations

13. The identity of offenders must be known before any proceedings can be taken. Victoria Police is best placed to investigate offenders and issue criminal proceedings. From a cost benefit perspective, it is sensible for Council to request Victoria Police seek a compensation order in Council's favour.
14. At this stage Council has been assisting Victoria Police by providing evidence and statements for graffiti related to the graffiti vandals known as "YOMP" and "Q Bee." Management will request Victoria Police seek a compensation order to recover the costs incurred by Council in removing the graffiti from Council owned and managed assets.
15. Council records have identified through investigation and reporting mechanisms currently in place that Yomp has contributed to 34 tags at an estimated value to council of \$4,920.
16. In addition, Council has been assisting Victoria Police in relation to the graffiti vandal known as "Bruege" who has been identified as a high profile and high-cost graffiti vandal. Council records have identified through investigation and reporting mechanisms currently in place that Bruege has contributed to 1,712 number of tags at an estimated value to council of \$177,885.
17. Management will consider seeking compensation orders against offenders who are prosecuted by the Victoria Police.
18. As part of the Council resolution an update will be provided to Councillors in June 2026 as to the outcome and next steps of these two cases.

Legal

19. Legal advice has been sought throughout the writing of this paper and additional advice will be sought as and when required should we proceed to civil proceedings.

Finance

20. There are no financial implications as a result of this briefing paper.
21. The estimated cost and resources required to pursue a civil proceeding are expected to range between \$10,000 to \$100,000. This will be undertaken on a case-by-case basis.

Conflict of interest

22. No member of Council staff, or other person engaged under a contract, involved in advising on or preparing this report has declared a material or general conflict of interest in relation to the matter of the report.

Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities

23. The recommendation contained in this report is compatible with the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* as it does not raise any human rights issues.

Health and Safety

24. In developing this report, no Occupational Health and Safety issues or opportunities have been identified.

Consultation

25. The City Issues and Clean City teams have worked collaboratively to identify prolific graffiti tags where alleged offenders may be known to Council.
26. Once key tags were identified, engagement occurred with Victoria Police to identify current or upcoming prosecution cases relevant to those alleged offenders.
27. Victoria Police are the key external stakeholder. Management have engaged with the police members responsible for relevant upcoming prosecutions.
28. The Community Engagement Policy is not applicable as no public consultation has been necessary.

Relevance to Council Plan, Vision, and Council Policies

29. This report aligns with the Council Plan 2025-2029 Strategic Priority "Healthy, safe, clean and connected communities".

Social and environmental impacts**Social impacts**

30. The social impacts of a poorly presented environment, with high volumes of graffiti can contribute to a perception of neglect and insecurity. This relates to residents and visitors feeling unsafe.
31. Graffiti in Melbourne has risen in line with broader social issues, inclusive of protests which involves offensive or political messages.
32. In the City of Melbourne, graffiti also provides a positive social impact in the form of street art that contributes to Melbourne's vibrant urban culture. Street art has gained recognition in the city, with specific areas like Hosier Lane becoming iconic for their artistic value.
33. Both the negative and positive social impacts of graffiti are taken into consideration when delivering councils graffiti management services.

Gender Impact Assessment

34. A Gender Impact Assessment is not considered relevant for the report.

Environmental impacts

35. Environmental issues or opportunities are not considered relevant to this report.

Evaluation and review

36. Continuous monitoring of the municipality's top taggers will be undertaken, with relevant information reported to Victoria Police to support enforcement activities.
37. Management will meet regularly with Victoria Police to exchange operational information, including upcoming cases related to graffiti offences. Where appropriate, Council will provide supporting material such as evidence or Victim Impact Statements.
38. Management will update Councillors quarterly through formal reporting mechanisms.

Attachment List

Nil