



KEMPSEY
Shire Council

DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT

12th September 2006

DCS4 VANDALISM COST TO COUNCIL
FILE: 657 KRW

SUMMARY:

Reporting on the ongoing cost to Council incurred from acts of vandalism to Councils property and facilities.



DESCRIPTION:

Council has been provided with a report annually on the vandalism that has occurred in the financial year.

Events of vandalism to Council facilities and property, the cost of repair to an amenity or replacement of property has been electronically captured through the Civicview work order system.

A listing of the dollar amounts and number of incidents incurred for the past financial year is shown attached at [Appendix E](#).

It is arguable that not all data is being captured as it is necessary to include the vandalism job number into the work order for it to be captured and this may not always be completed.

Kempsey Shire is not the only Local Government area to be suffering continual random acts of vandalism, we are however one of a few shires that offer a monetary reward for information leading to a conviction. This reward system, offering up to \$1,500 for information leading to a conviction has been in place for a number of years however, has not had a profound effect on the number of incidents of vandalism occurring.

Type of Vandalism Incidents

The type of incidents that have occurred in the 2005-2006 year include: -

- setting alight of sulo bins

- burning of copper log barriers
- smashing of toilet bowls
- graffiti
- breaking windows
- forcing open of doors and smashing lights on buildings
- cutting of chain wire fences
- strewing of garbage across reserves
- lighting of fires
- the smashing of bottles on beaches and reserves
- the removal of signs
- damage to Councils parked up plant items
- driving of vehicles on sports fields
- break-ins to Council operational facilities

A break down of the costs for individual areas suffering from acts of vandalism for 2005-2006 period is as follows: -

Council Buildings	816.16
Fleet	10,098.26
Footpaths	5,474.11
Garbage	435.07
Sporting Fields	7,798.98
Parks and gardens	55.24
Public Buildings	5,493.18
Public Toilets	1,762.26
Roads maintenance	40.15
Signs	65.62
Swimming Pools	170.27
Total	\$32,209.30

The recorded vandalism costs to Council for the 2004-2005 financial year totalled: - \$ 11,499.83.

Solutions

There is no quick fix and the problem seems to be a symptom of socially stemmed issues. Solutions that could be considered to help control losses may be: -

- installation of security cameras in public areas and other areas of high incidents of vandalism
- security locking systems on all public toilets
- increased promotion of the reward leading to a conviction
- provision of metal sulo bins on reserves and in public areas.

This matter can be raised with other mid-north coast Councils in the Risk Management and Governance network groups to see what solutions other Councils have tried.

The financial costs to Council for materials to repair, replacement equipment, and labour times can be recorded and a dollar total produced, an area of loss that cannot be calculated is the human

cost to the employees who continually have to clean up and repair after each event must take its toll on morale of the individual, team and manager, plus the overall social cost to the community.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental***

Council's main facilities have been electronically secured for some time however the risk still remains that should a vandalism attack be planned and not random it could result in an incident with adverse environmental impacts.

- ***Social***

Vandalism is an ongoing financial burden to the shire and it is fair to say that this unwanted expenditure is met at the detriment of other services. The reduction in the resources to deliver improved or additional facilities has an impact on the social structure of the entire community

- ***Economic (Financial)***

Vandalism has a high cost to Council that reduces funds available for programmed works.

- ***Policy or Statutory***

Council's Policy C21:18 Rewards – Vandalism, provides for rewards of up to \$1,500 for information leading to the conviction of persons responsible for vandalism to Council property with advertisement periodically of this reward.

- ***Director's Review***

The cost of reported vandalism represents a significant component of Council expenditure.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the solutions as listed in this report be investigated as to their affordability, and effectiveness in reducing acts of vandalism.
2. That the advertising of the reward for information leading to a conviction be placed more frequently in local media.

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G B Snape
DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES