



DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT

14th December 2004

DCS6 VANDALISM COSTS
FILE: V1 PJH

SUMMARY:

Reporting on the recorded costs of vandalism for the 2004 year to date.



DESCRIPTION:

Council was advised at its June 2004 meeting of the increasing incidents of vandalism in the Shire. The report was referred to the Community Safety Council and further reports were to be provided on the actual costs of vandalism to Council.

Obtaining accurate costs has been difficult due to the procedure of costing minor vandal damage (under insurance excess) to the budgets for maintenance and repair. Separate cost allocation numbers were only issued for areas with frequent vandalism e.g. Kempsey CBD. While this allows accurate costs of vandalism in these areas it does not provide the true overall picture for the Shire.

This has been addressed with a system now being implemented where all incidents and costs can be captured by Council's Civicview Work Order program. However the cost capture from this will not flow through in data capture terms until into the new year. Using this system will also give details on the number of incidents which is not shown by some of the current data.

VANDALISM DATA AVAILABLE FOR THE 2004 YEAR

The following data has been captured for the specific areas for the period Jan-November 2004. The costs include materials and labour.

Location	No of Incidents	\$ Cost
Kempsey Toilets	Data not available	\$11,980
Kempsey CBD	Data not available	\$10,151
South West Rocks Toilets	Data not available	\$ 2,125
South West Rocks CBD	Data not available	\$ 1,121
Horseshoe Bay Reserve	Data not available	\$ 7,402

Replace vandalised Garbage Bins	7 incidents	\$ 2,973
Water Meters	4 incidents	\$ 441
Civic Centre	1 incident	\$ 200
Bridges – Hat Head Footbridge	1 incident	\$ 758
Council buildings	20 incidents	\$ 1,399 (only costs on some incidents)
Parks	5 incidents	No cost data
Signs	11 incidents	No cost data
Sports fields	3 incidents	No cost data
Council vehicle fleet	15 incidents	\$ 2,065
Traffic counters	2 incidents	\$ 3,255
Visitor Information Centre	3 incidents	\$ 5,441
		Total recorded costs = \$47,246

The above data, while not complete, clearly would indicate that vandalism will cost Council in excess of \$50,000 in the 2004 year. The costs shown are uninsured costs as the excess on Council's property insurance is \$2,000 per incident. Most vandalism incidents are under this amount but add up over time to a significant total cost as shown above.

A further report will be provided in July 2005 on the vandalism costs for the 2004/2005 financial year.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- **Environmental**

Vandalism has a huge potential to affect the environment and Council is aware of its high risk sites and has security arrangements in place for these areas in an attempt to reduce the risk exposure to vandalism.

- **Social**

Vandalism is a social problem to the extent that it affects all residents to a degree and Council has endeavoured to involve the community in reporting of any incidents through its reward advertisements.

- **Economic (Financial)**

This report has highlighted the high economic cost of vandalism can have on an organisation like Council.

- **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. Council has however only paid three (3) persons rewards to date, these witnessed vandal incidents and were

prepared to issue a statement to Police and to give evidence in court if necessary.

▪ *Director's Review*

Nil

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be noted and a further report on vandalism incidents be submitted to Council in July 2005.

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G B Snape
DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES