

Community Newsletter

Evan Thornley Member for Southern Metropolitan Region

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Cracking Down on Graffiti

The Brumby Government recently announced a range of tough, new measures to combat graffiti vandals in our suburbs.

Under the new laws police will be given the power to search and seize graffiti-related articles, such as spray cans.

Key offences – such as marking graffiti on property – will carry a penalty of up to two years jail or a maximum fine of \$26,000.

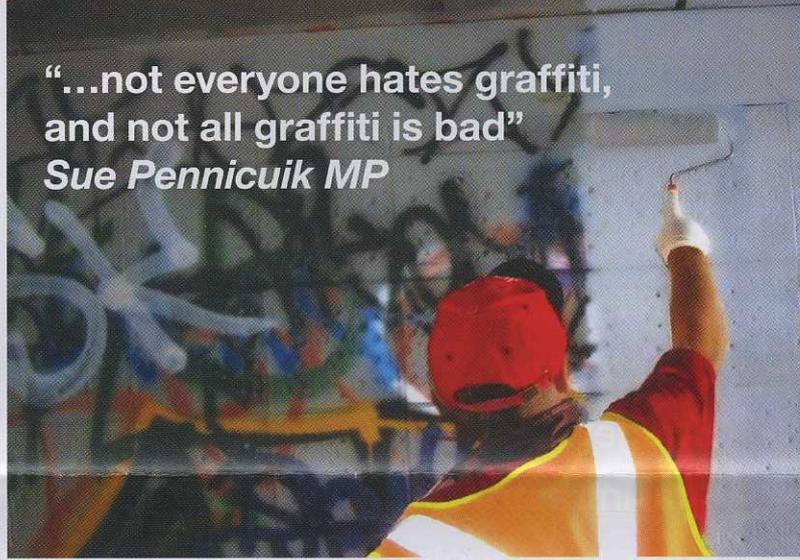
The offences of carrying a spray paint can without a lawful excuse, and selling a spray paint can to a minor, will both carry a maximum fine of over \$2,000.

In addition to the new laws, over \$600,000 in funding for cleaning up graffiti has been provided.

Programs forcing vandals to clean up their own graffiti have also been expanded.

“...not everyone hates graffiti, and not all graffiti is bad”

Sue Pennicuik MP



The tough steps the Brumby Government has taken on graffiti come despite resistance from the local Greens MP. Sue Pennicuik, a Member of Parliament for the Southern Metropolitan Region, said the laws were unnecessary.

It concerns me that Ms Pennicuik believes that some people tolerate graffiti on their property, and refuses to describe those who engage in graffiti activities as vandals.

Supporting Victorians with a disability

Disability advocates have welcomed the Brumby Government's action to support the disabled community.

Over 8000 Victorians with disabilities, and their families, will benefit from \$1.9 billion worth of extra services provided by the State and Federal Government.

The funding will deliver 7000 individual support packages - including planning, aids and equipment.

It will also secure 1650 episodes of respite care and 70 places in supported accommodation.

This is another step the Brumby Government has taken to help give Victorians with a disability the support they need - easing the pressures on their families and carers and allowing greater participation in the community.

Local heritage site saved

I was proud to announce a \$250,000 heritage grant for the iconic Kew Court House complex earlier this month.



Peter McIntyre, Cr Coral Ross, Dione McIntyre, Bob Stensholt MP and Evan at the Kew Court House. Peter and Dione are from the from the Kew Court House Restoration Appeal Committee.

The grant was part of the Brumby Government's 2007-08 Heritage Grants program, which assists local communities all over Victoria to conserve and manage their heritage assets.

The grant will fund the most urgent repairs in the ongoing restoration of the Court House.

The restored heritage complex will include space for exhibitions, performances, meeting rooms and administrative areas. Local organisations such as the Kew Neighbourhood House and Camcare Kew will use the space to provide community services.

Evan Thornley MP

Member for Southern Metropolitan Region

40 Station St, Moorabbin, 3189 T 9555 4101 F 9555 3810

E evan.thornley@parliament.vic.gov.au

