



Extract from Parliamentary Debates – *Hansard*

Hon. Neil Lucas PSM MLC
Member for Eumemmerring Province

ADJOURNMENT

Legislative Council, Wednesday 12 June 2002

Graffiti: removal

Hon. N. B. LUCAS (Eumemmerring) — I refer the Minister for Local Government in the other place to the issue of graffiti. I wish to commend the work of an organisation called RAGE — Residents Against Graffiti Everywhere — and particularly its founder, Mr Steven Beardon.

The organisation has looked at what has been done around the world to combat graffiti and has put together a document which it has sent to a number of councils who have used some of the ideas it contains to combat graffiti in their municipalities. It documents the many ways that councils and the community can take action, including the removal of graffiti within 24 hours, by the application of anti-graffiti solutions to public buildings and places, the concept of putting lighting in public places and a whole range of items to do with removal of graffiti. Issues such as policing, surveillance and community participation are gone into.

Councils throughout Australia have good records on the reduction of graffiti after taking up the programs. The City of Casey in my electorate has done some good work in this area, as has the City of Stonnington. The Onkaparinga council in Adelaide and Gosnells in Western Australia have also used the programs, so some good things are happening. The fact that RAGE has collated material from around Australia and other places, including the United States of America, is

worthwhile. The people involved are doing a worthwhile job. Local councils should be encouraged to do more in this area. Accordingly, I ask the Minister for Local Government to review the program prepared by RAGE to combat graffiti with a view to his recommending to councils across Victoria that they too pursue similar comprehensive graffiti abatement strategies.

Responses

Hon. J. M. MADDEN (Minister for Sport and Recreation) — The Honourable Neil Lucas highlighted graffiti issues, the Residents Against Graffiti Everywhere organisation known as RAGE and its associated information and research. I will refer this to the Minister for Local Government in the other place.