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RESIDENTS WANT SCHEME IN MELBOURNE

A MELBOURNE residents' group is campaigning for its local council to adopt Onkaparinga's award-winning Graffiti Solutions program.

The Residents Against Graffiti Everywhere (RAGE) group have been lobbying the City of Casey to adopt the Adelaide scheme.

The Cranbourne-based residents' group has organised a 2000-signature petition and several articles have appeared in their local papers.

RAGE founder **Steve Beardon** said the group was pushing for Onkaparinga's anti-graffiti scheme as it was so successful.

He said RAGE thought Adelaide was one of the cleanest Australian cities and the group had researched anti-graffiti tactics here.

``What we tried to do was find a strategy that worked," he said.

The group's research led them to Onkaparinga Council last April.

Mr Beardon said the Casey Council had deferred making a decision on adopting Graffiti Solutions until next February.

Onkaparinga asset maintenance manager Roger Saltmarsh described the Graffiti Solution's potential for getting rid of graffiti as ``gi-normous".

He said the scheme had cut council spending on graffiti management from \$428,000, in 1998, to \$180,000 this year.

Mr Saltmarsh said the anti-graffiti program received a commendation award in community services at the 2000 National Awards for Innovation in Local Government.