



Clean-up crew thrills lobbyists

THE City of Casey is about to draw the line on graffiti as it embarks on an extensive clean up and education campaign throughout the municipality.

After months of deliberation, council resolved at last week's meeting to award a clean up tender to Urban Maintenance Systems, a company credited with rubbing out Stonnington City Council's graffiti problems.

Casey chief executive Mike Tyler said the company won the tender for its experience with local government and ability to conduct educational programs.

Mr. Tyler said this was the first step in the project to clean up graffiti after council allocated \$300,000 of its 2001-2002 budget to tackle the problem.

"Although the removal of graffiti from private property is not a council responsibility, council is undertaking this initiative which will see the removal of graffiti from visible private and public areas across the municipality," he said.

"The contractor will also provide a service at a cost to government agencies to remove graffiti from their premises."

"The city will be cleaned up and an ongoing removal and monitoring program will begin in conjunction with local police."

"The City of Casey will also investigate installing security cameras at areas that are considered to be constant targets for graffiti vandals." Mr. Tyler said.

The news has been welcomed by Cranbourne anti-graffiti campaigners – Residents Against Graffiti Everywhere (RAGE).

RAGE spokesperson Julie Welham anticipated a reduction in street crime would follow Urban Maintenance Systems' appointment.

"Graffiti does paint negative perceptions of suburbs and the implementation of this contract will positively influence behaviour and result in a reduction of street vandalism and associated criminal activity," she said.

"The appointment of UMS is fantastic for the residents who live throughout Casey – both young and retirees – as well as for traders who are the economic lifeblood of our community"

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RAGE: Lobbying for safer, cleaner suburbs