



# Media release

## **The Hon Andrew McIntosh MP**

Minister for Corrections

Minister for Crime Prevention

Minister responsible for the establishment of an anti-corruption commission

## **Grant announced to combat graffiti in Maroondah**

Maroondah Council in the electorates of Bayswater, Kilsyth and Warrandyte will get a fresh cleanup thanks to a Coalition Government grant to remove and prevent unwanted graffiti under the *Your Community, Your Say* program

Member for Warrandyte, Ryan Smith said Maroondah City Council applied for and has been granted \$24,976.50 of Coalition Government support to work in partnership with community groups to rid Maroondah of graffiti.

“The Coalition Government is providing \$300,000 to local councils across Victoria to ramp up the battle against graffiti”, said David Hodgett, Member for Kilsyth.

“This initiative will enable Maroondah Council and Neighbourhood Watch to continue working actively to stamp out graffiti in Maroondah,” the Member for Bayswater, Heidi Victoria said.

Fulfilling a key Coalition election promise, Crime Prevention Minister Andrew McIntosh announced 18 grants to 17 local councils to remove and prevent graffiti in partnership with local community groups.

“Graffiti is one of the most visible and senseless crimes committed in our community,” Mr McIntosh said. “The promise to provide this funding recognizes the great frustration and anger many Victorians feel about this form of vandalism,” Mr McIntosh said.

“The grants of up to \$25,000 each will pay for graffiti removal infrastructure, such as trailers; education programs in schools and on DVD; anti-graffiti paint and coating; and public art murals to discourage graffiti.”

“Among the innovative ideas funded by these Coalition Government grants are programs using local artists to paint pictures and murals on walls and traffic signal boxes. Research shows vandals are far less likely to ruin public artworks.

“These grants facilitate partnerships between local community groups and local councils to help remove and prevent this scourge on local communities. The Coalition Government through its *Your Community, Your Say* crime prevention grants program is committed to continuing the fight against graffiti across Victoria,” Mr McIntosh said.

In addition to the grants announced today, the Coalition Government is funding the Graffiti Removal Program, using offenders on community orders to clean up graffiti. This program will see 48 teams of offenders remove 270,000 square metres of graffiti – the equivalent of 14 MCG playing fields – this financial year.