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MEDIA RELEASE

Police need to tackle Graffiti criminals

Warringah Councillor, Vincent De Luca has called for greater Police action in the wake of an onslaught of graffiti in the Brookvale and Dee Why Town Centres.

Last week, Councillor De Luca requested Warringah Council staff to liaise with NSW Police in an effort to encourage increased surveillance and patrols around the Brookvale CBD particularly.

"I am disgusted with the extent of the damage in the Brookvale CBD" Cr De Luca said. It must be realised that graffiti is a crime and causes great expense to both business owners and the community.

"Police now have greater powers to combat those committing this crime and I would encourage them to use these new powers. In December last year, the NSW Parliament introduced new and tougher laws to combat the crime of graffiti.

"Since 2 December 2009, if a person is caught defacing property they face a year gaol sentence. If police catch a juvenile carrying a spray can in a public place, they will have to prove they were using it for school, work or legal art or face six months jail or a \$1,100 fine. Laws have also been introduced by the Parliament that have expanded offence of supplying spray paint to minors to cover adults who go on to supply to juveniles. Parents need to start warning their kids of the consequences of gaol if they are caught doing graffiti.

"The only way to stop these criminals, and that is what they are, is for Police to actively pursue them. The offences being committed in Brookvale are high profile. For them to do what they are doing the criminals have had to climb on the rooves of the building either by placing ladders on the back of the buildings in the Winbourne Road Car park or by placing ladders on Pittwater Road. These criminals are in full view. I strongly believe that the Police need to increase their patrols in this area.

"Certainly, those driving on the busy Pittwater Road or Winbourne Road may have also seen the offences committed. I encourage the public to be vigilant and contact the Police immediately should they see anyone committing the crime of graffiti" Cr De Luca concluded.

For more information please contact Councillor De Luca on 0408 650 651