

**GRAFFITI CONTROL (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL**

Mr BROCK (Frome) (17:31): I also would like to contribute to the Graffiti Control (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill and congratulate all the speakers prior to my having the opportunity to speak. I support this bill. It is long overdue, and we need to review it on a regular basis. I will be very brief, but I would like to elaborate on my previous experience as mayor of the Port Pirie Regional Council and the policy we had in place at that particular point. I take on board the member for Bragg's recommendations and amendments, and I hope that the government takes them seriously because they may be minor but they do assist the bill.

From my previous experience, for every dollar that is spent because of graffiti, there is a major amount of money that is not going into roads and infrastructure, and so on. That applies not only to the government but also to local council and community groups. It is an ongoing issue, and it is a very expensive issue. The member for Fisher indicated that it is not only minors who are doing this, and that is true. In my previous experience, we apprehended adults who went out and graffitied, and they think it is funny, but I do not think it is very funny at all because it is a blight on the community, it is a blight on the image of the community, and it is a costly factor.

When communities are vandalised, it is detrimental to the image of the community. It affects how tourists see that community, that facility, or that location. It also brings down the community's confidence because people take pride in not only their home and their car but also in their communities, and seeing these ridiculous acts of treachery does not do anybody any good at all.

The penalties for the offences should be a deterrent, and they should be consistent and, in my belief, they should also be at the maximum. The member for Morialta indicated a minute ago that the average fines are pitiful. We should be making them so high that they are a deterrent because people who might think it is funny might only be fined a couple of hundred dollars or get a slap on the wrist. As the member for Finniss indicated, we should be stricter with these people and with the punishment.

With graffiti artists—and I call them artists because they think they are—the longer their graffiti is in the public view the more they gloat, and they say all the time, 'This is my trademark, this is my signature out there,' and gloat about it. What we have to do as a community, whether it is government, community leaders or local councils, is get onto those issues and eliminate them very quickly. This is happening in one of the five councils I represent. The Port Pirie Regional Council is experiencing lots of graffiti issues at the moment. I spoke to the CEO just recently. Some of the graffiti has been sitting in different locations for two months, whether it is in toilets, playgrounds, side fences, or wherever. The comment they are making to me is that it is an expensive issue.

It might be an expensive issue to remove, but it is also a very expensive issue for the image of our community there. I will be pushing very hard for that council to remove the graffiti very quickly. I wanted to touch on those issues. It is a very important bill. As the member for Morialta indicated, all the crossbenchers are supporting it. I am looking forward to some of the amendments going through. I certainly support the bill and look forward to the committee stage.