



# Tony Simpson MLA

## Member for Serpentine-Jarrahdale

10 August 2007

### Liberals to fight graffiti

Local MLA Tony Simpson has announced that a future Liberal State Government would resurrect the Graffiti Taskforce and work hard at eradicating graffiti and vandalism from the suburbs of Perth.

“The Liberal Party recognises how serious an issue this is and is working on a strategy to combat the blight of graffiti,” said Mr Simpson.

“Graffiti is often viewed as a sign of urban decay, generating the impression of public disorder and even societal breakdown to many people.”

“It is a blight on Perth’s urban landscape and it can spoil what is otherwise a unique and attractive city.

“The Liberal strategy includes the resurrection and expansion of the successful Graffiti taskforce which has been established by the Court Liberal Government and abolished in 2002 by the Labor State Government.

“The abolition of this Taskforce is probably one of the major reasons why graffiti has become a more serious problem in recent years.

“Before it was abolished, the Graffiti Taskforce worked with local governments to rapidly remove graffiti from fences and walls on both private and public property.

“Studies have shown that removal of graffiti within 48 hours reduces the likelihood of it recurring.

“Since the Graffiti Taskforce was abolished in 2002, the incidence of graffiti and vandalism has increased rapidly. Many local Governments are now spending up to \$500,000 per year to clean it up.

“The result is that authorities are unable to cope and graffiti is left on property for longer periods of time, making the situation worse.

“Under a future Liberal State Government we will once again work with Local Governments and their communities, organising and funding mobile teams to clean up graffiti and other vandalism before it becomes a real problem.

“A Liberal Government will also bring in tougher laws to discourage people from committing the crime in the first place.

“Only the Liberal Party can be trusted to be tough on graffiti and the vandals that cause it.”

**Media enquiries:** Shaun Ratcliff  
E-mail: [shaun.ratcliff@mp.wa.gov.au](mailto:shaun.ratcliff@mp.wa.gov.au)  
Mobile: 0405 440 345