

Deputy Premier John Rau

Attorney-General

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Dob in a graffiti vandal app rolls out

The State Government is teaming up with the Local Government Association to deliver an enhanced graffiti-reporting mobile phone app that will make it quicker and easier for the public to report graffiti and minor property damage to their local council.

Attorney-General John Rau said the project is a great example of Local and State governments working together.

“The partnership will see enhancements made to the *My Local Services* app, which was launched by the Local Government Association in February 2014,” Mr Rau said.

“Once councils adopt the new system, users of the app can be confident that no matter where you are, if you report graffiti or minor property damage with your smart phone it will get to the right person for the right response.

“The improved app will include information and tips for graffiti removal and will also assist in the identification of graffiti hot spots across the State.

“We are committed to increasing efforts to reduce the incidence of graffiti in our communities as it places an unnecessary cost on businesses, homeowners and ratepayers.”

The Australian institute of Criminology estimates that the cost of graffiti vandalism nationally is approximately \$300 million.

Local Government Association President, Mayor Dave Burgess, said the app leveraged the advantages of mobile devices to help address local issues without the user having to know which council area they are in.

"It will refer issues to whichever Council area the issue, such as graffiti, exists whether a person lives in that area, works there or is just travelling through the area," he said.

Under the partnership, work will be carried out to integrate the *My Local Services* app within local government councils' existing customer relationship management IT systems.

This will mean that reports made through the *My Local Services* app will be dispatched to the relevant area within the council for a quicker response and improved customer service.

Mr Rau said this app would allow South Australians to crack down on vandalism at the local level, while also being a convenient way for councils to directly communicate and respond to residents.

“The *My Local Services* app is free for users to download and provides a range of other useful information and services, such as local events and waste bin calendars,” he said.

Penalties for marking graffiti or carrying a graffiti implement with the intention of using it to mark graffiti have recently doubled to \$5,000 or up to 12 months imprisonment.