

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

THURSDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2012

### GRAFFITI CONTROL (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 14 March 2012.)

**Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (16:16):** I rise to continue my remarks from yesterday's debate on the rise in graffiti. While most agree that often it is youths who are caught by police while undertaking graffiti vandalism, the hardcore vandal is often aged over 20, well organised in a crew when undertaking attacks, and they undertake their vandalism late in the light. They have spotters keeping an eye out for the authorities, and have a disregard for any public or private property, including religious and public memorials of significance.

A national approach in tackling graffiti has often been dismissed over the last 25 years, as has a multiple government departmental attempt in tackling this crime that does not have or know of any boundaries. As I indicated in my debate yesterday, the organisation Graffiti Hurts: Australia is a national not-for-profit charity institution developing and providing resources for all levels of government, industry, public service providers and the community to help reduce their increasing spend on tackling graffiti vandalism.

The organisation seeks support on a continuous basis to engage the community to actively help federal, state and local governments, as well as industry and businesses, tackle the issue of graffiti vandalism; to educate the community and our youth on the real effects of this gateway crime; and also to help reduce local antisocial behaviour with a national message and a national approach. Graffiti Hurts: Australia has a campaign to help educate communities to reduce the effects graffiti vandalism has on every Australian, and assists all levels of government to reduce their spend on graffiti vandalism to provide other more worthwhile community services than graffiti vandalism removal. If everyone gets together, we can educate and provide a cleaner, safer Australia for us all.

Graffiti Hurts: Australia has provided some very helpful comments, and I note that, as much as we support the Graffiti Control (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill, we will be moving amendments from this side. I will say that it is disgraceful when graffiti artists deface memorials, whether they be headstones or war memorials. It is the lowest form of the criminal act of graffiti vandalism that someone can do. I appreciate this

legislation because it is making the penalties tougher. I also note that the shadow minister (the member for Bragg) will be pushing for some amendments in relation to the bill, but I indicate my support for the bill.