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## NEWS

### Frankston vandals to get the brush

NEWS > COUNCIL 23 JUL 09 @ 08:00AM | BY DONNA CARTON

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GRAFFITI vandals will soon be forced to paint out their work as part of their punishment.

Frankston Council is working with the courts for a system of Community Based Work Orders that make vandals clean up their mess.

Offenders can't be ordered to remove the graffiti entirely, in case the cleaning solvents cause them harm.

A council bid a few months ago to introduce an enforced clean-up failed because of the occupational health and safety concerns.

Now a paint-out scheme has been given the green light by insurers and talks are ongoing between council officials and the courts.

Council general manager Mark Brady said the punishment will make vandals think twice before defacing property.

"The council will now seek approval through the court system to enable offenders to carry out 'paint outs' through Community Based Work Orders," he said.

"This way offenders will be able to use their paint and energies in a more legal form while improving the overall amenity of the municipality - and make them think twice about reoffending by making them responsible for their actions."

Tiffany Overall, from the community legal centre Youthlaw, said it was a growing trend across Melbourne to get offenders to sort out their own mess.

"In some areas, magistrates are ordering offenders to remove graffiti rather than issue huge fines," she said.

Ms Overall has also urged councils to look at ways of preventing the problem.

"We would support councils introducing schemes to get these kids using their energies and paints in a more legal forum," she said.

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