## MEDIA RELEASE

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## HAWKESBURY COMMUNITY CALLED TO ACTION FOR GRAFFITI REMOVAL DAY 2021

Hawkesbury locals and community groups are being encouraged to pick up a brush and 'love where they live' as the State marks Graffiti Removal Day for 2021.

Member for Hawkesbury, Robyn Preston MP, said Graffiti Removal Day is about taking pride in our local neighbourhood by removing and preventing graffiti.
"COVID-19 has seen fewer people working from offices and more people working from homes," Ms Preston said.
"There has never been a better time for Hawkesbury locals to get involved, roll up their sleeves and improve our community by volunteering in this year's Graffiti Removal Day on Sunday 28 March.
"I urge all Hawkesbury locals to save the date in their calendars and to comply with essential COVID Safe guidelines while taking part in this great annual event," Ms Preston said.

Attorney General Mark Speakman said illegal graffiti is not only a blight on the beauty and character of our local communities, it's also very costly.
"Illegal graffiti costs the State more than $\$ 300$ million in clean-up expenses each year, which is just remarkable," Mr Speakman said.
"These are vital funds that the Government would much prefer to spend on our police, healthcare workers, teachers, and other dedicated frontline workers that support our state each day."

Graffiti Removal Day Chairman Bob Aitken said this year up to 3,000 volunteers are expected to remove illegal graffiti from approximately 600 sites around NSW.
"Since we began in 2012, volunteers have removed more than 141,000sqm of graffiti, saving the community $\$ 10.4$ million," Mr Aitken said.

To get involved, Hawkesbury locals can volunteer or nominate a clean-up site by visiting www.graffitiremovalday.org.au.

