

submissions

From: standards.management@foodstandards.gov.au
Sent: Wednesday, 30 May 2012 8:23 AM
To: standards management
Subject: FSANZ: Applications and Submissions - Submission [SEC=INCONFIDENCE]

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FSANZ: Applications and Submissions - Submission

Wednesday, 30 May, 2012

1. **Assessment Report Number:** P1018
2. **Assessment Report Title:** Companion dogs in outdoor dining areas
3. **Organisation Name:** RSPCA Qld
4. **Organisation Type:** Other
5. **Representing:** Animal welfare
6. **Street Address:** 139 Wacol Station Rd Wacol, QLD 4074
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12. Submission Text: Food Standards Australia New Zealand PO Box 7186 Canberra BC ACT 2610 AUSTRALIA Dear Sir/Madam RE: Proposal P1018 Companion Dogs in Outdoor Dining Areas RSPCA Qld welcomes the opportunity to comment on this proposal. RSPCA Qld supports the proposal to allow companion dogs in outside dining areas. Many members of our community enjoy the companionship of dogs and taking their dog for walks is an important part of their lives. Another significant activity enjoyed by many is meeting with friends in cafes and restaurants. This proposed change will allow people to combine these two activities, both of which benefit their health and wellbeing. As the risk assessment demonstrates, allowing dogs into outside dining areas poses little additional health risk to the diners and has the potential, in fact, to add to the overall enjoyment of many guests. In line with this minimal risk, RSPCA Qld urges a change to the definition of 'enclosed area' to include only permanently enclosed areas. Outside dining areas where temporary protection is used in inclement weather should not be included and companion dogs should not be precluded from such areas. However, RSPCA Qld recognises that companion dogs in communal dining areas need to be under control (on a leash) at all times and not be allowed to bark or annoy other diners. This can be readily achieved with basic dog behaviour training. RSPCA Qld looks forward to a future where people with their dogs are enjoying outside dining in many restaurants around Queensland. Yours sincerely Mandy Paterson Dr Mandy Paterson Scientific Research Officer, RSPCA Qld Email:

