



29th May 2012

- 4 JUN 2012

To: FOOD STANDARDS AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND (FSANZ)

This submission is in support of Proposal P1018 Companion Dogs in Outdoor Dining Areas.

There is a strong coffee culture in the township of Cygnet and the majority of the cafes have outdoor dining areas which are suitable for dogs. Most local cafe owners are in favour of allowing dogs into these outdoor dining areas. This is partly because they own and love dogs themselves and partly because dog owners are valuable customers who they do not wish to turn away.

The website www.doggydining.com.au describes the benefits associated with letting dogs into outdoor dining areas as follows:

"Business Benefits – Dog owners make a vital contribution to the cafe culture across Australia. Many dog friendly cafe and restaurant owners, in dog friendly states, say that they would potentially go out of business if they had to ban dogs."

New South Wales is one of those dog friendly states where dogs have been allowed in outdoor dining areas since 1998 (NSW Companion Animals Act 1998). There has been no reporting of increases in dog borne disease in the fourteen years since this Act was passed.

Tourism Tasmania's website shows that in 2011 over 60,000 visitors to Tasmania stayed in motor homes or caravans. Many such visitors bring a companion dog with them and are more likely to wish to eat at local cafes than are visitors who stay at hotels. At the moment the situation in Tasmania is very difficult for them because they cannot take their loved pet with them to a cafe but it is also illegal to leave it alone in their vehicle.

It will be so much easier for tourists to travel between states with their dogs if the law is changed through Proposal P1018 so that there is consistency regarding this matter throughout the country.

We strongly urge you to proceed with this proposal.

Sincerely,



Carole & Keith Presnell