

School House Coffee Shop

23a Mary St. Cygnet, 7112



June 5th 2012

A submission to FOOD STANDARDS AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND (FSANZ)

I run a small coffee shop in Cygnet which is situated in the Huon Valley south of Hobart, Tasmania and I wish to support PROPOSAL P1018 - COMPANION DOGS IN OUTDOOR DINING AREAS.

At the moment there are over 3,700 registered dogs in the Huon Valley (Huon Valley Council register) and many cafes and restaurants in the area have outdoor dining areas which are eminently suitable for dogs. As a local business person I am strongly in favour of allowing dogs into these outdoor dining areas.

In New South Wales dogs have been allowed in outdoor dining areas since 1998 (NSW Companion Animals Act 1998). There has been no reported incidence of increases in dog borne disease in the fourteen years since this Act was passed. Also dogs have been allowed into eating areas in Europe for many years and again no outbreak of disease has been reported. In fact, providing the usual hygiene practices are maintained, people are in more danger of catching a cold or flu from other people in an outdoor dining area than of catching any disease from a dog.

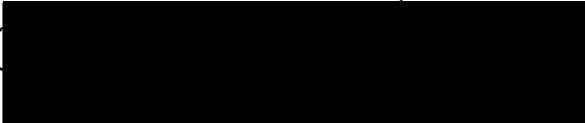
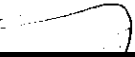
For a number of reasons there has been a downturn in tourism to Tasmania in recent years, as described in Tourism Tasmania statistics to 2011. Because of this many local businesses are struggling yet the current law requires them to turn away a growing number of tourists who travel with their dogs. This is in addition to the increasing number of local people who regard their dogs as valued companions and would like to take a coffee break while walking them.

The tourism website www.doggydining.com.au makes a very good point:

“ 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.”

I urge you to ensure that Proposal P1018 becomes law throughout Australia as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully



Proprietor
School House Coffee Shop
Cygnet