

## submissions

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**From:** Matthew Piggott [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 June 2012 2:40 PM  
**To:** submissions  
**Subject:** Submission - Proposal P1018 - Companion dogs in Outdoor Dining Areas

**Importance:** High

The City of Fremantle supports FSANZ proposal to amend clause 24 of Standard 3.2.2 – Food Safety Practices and General Requirements to remove a restriction on the presence of companion dogs in outdoor dining areas operated by food businesses.

The City of Fremantle supports the draft variation to Standard 3.2.2 that states, “24(3) A food business may permit a dog that is not an assistance animal to be present in an outdoor dining area.”

The City of Fremantle agrees with the FSANZ risk assessment that concluded *the overall level of food safety risk arising from the presence of companion dogs in outdoor dining areas is very low to negligible*.

In addition, the City of Fremantle contends that subclause 24(1)(a) of Standard 3.2.2 is unnecessarily restrictive in relation to the presence of companion dogs in outdoor dining areas. The City agrees with the West Australian Department of Health’s concern that the current prescription under subclause 24(1)(a) does not appear to have adopted a risk-based approach to food hygiene.

Since the introduction of alfresco dining in the 1980’s, the City of Fremantle has allowed responsible dog owners to sit in outdoor dining areas with their dogs as the risks to food safety are negligible.

In October 2010, the West Australian Department of Health issued guidelines for the enforcement of subclause 24(1)(a) of Standard 3.2.2. The guidelines specify that the presence of companion dogs in outdoor dining areas operated by food businesses is not restricted in Western Australia, subject to determination by the owner of the food business. The presence of companion dogs and guide dogs in the outdoor dining areas of food businesses is permitted in New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria subject to the permission of the food businesses operating the outdoor dining areas.

Regards,

**Matthew Piggott**  
Manager Health, Building & Compliance Services  
City of Fremantle  
[REDACTED]

City of Fremantle  
Town Hall Centre, 8 William Street, Fremantle WA 6160  
PO Box 807, Fremantle WA 6959  
T (08) 9432 9999 F (08) 9430 4634 TTY (08) 9432 9777  
[www.fremantle.wa.gov.au](http://www.fremantle.wa.gov.au)

The City has initiated a scheme amendment which will streamline the process for businesses to operate in the CBD. Eventually the majority of new businesses in the CBD may no longer require planning approval | visit [www.fremantle.wa.gov.au/cityoffremantle](http://www.fremantle.wa.gov.au/cityoffremantle) under ‘news and media’.

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