

Proposal P1018

COMPANION DOGS IN OUTDOOR DINING AREAS

General Procedure

Summary

NSW Food Authority (the Authority) supports efforts to remove from the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code, (Standard 3.2.2 - Food Safety Practices and General Requirements) any unnecessary barriers to States and Territories enacting legislation allowing food businesses to permit companion dogs in outdoor dining areas, as appropriate.

The Authority notes that the presence of dogs in customer service areas raises a variety of issues that are beyond the scope of the Code and arrangements for dogs in outdoor dining areas need to address important considerations relating to dog behaviour and control. As the legislation to control dogs varies between jurisdictions, it is considered appropriate that each jurisdiction uses its own legislation if it wishes to allow dogs in outdoor dining or drinking areas. For example, the current NSW specific provisions allowing dogs in outdoor dining areas are applicable when the requirements of the *Companion Animals Act 1998* (NSW) have been met.

Specific Issues

It is suggested that the proposed amendment to Standard 3.2.2 of the Code, set out in proposal P1018, be replaced with an amendment which makes it clear that that restrictions on live animals in areas where food is handled do not apply to dogs in outdoor dining areas, if an applicable law of a State or Territory expressly provides.

This would ensure that there is no perception of inconsistency between the Code and the requirements of any relevant State or Territory.

ENDS

The views expressed in this submission may or may not accord with those of other NSW Government agencies. The NSW Food Authority has a policy which encourages the full range of NSW agency views to be submitted during the standards development stages before final assessment. Other relevant NSW Government agencies are aware of and agree with this policy.