

DS Coffee House and Internet Lounge



To: FOOD STANDARDS AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND (FSANZ)

Submission in support of: PROPOSAL P1018 COMPANION DOGS IN OUTDOOR DINING AREAS.

I run a business in the Huon Valley which is in Tasmania south of Hobart. At the moment there are 3,702 registered dogs in the municipality distributed amongst approximately 5,800 households (See Huon Valley Council statistical reports 2011/2012).

Many cafes and restaurants in the area have outdoor dining areas which are suitable for dogs. As a local business man I am strongly in favour of allowing dogs into these outdoor dining areas.

For a number of reasons there has been a downturn in tourism to Tasmania in recent years (See 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."

In New South Wales dogs have been allowed in outdoor dining areas since 1998 (See 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 disease from other people in an outdoor dining area than of catching one from a dog.

I hope that Proposal P1018 will become law throughout Australia as soon as possible.

SIGNED

David Batters
Proprietor

