

Juliette Hicks

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Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Proposal P1018 (Amendment to Standard 3.2.2. - Removal of the Restriction of Companion Dogs in Outdoor Dining Areas)

Having studied your mission statement, philosophies and the above Proposal on the FSANZ website I write as a companion dog owner in support of the above amendment. My grounds for this submission are as follows:

1. More Appropriate Level of Risk Management

As noted, best available scientific evidence confirms that restriction of companion dogs in outdoor dining areas is an inappropriately protective and an overly conservative risk management strategy.

Benefit to FSANZ: Proposal P1018 shows commitment of FSANZ to risk management policies based on current scientific knowledge and commonsense as opposed to false beliefs and emotion.

2. Better Channeling of Resources

In the hierarchy of areas of concern to human health and safety the policy of restricting dogs in outdoor dining places falls at the lower end of the scale. There are significantly more important areas that require regulation, policing and resources including monitoring of imported foodstuffs, adherence to domestic standards and assessments of producers and protocols.

Benefit to FSANZ: Under Proposal P1018 resources devoted to administering and policing the redundant restriction policy can be channeled to more appropriate areas making for a more effective and relevant organization.

3. Cohesion of Policy

The current policy is inconsistent across the region. This draws into question the effectiveness of the FSANZ to obtain consensus based on scientific knowledge and to manage a cohesive strategy across all areas concerning food health and safety.

Benefit to FSANZ: Adoption of Proposal P1018 is faithful to cohesion of policy which can only strengthen the credibility of FSANZ and meet the stated objective of building stakeholder confidence.

4. Less Impost On Food Premises

The current policy removes the rights of owners to decide who can dine at their business thereby diminishing their control and independence and removing potential business opportunities.

Benefit to FSANZ: Proposal P1018 shows commitment to the philosophy of minimal interference by FSANZ into the business of individual food and hospitality operators.

5. Acknowledgment of Wider Sociological Needs

For dog owning patrons the current policy removes their rights to an innocent and pleasurable activity in a relaxing environment. Removal of the restrictions on companion dogs will confer more benefits than risks to all stakeholders in terms of health and well being.

Benefit to FSANZ: Proposal P1018 demonstrates that FSANZ does not operate in isolation from the wider needs of a healthy community.

6. Ease and Cost Effectiveness

Proposal P1018 is effectively a relatively uncomplicated deregulation.

Benefit to FSANZ: This Proposal is easy and inexpensive to communicate and administer. Ongoing resource requirements will be minimal.

The adoption of Proposal P1018 is in the interests of all stakeholders – consumers, business partners and FSANZ.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to confirmation that the proposal has been accepted and absorbed into the Code.

Yours faithfully

Juliette Hicks

