

submissions

From: David Zorzan [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 14 June 2012 9:33 AM
To: submissions
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Proposal 1018 - Companion Dogs in Outdoor Dining Areas

Importance: High

Categories: Purple Category

Hello FSANZ

Please accept the following comments regarding proposal 1018 - Companion Dogs in Outdoor Dining Areas. These comments have been collated on behalf of the Bundaberg Regional Council's Health and Regulatory Services Branch.

Only minimal complaints of dogs in dining areas have been received by Council within the Bundaberg Regional area to date. These complaints have all been concerned with dogs simply being in the area and none were related to them coming into direct contact with food. While there are minimal risks to food safety from having dogs in outdoor dining areas, as the risk assessment suggests, Officers at Council have the following recommendations/inquiries if amendments were made to the Code:

- *Will there be a guide for officers to assess these dining area? Requirements maybe enforced significantly differently from Council to Council (e.g. how to approach cleaning issues).*
- *Will the amendment still allow for Councils to make specific regulations under a local law? For example could a Council impose additional conditions on Footpath Dining permits for the operators to manage patron's companion dogs?*
- *Other States have implemented the ability to have companion dogs in outdoor dining areas. Has a reviewed been undertaken to determine their success or challenges so that lessons could be learnt for Queensland?*
- *Can the Code be amended so that under the Food Act 2006, businesses can only commence dogs in outdoor dining areas once a approval from the relevant local government has been provided? The benefits of this requirement would be:*
 - ✓ *It provides a opportunity for Councils to reduce the likelihood of any potential risks during the application stage rather than retrospective responses. E.g. A plan could be approved to ensure that sufficient space is provided in the seating area for larger dogs.*
 - ✓ *It would provide a additional regulatory tool for local authorities as if high risks were identified, the approval/licensing condition to allow companion dogs in outdoor areas could be repealed.*
 - ✓ *It would allow Council to determine exact figures of how many dogs in outdoor dining areas are within their jurisdiction for greater monitoring and reporting purposes.*

If you require further information on the above submission, please do not hesitate to contact me on the below details.

Regards,

DAVID ZORZAN

Senior Environmental Health Officer
Bundaberg Regional Council

