



Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Dog Control Amendment Bill.

It is wonderful to see that the Government is introducing stricter penalties for recalcitrant and negligent dog owners.

As well as the death of little Penguins on Binalong Bay beach, local and visiting dogs have caused a reduction of hooded plover populations, which are now considered threatened species. After being told of their presence, and the threat to the species, the answer is always "but my dog wouldn't hurt them". Their dog most likely wouldn't see them! I have often seen dog prints on other beaches from St. Helens to Falmouth where hooded plovers and stints used to nest but are no longer seen

To add to the new Bill, I think it essential to have printed leaflets outlining the regulations and fines for non compliance available to the concerned public to hand out to dog owners. Often they have no idea of restrictions if they've entered the beach area from a place without signage, or where signs have been defaced or removed, as is often the case.

Such pamphlets could be available at local council offices around the state, and could be handed out to visiting or transgressing locals to make them aware of the penalties incurred if they don't comply. Money talks sometimes, and the printed rules and fines may reduce the threats often encountered when trying to get a dog owner to see that it is the law, and not just the personal belief of "some bloody greenie" trying to spoil their day. Another point to consider is a new regulation that makes campers have their dogs restrained at night, this is often when penguins are attacked. Better still, to not allow dogs at campsites at all.

Sincerely,
Beris Hansberry,

