

As a member of the Bicheno community, I thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Dog Control Amendment Bill.

The increase in penalty for owners of dogs which kill sensitive wildlife is excellent, except that there is no reference to how these dogs can actually be caught killing wildlife. To protect our penguins from dogs there must be some form of policing, and wildlife cameras installed at every rookery to record what is happening and to identify which dogs are actually killing the penguins, or the increase in penalties is merely lip service to this problem. There also needs to be statewide monitoring to give clear evidence of the status of the rookeries.

In Bicheno there seems to be an attitude amongst some residents that it is ok for dogs to roam free at all times of the day and night. There is no policing of this. Virtually every day I see dogs roaming without their owners or not under effective control. I believe there must be some policing to ensure that dogs are not allowed to roam free, with a penalty of greater than 5 points: section 16 (1). Again, how is this to be policed? Without monitoring, these dogs will simply continue to roam free, so the penalty is ineffective.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards,

