

To:

[Local Government Division \(DPaC\)](#)

Subject:

Amendments to the Dog Control Act 2000

Date:

Thursday, 26 September 2019 9:17:06 AM

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in response to the proposed amendments to the dog control Act. Firstly I would like to express my concern about these changes being brought about by nothing more than the suspicion that it was a dog/dogs that are responsible for the deaths of the penguins along the North West coast, but there is no reported evidence that it was in fact a dog that did this. Given that Tasmania is home to many wild animals that are capable of this act I believe that it is unfair that dogs and their owners are being targeted as a direct result of these suspicions. Secondly why is it that people are allowed to intentionally kill penguins and be given minimal repercussions via a court, see the case of Joshua Leigh Jeffrey at sulphur creek who killed 6 penguins with a stick and received a fine of \$82 and 49 hours community service. Yet under this new a dog owner would be fined in excess of \$5000 and have the risk of having their dog put down. This seems to be somewhat unfair given that humans have spent hundreds of years breeding a hunting and retrieving instinct into many species of dog, and that dogs have no concept of what a protected species is. Yet a man is allowed to kill them because he has been drinking and receive a fine of \$13.66 per Penguin.

Additionally I find it odd that if a dog escapes from your garden and kills an animal while the owner would be completely unaware that their dog has got out, if it happens while they are at work for instance, then you are given a greater fine than that of someone who is out walking with their dog.

Additionally given that Tasmania has a known issue with Wild Cats, who would be more than capable and likely to attack small birds, I find it strange that instead of making an effort to address this problem, the Government is instead spending time and money on increasing fines for Dog owners.

I look forward to hearing back from you in relation to the points I have raised.

Kind regards

Jonathan Cowen