

# Submission for Draft Dog Control Amendment Bill 2019

By:

Bert Lawatsch



Email:



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I generally support the proposed amendments with increased penalties for dog owners that allow their dogs to attack wildlife including penguins.

Whilst the proposed amendments are a supportive legal framework for the dog-penguin problem they will clearly not solve the problem on their own. So far, no dog responsible for killing penguins has been caught in relation to existing offences, and no owners have been charged.

The Government obviously needs to do much more than simply increase penalties for dog owners to mitigate the high numbers of penguin deaths currently seen.

Some suggestions include allocating resources to monitor the problem via use of night time motion/heat sensor (eg PIR) cameras:

Here are some different cameras seen after a quick look on ebay, there are many to choose from, no doubt the Government already has departments with good knowledge of the best suited ones:

<https://www.ebay.com.au/itm/Bresser-Surveillance-Camera-120-Degrees-with-PIR-Motion-Sensor-16MP-Full-HD-a/303208020848?epid=18025095711&hash=item46989b3b70:g:emAAAOSwYINdGWd8>

<https://www.ebay.com.au/itm/BOBLOV-16MP-1080P-Trail-Camera-Wildlife-Scouting-IP66-120-PIR-Night-Vision-AU/163824727540?epid=15026545984&hash=item2624b6f5f4:g:dj0AAOSwlqNbBr9b>

<https://www.ebay.com.au/itm/Oztrail-Recon-12MP-Trail-Camera-Motion-Sensor-Hunting-Night-Wildlife-Cam-Trigger/273893815630?epid=5022258710&hash=item3fc557f54e:g:oDkAAOSwluVdCEmb>

These cameras should be set up in strategic locations to record the dogs attacking the penguins and regularly checked to see what information has been collected.

In addition, DNA samples should be collected by the government (from either the dead penguins or otherwise from material left behind) and so adequate resourcing to do this work is the main priority. Once the DNA samples and video/stills evidence from the cameras is obtained then a clearer picture of what is causing the problem is able to be documented and used as evidence to prosecute dog owners.

Other technology measures that do not require significant personnel resources could also be implemented – for example dogs could be micro-chipped and then radio receivers set up near penguin colonies that would detect the dogs.

So, there are a number of monitoring programs the Government should be doing to address the problem.

Whilst the Government is not undertaking the monitoring I have outlined above, it is not seriously addressing the penguin deaths problem.

Bert Lawatsch