

To The Secretary, Senate Environment, Communication Information Technology & Arts Reference Committee.

Dear Secretary,

I would like to bring to the Committee's attention the fact that not all members of the public are catered for when it comes to access to our glorious National & Marine Parks.

A small, yet growing community of responsible dog owners are ostracised, prohibited access to National Parks. I understand it is a conservation area, preserving fauna and flora.

Motor vehicles have access, horse riders, bush walkers, campers, are all allowed access, why not then individuals who wish to walk or camp with their canine companions? Surely responsible dog owners, with their dog's always leashed would not cause nearly the damage that horse riders do, or even vehicles.

In Europe, U.K. and the U.S. dog's on lead, under control at all times are allowed access to National Parks. As our community grows, and shifts in it's desires and needs it is not an unreasonable request. The ever increasing population that are dog owners are driving an industry fast becoming worth hundreds of millions of dollars a year. Everything from vet bill's to pet holidays contribute to this amount.

It would not be unreasonable to consider dog owner's access to our lovely National Parks and reserves, even if a license fee was applied, with all owner details, micro chip information, the money raised would surely benefit the Parks and also contribute to upkeep and maintenance of infrastructure. Think of all the visitors that would gladly visit national Parks closer to cities, to hike and picnic if they could also take their dog to experience what very few seem to cherish.

Thanking you in advance for considering my submission.

Kind Regards,
Ms Robyn Grant