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## MEDIA RELEASE

### Time to revitalise Sydney at night

Sydney is still the most popular destination for tourists and has an active nightlife. However, it may be missing out on as much as \$16 billion of potential economic activity by not taking advantage of the night time economy.

'It is vitally important that Sydney remain safe and accessible for everyone', said the Hon Natalie Ward MLC, Committee Chair. 'Through recommendations we have made, there will be the opportunity to realise our full economic potential while keeping a safe environment.'

The Joint Select Committee on Sydney's night time economy has tabled its report in Parliament today.

'The Committee appreciates that while the laws introduced to address the violence in areas such as Kings Cross were necessary at the time and have been successful, it was time to consider if they were still appropriate,' said Ms Ward.

The Committee made 40 recommendations that aim to: maintain safety in Sydney while enhancing its nightlife through an increasing diversity of options; improve governance of Sydney's night time economy; and promote cooperation between venues and regulators.

The Committee has proposed that businesses in the Sydney CBD precinct, including Oxford Street, no longer be required to enforce a 1.30am lockout or cease service at a particular time. It has also recommended that certain restrictions on the types of drinks that can be served are lifted.

Ms Ward said 'We understand there have been concerns from some in our community about a relaxation of the laws and I want to emphasise that we took their issues seriously throughout the inquiry. We will review the impact of any changes in twelve months, with a particular focus on alcohol related violence and incidents. We have also recommended that Liquor & Gaming NSW and the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority have the power to reintroduce lockout laws for non-compliant venues.'

The Committee also considered that the restrictions should remain in place in Kings Cross due to its unique nature and density of venues.

During the inquiry, the Committee received 793 submissions and heard evidence from 79 witnesses over three days of public hearings.

Ms Ward declared 'Sydney is one of the world's premier tourist destinations and we look forward to showing it as a global city with exciting night time options and experiences for all.'

The Committee's report can be found [here](#).

**For further information please contact**

**the Hon. Natalie Ward MLC, Committee Chair on 9230 2186**