

**Submission
No 8**

MEASURES TO REDUCE ALCOHOL AND DRUG- RELATED VIOLENCE

Name: Mr Eoin Maher

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As a patron of CBD, Surry Hills and Darlinghurst venues, I have noticed a marked increase in the level of aggression on and off licenced premises since the implementation of these laws. Approaching 1.30am on Oxford Street, everyone appears to be sprinting to get into a licenced venue, leading to an atmosphere conducive to violence on the streets. The same type of atmosphere exists within a licenced premises when it approaches 3am. Before these laws came into effect the actual obtaining of alcohol seemed to be a side note for most patrons. Now patrons appear to be constantly aware of the time and how long more they have to enjoy their evening. Approaching 3am there is a rush to get to the bar in time leading to a tense, approaching violent, atmosphere. This atmosphere is then carried onto the streets after 3am. Before the new laws there was no noticeable difference on the streets at different times of night, whereas now the streets are thronged at 3am, there seems to be more people than transport/food options, and the same tense atmosphere exists. Nobody who enjoys a night out (save the 0.000001%) wants violence on our streets or in our licenced venues. This law has harmed our night time economy by discouraging patrons, while placing unfair and arbitrary rules on the remainder. As outlined above, this appears to not be helping the issue. It is also deeply unfair to those who work in hospitality and can not enjoy a drink after work anymore.

Regards.

Eoin