

**Submission
No 39**

MEASURES TO REDUCE ALCOHOL AND DRUG-RELATED VIOLENCE

Name: Name Suppressed
Date Received: 14/08/2014

Partially Confidential

Dear Sir/Madam,

In response to the measures taken by the NSW Parliament to curb alcohol consumption and related violence, the fairly blunt measures of reducing the hours when customers can consume alcohol have had both positive effects on the local environments and negative effects on customers and many businesses, many of which are unrelated to the sale of alcohol.

I can understand that the measures were chosen on the basis that they were the easiest and least cost to implement. All the cost is brought to bear on the licensee, whether that's extra internal policing or the purchase of id scanners. And you get to save money on policing at difficult hours after 3pm until dawn.

Yes, the number of assaults in those zones has dropped. But that's just numbers. If the average number of people visiting a zone drops from 20,000 to 6,000 on a Saturday night, there are going to be less assaults in that zone. I'm not sure what the number of assaults are like in other zones where customers are now moving to.

There are 2 negative effects of this legislation. Firstly customers are now heading in their droves to venues outside of the affected zones, in places like Double Bay or Newtown or Pymont, where venues can stay open at least until 5am. Surely you are just moving the problem elsewhere.

Secondly there is the issue of illegal uncontrolled parties. In Monday's SMH, they reported on increase in warehouse parties. Surely an unregulated secret venue without cameras, id scanners, adequate security will result in the antithesis of the desired effects.

The trouble with the timing of the lockouts and the ceasing of alcohol sales at 3am, is that transport is sparse. I ask that you reconsider the lockout system, so that the lockout switch is moved to 3am and then stop serving at 4am. By the time people leave and maybe buy some food, there is more transport available.

I would imagine that the extra requirements for id scanners, internal policing and the tiered system of venue controls will continue to create the results you require.

And in the long run, you'll have strictly controlled environments of alcohol consumption, without the worry of another boom of illegal warehouse parties.

Yours Faithfully,

