

**Submission  
No 12**

## **SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY**

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Peter Cutler, and I am writing to you as an audio engineer, a constituent of Wentworth, and a concerned citizen.

Prior to the introduction of the lockout laws in 2014, Sydney was home to a vibrant nightlife, which has since been drastically quashed. These laws were enacted hastily, without consulting the many industries they would affect, and without voter approval. It is all too easy to point to a reduction in assaults as evidence that these laws have been beneficial, but that is merely a byproduct of fewer people going out in general. There is a much larger picture, and it is reductive to focus on a single aspect of such a complex issue.

These prohibitive measures have had a profound detrimental impact on Sydney. A recent report by Deloitte Access Economics estimates the economic loss at \$16.1 billion per year - an approximately 37% reduction from the same report's \$43.3 billion estimate. Along with the loss of venues comes a ripple effect on the nighttime economy - less tourism, fewer late-night eateries, less work for taxi drivers and convenience store workers and similar professions. Per an article in the Sydney Morning Herald published last year, Sydney has suffered a net loss of 176 venues since the introduction of these laws. Every one of represents myriad job losses. In my field of live sound production, I now have far fewer professional opportunities in Sydney than I had prior to these laws.

Alcoholism and violence are not unique to Sydney, yet every other city around the world manages to combat these issues without resorting to such drastic measures. It speaks volumes to the government's priorities that The Star is still able to serve alcohol all night long, just as the Crown Casino will be able to upon its opening.

If Sydney truly wishes to brand itself as a 'global city', to be considered in the same breath as London or New York or Tokyo, then it must strive to understand that nightlife is a major part of what makes those places so appealing. The arts are what make a city great - what would New York be without theatre, Los Angeles without film, or Milan without opera? Indeed, the most recognised and beloved landmark in our city (and country) is a music venue - but an artist cannot perform at the Sydney Opera House without first cutting his or her teeth in smaller bars and nightclubs, the likes of which have disappeared from Sydney at an alarming rate over the previous five years.

Thank you for your consideration,

Peter Cutler