SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

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Date Received: 8 June 2019

The Lockout Laws have had an extremely negative impact on Sydney's night time economy. The venue restrictions have effectively destroyed Sydney's nightlife, turning a once vibrant city into a cultural laughing stock. As a result, the amount of foot traffic in the city has plummeted, which is hugely impactful on businesses. With regards to music there are an alarming number of small venues shutting down across Sydney, reducing available places where live music can still be played. This is directly affecting the music scene, especially aspiring musicians, as there are fewer gigs, jam sessions, events and opportunities for musicians to make a living. As a young musician myself, I keenly feel the lack of opportunity to make a living from my craft and have to rely on other work to have a steady income.

Another problem is to do with the laws and regulations surrounding noise complaints. There are too many venues that have had to cancel music because of noise complaints, sometimes by only a single person. This is even more frustrating when new residents complain of noise when the venue had been established in the area long ago. Regulations need to change so venues have better support from councils, the NSW government and especially police. As it currently stands, venues have almost zero support with regards to noise and events can be easily shut down by police if they choose.

In conclusion, the Lockout Laws were poorly thought through and would not have even made a difference to the one punch deaths that were the catalyst for their creation. They did not address underlying cultural issues nor did they leave any opportunity to explore alternate avenues of crowd management, policing and transport. They need to be abolished so Sydney's night time economy can recover from their effects. Additionally, legislation should be made to protect and support venues so they are not shut down by unreasonable noise complaints.