

**Submission
No 25**

SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

Name: Mr Ryan Diefenbach

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To whom it may concern,

Many have noticed a complete degradation of culture, especially for young people following Sydney's lock out laws. Frankly, our city has become an international laughing stock for music and nightlife since 2014.

The lock-out laws have achieved next to nothing in terms of achieving the outcomes of this committee's terms of reference i.e

- (a) maintain and enhance community safety;
- (b) maintain and enhance individual and community health outcomes;
- (c) ensure existing regulatory arrangements in relation to individuals, businesses and other stakeholders, including Sydney's lockout laws, remain appropriately balanced;
- (d) enhance Sydney's night time economy;

Conversely I think that this has only redirected antisocial, violent behaviour to other areas of the city and clearly benefited established stakeholders such as the casino. This is not the type of city people want. As such, I firmly recommend you remove or work towards reversing these lockouts and redirect your efforts elsewhere. Continuation of these ridiculous laws only makes it difficult for people to take any new measures or government proposals seriously so it is in the best interest of everyone involved to accept this as a failed approach.

Other cities such as Berlin have managed to foster nightlife by treating grown ups as adults rather than imposing restrictions and curfews on them. The focus should be on extending operating hours for public transport, as well as late night shopping and food options. Keeping the city alive rather than barren means that people will not be trapped in the city, sometimes intoxicated, when lockouts have started or public transport has finished, and only promotes anti-social behaviour for some and fear for others.

Furthermore, when famous local or international acts perform at festivals or arena shows, police are understandably concerned with checking for drug dealers with measures such as dogs but these have been abused beyond control. However, our atmosphere of entertainment is shattered by the extent and abuse of police powers - such as being able to invalidate a patron's ticket following a drug search even without any discovery of drugs. This is simply punishment of regular citizens without any charge and ruins the prospect of entertainment and viable nightlife in our state and city.

These things need to change.

Thank you for taking submissions and I only ask that you take them sincerely and implement the change Sydney and New South Wales so badly needs to get back to the point we were before, and then to educate and improve ourselves rather than implementing ridiculous reactionary policies such as the lockout laws for political purposes.

Kind regards,
Ryan Diefenbach