

**Submission  
No 106**

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

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The lockout laws have had a devastating impact on Sydney's culture, night life, and international reputation, and have been a heavy-handed approach to curbing the issue of alcohol-related violence in Sydney. I have lost count of the number of venues that have closed down since they were implemented, and have watched with sadness and disappointment as Sydney's music scene has shrivelled up and musicians and fans have lost so many opportunities for live entertainment. Alcohol-related violence is a real issue in Australia, the drinking culture is a nationwide problem, but shutting the city down is not the solution. In suburbs like Newtown, where late-night revelers now go after city venues close (or in preference to city venues), the police have worked with community groups and local businesses to develop an approach to encouraging night life in an inclusive way and keeping it as safe as possible for everyone. This is the approach to take, working to foster live music, entertainment venues, and the local community with all parties working for safety. The zoning for the lockout laws makes me skeptical, too, with the casino being less than a stone's throw from the lockout zone. NSW has a reputation of being controlled by powerful businesspeople with vested interests rather than being run for the people of the state, and the lockout laws help to reinforce this view. I sincerely hope this review will result in the replacement of the lockout laws with a more comprehensive, inclusive, community-oriented approach to keeping Sydney and its arts and music scene alive.