

**Submission  
No 137**

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

**Name:** Name suppressed  
**Date Received:** 14 June 2019

Partially  
Confidential

Due to the affect of the lockout laws on Sydney's once flourishing nightlife I have since moved to Melbourne and obtained a bachelor degree in International Relations. I am due to begin my honours research project, which will be examine the long-term effects of the lockout laws and whether or not groups opposed to the lockouts were right to be as concerned as they were.

Thus, as a direct result of NSW lockout laws, I not only had to start my life anew due to dwindling opportunities in Sydney but I've utilised the opportunities that didn't exist for me in Sydney to become motivated and educated in functions and operations of political policy. My preliminary research into the long-term effects of lockout laws has shown a nominal effect on state-wide public health outcomes related to alcohol and drug misuse. Cities such as Newcastle and Wollongong, and regions like the Central Coast are still over-represented in many crime and health statistics, despite these regions implementing their own local forms of lockouts over a decade ago. This would indicate that purchase times and opening hours of licensed and regulated venues is a poor indicator of potential risk of violence.

Any discussion of lockout laws cannot avoid the role local media played in directing discussion and debate in favour of lockout laws. Both the Sydney Morning Herald and Daily Telegraph each claimed the passing of lockout laws to be their victory; it could be argued that any opposition to lockout laws in 2014 was doomed to fail because there was no fair representation for opposition perspectives from the beginning. Given the role of the media within liberal democracy it should at least be noted that the close personal relationship between key figures of all sides of politics and those in the media has an effect on policy decisions (though outside the scope of this submission, the debacle over the Opera House sails and the Everest Cup is another, albeit far more overt example, of this relationship between the state and media).

One of the biggest causes for concern is the correlation between Sydney's net-population loss to interstate migration and the lockout laws; though overseas migration maintains Sydney's growth this could mean more people who are established and rooted in Sydney are leaving. Long-term this means Sydney loses out on massive economic gains, which it always has amongst educated locals through the "brain drain" phenomenon, but no longer is it just a relatively small percentage of highly skilled individuals taking the benefits of that education elsewhere. Since 2014 many other demographics, like myself, have left NSW because since the NSW NOW campaign the new state of business is highly selective about what types of businesses NSW is open to.

Ultimately, because of lockout laws, NSW is not the state of business if your business is live music. NSW is not the state of business if you're in the hospitality industry, nor is NSW the state for you if your business wants to operate after 10pm. The lockout laws, and other NSW state policies that are not under examination by this inquiry, are counter to the narrative advertised by the NSW LNP government. In this particular case, lockout laws completely counter the notion of NSW being open for business and 176 venues closing as a direct result of the lockout laws demonstrates that NSW is not at all the state for, or open to, business.

To summarise key points:

- \* Lockout laws have had a nominal effect on crime and health across NSW
- \* Lockout laws counter the state government's advertising campaign to encourage business investment
- \* Lockout laws served only to lock me and many others out of Sydney