

**Submission
No 124**

SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

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This review is not rocket science and the future of our hospitality industry is at great risk as is our international reputation as a tourist location.

The lockout laws have seen a serious deconstruct of our entertainment industry. The basis of binge drinking and a culture of "getting drunk". These things must change, but they can only change with a structural change to the way alcohol is served, and how we engage the entertainment community.

1. All venues must provide food the entire time they are open. There are far too many instances where people go out and kitchen close at 10.30pm. As the culture of Sydney becomes more dynamic, food becomes a critical part of the equation. You will get resistance on this from the AHA .. but they just want members to continue to enjoy the profits from liquor without incurring additional costs of kitchens. Too bad ... the culture in most of Europe is food and drink .. not just drink alone ... AND this must also apply to gaming clubs.
2. Venues should be able to open all hours if they serve food. At least until 4am.
3. The current lockout laws have to go.
4. Councils must relax noise rules for venues that exit or are to be built in areas where there is or exists residential apartments or houses. People who purchase to live in such precincts must accept that venues will be open till late .. you simply cannot have businesses paying huge rents (with outgoings such as land tax now having become excessively high) .. without being able to utilise these premises to generate revenue. Commerce must come first. Live music should be allowed to flourish. It creates jobs, and we need jobs. You want to live in a shopping and venue precinct, don't complain about the noise ... talk to your developer as to why he has not double glazed the windows ... or ask the council why they did condition this.
5. Outdoor alfresco seating must be free to businesses and must be encourages .. it will create a beautiful ambience throughout the city.
6. Drug tolerance must be nil.

This process cannot be just about the lockout laws, but must fully encompass the entertainment industry and the hospitality industry to broaden the city's nightlife, but more importantly to create opportunities for our talented people who more and more travel overseas to seek success.

You must also include the movie industry and use this opportunity to put into place viable strategies for this city to become a movie production destination.

Good luck with it ... your focus must be on commerce.