

**Submission
No 169**

SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

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I used to frequent the city almost every weekend with my friends. We would go to Karaoke, have a drink, have something to eat, and then find a spot to settle in for the night, like a chilled out bar or pub. This was in 2012 - 2013.

These days I go out to the city maybe once a year. All of my favourite old joints have been shut down. Shops close early. There is nothing to do in the city except drink, and if you want to drink, you have to go out earlier (like 7pm). If you want to have a decent night, you need to stay out for a few hours and are forced to get the train home at 12 or 1am (because trains stop after this time). Go out any later than 8 or 9pm and your night feels cut short and not worth the effort, especially for those who live 30-45 mins away from the CBD.

Sydney needs some life breathed back into it. The CBD needs something else happening to draw people in (Vivid doesn't count - it's too crowded and crazy). Something like shows, markets, art installations, late night food availability, late night shopping.

I went to Tokyo in 2016 and was amazed. They shut the streets down covering a few blocks in Shinjuku on Sunday evening from 6pm to 10pm. This encouraged people to come out and go shopping, eat, drink and socialise. People were walking all over the street and it was so busy and lively. This happened every week and people know it's on, so they come out in droves.

THAT is is what a global city looks like. Sydney has NOTHING fun or entertaining to show its international visitors on any given day of the week. Sydney is too expensive with nothing happening (ie. BORING!), and all the tourists who've visited recently that I've spoken to in my travels, say Sydney wasn't worth it. THIS IS THE IMPRESSION WE ARE LEAVING TO OUR VISITORS! Something needs to change!!