

**Submission
No 214**

SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

Organisation: Big Ting Recordings

Date Received: 20 June 2019

Dear Committee,

I represent a group of music producers, DJs and promoters that run events for Sydney music enthusiasts. We are a not for profit group with proceeds from our events going straight back into running more events. We pay tax on our profits and do not receive any personal income off of money made through the business. Most of the time we find ourselves in the red, injecting our own money into doing this. Why? Because we love music, and we cannot imagine a city where people, young and old, don't have a place to dance.

Since the lockout laws came into effect, there has been dramatic drops in patronage across the city. In a business which was already economically unpredictable and volatile, this has put the final nail in the coffin, with many Sydney promoters and venues throwing in the towel as the mainstream audiences don't even bother to leave their houses anymore. The effect is exponential, as more and more venues, bars and restaurants close, so the rest that are left will follow suite.

The nights of New Years 2017/2018 and Mardi Gras 2018 were a pivotal example of how an evening of removed lockouts caused no such extra violence, but instead instilled a new sense of energy and vibrancy to the city's nightlife. It is not the governments job to punish everyone for the sins of few, and we have proven over the last few years that the huge majority of us can behave ourselves and deserve to have these laws lifted so groups of people like us can work on rebuilding the nightlife economy to the level at which it was many years ago.

Sydney's reputation is completely tarnished on an international level. Our nightlife has become a joke to our European sister cities. I was recently in Japan, experiencing the most insanely vibrant nightlife culture, even during the week the streets were filled with music and food, and energy. One night in Osaka I met a young French man, we begun chatting about where we were from. Upon telling him I was from Australia, he inquired "from Melbourne?" To which I corrected him that I lived in Sydney. His reply, "Oh, the boring one." His reply, a person from France who had never even been to Australia, says so much about how our tourism industry has been decimated. This is not just a cultural issue, it is an economical one too.

Now is the time where we can repeal these laws. More evidence is revealing itself every day indicating that the effects of the lockout laws on violence have been totally negligible. It will take years for the city to recover, but it is time to begin building a new strong future for Sydney, and we are all ready to help out. The greater music community pleads that you take our thoughts and livelihoods into consideration, please use logic and do what is right for the city. We beg of you.

Sincerely,
Peter Dimou