

**Submission  
No 250**

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

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I have recently returned from a round the world trip, travelling to over 60 countries gave me fresh perspective on my beloved home town of Sydney. Of the hundreds of cities I have been to - Sydney is the only one with such oppressive restrictions governing its night life.

The lock out laws are a small part of this. I have always disliked how we refer to this issue as 'the lock out laws'. The restrictions placed on venues and patrons extend well beyond times of entry. Nowhere else in the world are you told "you can't eat there it's a smoking area" (what if I choose to eat where people smoke)". "You can't stand there with a drink, please move 30cm this way so you are inside an arbitrary line". While sitting and talking quietly with a mate on our second beer "Are you alright mate? How much have you had to drink? Maybe a water next".

These examples may sound like I am exaggerating or joking but they are simple truths that are ruining our city. Sydney has become famous around the world for being an over regulated, weird place with an awful nightlife. Everywhere from Kuala Lumpur to Tokyo, Colombo, Amman, Dubai, Paris, London, Rome, New York, Austin, San Francisco and LA, Mexico City, Buenos Aires, Rio and any other city I can think of has a nightlife where people are free to enjoy themselves without being babied. I didn't see a single fight in any of these places.

I firmly believe the restrictive and often aggressive nature of security and police contribute more to Australia's night time violence than they prevent. The only time I get angry when I'm in an establishment is when I'm treated like a child by these rule enforcers.

Furthermore the numbers have shown that the lock out laws have just pushed a problem to other parts of the city. Open everything up. Focus on public transport options and make the entire city accessible 24 hours a day. Spread the population out and give people options to freely enjoy this beautiful place. Its like having an overly strict parent - you act out when you get the chance. If you're given leniency and respect then you give it back.

Please fix our city.