

**Submission
No 254**

SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

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Date Received: 28 June 2019

To whom it may concern,

It's sad that so many small businesses lost out in this debacle. It's abhorrent that so many big business made even more money. All from a couple of badly informed and timed decisions from everyday people and from the government in power.

There is no proper way to make amends for the financial heartbreak caused to 1000s or the cultural hit taken by the lock out laws. The Entertainment license laws that were rolled back have an ongoing effect with music and live entertainment nowhere near recovering to 1990 levels and now the cultural shift has set in over a generation with young people no longer used to going out and enjoying the freedom of their youth. And older people, even though I still feel young at 40, also not having the chance to let off some steam on the weekend.

We don't all have the money to go on holidays so a night out on the town can help us get through the day to day and get back to work on "Monday" feeling like we've done something. Those that come to Sydney, looking for some after dark culture, are quickly made aware of these draconian measures and realise they have to head back to their hostels, hotels and BnBs if they wish to continue their evening much after midnight.

I look forward to a future where sensible evidence based policy, not laws guided by religious and corporations interests, serves to help give our international city some credence of cultural options in the landscape of the night time economy.

And just because you don't understand why some folks would want to go out it doesn't mean it's wrong. If you look back to Jazz and Rock n Roll that came across as rebellious in times gone past they are now very mainstream and almost boring. Please accept that all music plays a part in people's lives and that it helps get us through in this difficult world we live in.

Without support for the arts, in the words of Winston Churchill "What are we fighting for?"

Sincerely
Jeremy Thomas