

**Submission
No 257**

SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

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The evidence that the lockout laws have been both unsuccessful in reducing violence, and decimating for Sydney's nightlife, culture, soul and reputation is now indisputable.

Sydney has lost hundreds of venues since the lockouts were introduced. Additionally, an alarming number of young people (the future of the city) are fleeing to live in Melbourne or overseas. The reasons behind the mass exodus are enormous, however one of the major reasons is the lockout laws. Sydney is no longer a place young people desire to live in; rent is extortionate, there is a literal curfew in place at night and the number of venues to enjoy has become so limited, people have stopped going out all together.

You need only to look at Deloitte's assessment of Sydney's potential night time economy. \$16 billion! For a coalition that is so overtly driven by money I am surprised these laws are still in place. Sydney is literally losing billions of lost revenue to this single piece of knee-jerk legislation that has been unsuccessful for the entirety of its lifetime.

The only argument that has kept the laws in place is that they reduce violence. The laws have not reduced violence. You simply cannot claim that assaults are down in an area where there are 80% less people. This is simple math and I am dumbfounded that this is the resounding argument that has kept the laws in place for the last five years.

Sydney is dying. As a young person living here I am constantly reminded that I could move to Melbourne and live a better, cheaper life. This city could be one of the best in the world. I truly believe that. The first step to reclaiming our dynamic, versatile reputation is to repeal these laws. Invest in 24hr transport. Invest in the nighttime economy. Sound proof venues. Work with the city of Sydney. Employ a night mayor. Look at Melbourne, New York, London. That could be us. It used to be us. It is time for the laws to go and for Sydney to move forward.