

**Submission
No 305**

SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

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Date Received: 30 June 2019

My name is Jesse Squire, I am 30 years old and have been an active musician and performer in Sydney for the last 10 years. This is my response to the nightlife enquiry.

I remember two definitive periods as far as playing and seeing music in Sydney. The first was before 2014, where I lived in a vibrant city for music and culture. I was able to play a variety of venues to a variety of people. Upon visiting other cities in the world, Sydney truly did stand up to the charisma and opportunity for people of my ilk as cities such as London, Berlin and Melbourne. Post 2014 lockout laws, me and most of the musicians and bands I know have to rotate about 4 venues all outside the lockout law borders. We can no longer play in the city, as the city is embarrassingly dead. You are better off going up to Katoomba to watch live music than Sydney City now. My brother, a musician who lives in London described it as a "ghost town".

Most people feel as though the government did not try and other precautions to deter violent behaviour before introducing the lockout laws. There has been much success intentionally tackling this issue by encouraging diversity of venues, encouraging venues to provide more comfort for its guests (faster entry, ample seating), encouraging street performance and to train police and security to deal with people in a non-aggressive manner (I have seen unnecessary violence from both bouncers and police whilst out at bars and clubs)

It is a crying shame - culture is like a garden, and the NSW government cut down something that generations of entertainers and patrons had been building for so many years.

I believe the only fair and reasonable thing to do for our city at this point is to repeal the lockout laws.