

**Submission  
No 313**

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

**Name:** Mr Mark Pigott

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Responding to the joint select committee on Sydney's Night Time economy.

Mark Pigott representing my family, past owners of Taylor Square Newsagency

I was a candidate for the Blue Mountains in the lower house for Keep Sydney Open

At the past Nsw state election.

My family ran and owned Taylor Square Newsagency for 84 years. Both the famous paper stands since 1934 and the Newsagency in 3 locations all around or on Taylor Square. Both ran 24 hours 7 days, so night time was huge for us and we knew what made Darlinghurst tick especially.

We were first to get all the media everyday and were rightly famous for it. The magazine range was without equal in Australia and was very well followed day and night. Everything was available 24 hours a day and overnight and the early mornings were especially busy for us and for Darlinghurst.

Until of course the lockout laws began. We had weather much over many decades on Oxford street from the closing of whole streets and the eastern distributor taking traffic away, to the road works or foot path widening taking months and not weeks, to the resurrection of two Westfields in the city and Bondi junction to name but a few.

But nothing compared to the lockout laws that started on Mardi Gras night March 3rd 2014. 5 years and 4 months ago.

We lasted 18 months, [after 84 years] but I closed the door to our third generation business on Saturday September 25th at 6pm.

We lost our business, Sydney lost its best Newsagency and Darlinghurst lost a big chunk of its soul, never to be replaced.

We closed expressly due to the detrimental affects of the lockout laws.

We tried in vain to talk sense and reason and other solutions to our many customers at the time including the leading state politicians of the day. But what would we know of Oxford street. As history now shows the political knee jerk of these laws won the day, and exactly what we said repeatedly at the time would happen, has happened to Sydney.

But unfortunately we were not listened too and were even laughed from our space whenever we mentioned that Sydney would become a shadow of its former self. 100s of businesses and their associated jobs would close or be lost. Sydney's international and domestic reputations would be severely curtailed and laughed upon. The music and creative industry amongst a range of industries and sectors would be decimated.

All whilst two of Sydney's most creative and influential suburbs would be changed forever not to mention the city.

All of this and much more has all come true exactly as we said from our Newsagency at the time but hey what would we know.

Sydney has suffered well over 5 years with these laws and the state government are only now seriously considering reversing these laws. Unfortunately it will take just as long for Sydney to recover that which has been lost, some things like our Newsagency are gone forever.

It is well past due that these laws are scraped and replaced with an overall plan on how to manage, grow, encourage and promote Sydney as a true 24 hour world city as it was at the 2000 Olympics. For the state government to continue to have their head in the sand [or elsewhere] after all of this time and whilst the obvious calateral damage to Sydney continues, only proves how out of touch to the needs of Sydney they continue to be. Truly disgraceful, clueless and beyond reprehensible to say the least.

Listen to people like the old Newsagency on Oxford street or the team at Keep Sydney Open and this May never have had to happened. Fix and change it now before nothing is left of Sydney after dark.

Mark Pigott

X Taylor Square Newsagency

Concerned citizen of Sydney