

**Submission
No 317**

SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

Organisation: Harbourside Liquor Accord Inc

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NSW Parliament Legislative Assembly

Inquiry | Joint Select Committee on Sydney's Night Time Economy

SUBMISSION | Harbourside Liquor Accord Inc.

Submitted to

The Chair, Joint Select Committee on Sydney's Night Time Economy
Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000.

NightTimeEconomy@parliament.nsw.gov.au

On behalf of Harbourside Liquor Accord Inc.

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Executive Summary

Thank you for the invitation to make submission to the Inquiry on Sydney's Night Time Economy.

Harbourside Liquor Accord is the, or at least one of, the largest liquor accords in the state, based on membership, with 110 financial members covering hotels, clubs, bottle shops, venues, restaurants, small bars and cafes across Sydney's lower north shore.

The accord covers a large area of Sydney's northern suburbs - North Sydney, Mosman, Cremorne, Neutral Bay, Kirribilli, McMahons Points, Waverton, Crows Nest, St Leonards, Cammeray, Chatswood, Willoughby, Artarmon, Lane Cove and Longueville and our submission focuses on this area of Sydney.

In general, the Accord supports the growth of the 'night time economy' across both the Sydney CBD and suburban areas and supports the rollback of Sydney's lockout laws to facilitate tourism growth, increase visitation across the city, create greater business certainty for investment, create jobs and meet the expectations of the population.

Incorporated in 2011, Harbourside Liquor Accord is well-structured, professionally managed and has close working relationships with key regulatory bodies and stakeholders including Liquor & Gaming NSW, North Sydney Council, Mosman Council, North Shore Police Area Command, Northern Sydney Area Health Service, AHA (NSW) and is well-positioned to address any issues as they arise.

Currently, the Accord area has one of the lowest rankings in the state for alcohol-related violence and crime.

The Accord has a proven track record of adopting a proactive approach to implementing strategies to address anti-social behaviour, alcohol-related issues and to promoting positive health outcomes. The Accord provides support to community groups for their work in addressing health and social issues throughout the area.

Terms of Reference | Response

Enhancing Community Safety

- The Accord has, and will continue to, implement programs to address anti-social behaviour and other alcohol-related issues in our local area.
- Members implemented the Sexual Assault Prevention Campaign as developed and provided by NSW Police.
- The Accord participates in the Plan B Campaign through our RMS contact at Mosman Council. Resources are offered to members to use in their businesses.
- According to information from our local Police Area Command, there was no significant change in alcohol-related crime in the Harbourside Liquor Accord area, before and during the 'lockout period'.
- According to our local licensing police, the Harbourside Liquor Accord area is ranked as one of the lowest areas in the state for alcohol-related crime.
- Some of our members operate courtesy buses to enhance the safety of patrons travelling to and from venues.
- The introduction of the Metro trains through the lower north shore in coming years, will be advantageous to improving transport. However, better transport beyond the main arterial roads would greatly enhance community safety when leaving licensed premises in the evenings.
- Uber now gets people away from venues very quickly and was not operating when the lockouts were introduced.

Enhancing Individual and Community Health Outcomes

- The Accord addresses specific issues as and when they arise as well as taking a proactive approach to supporting the measures and programs offered by community groups to support health outcomes.
- Accord members participated in the Health NSW/Northern Sydney Area Health campaign to address supply of alcohol to minors.
- In 2013, as part of our community support activities, Harbourside Liquor Accord was proactive in developing an educational program for Year 11 and 12 students, *YOUNG PEOPLE, LICENSED PREMISES & RESPONSIBILITY EDUCATION PROGRAM*. The program provides information to young people about alcohol, the legal position with respect to regulation of alcohol and licensed premises, individual responsibilities and behavioural

expectations. By promoting awareness of these issues, along with the consequences of misuse of alcohol and poor behaviour, it is hoped that when students do become patrons of licensed premises, they behave in a responsible and appropriate manner. The program was offered at no cost to schools in the accord area.

- In 2017, the Accord donated \$3000 to PCYC North Sydney to support their programs for troubled youth in the area. In 2019, a further \$2000 was donated.
- To support victims of domestic violence, the Accord has developed a close working relationship with Mary’s House (North Shore Women’s Benevolent Association) and has donated \$4000 over the past 8 months.

Ensure existing regulatory arrangements in relation to individuals, businesses and other stakeholders, including Sydney's lockout laws, remain appropriately balanced

- The Accord believes that the liquor act has significant powers to control individual non-compliant venues that negate the need for blanket measures across Sydney as a whole.
- North Sydney is in itself a CBD, the Accord implements local solutions throughout the accord area and does not believe that lockouts are an effective strategy.
- Need closer liaison and clearer definition of the powers of the regulatory bodies. In particular Liquor & Gaming NSW, the liquor laws and local Council DCPs.
- The Accord supports the rollback of the current lock-out laws to enhance the image and reputation of Sydney as an international city; to promote both international and domestic tourism; to boost the night time economy across all of Sydney.
- From an image and reputational viewpoint, there may exist the perception that the whole of Sydney is inactive in the night time. This can have a flow-on effect in visitations, both by visitors and locals, across wider Sydney not just the CBD and needs to be addressed.
- The Accord is well-structured, professionally managed and has close working relationship with Liquor and Gaming NSW, North Sydney Council, Mosman Council and North Shore Police Area Command and is well-positioned to address any issues as they arise. The Accord is regularly commended by both senior police and Council representatives.

Enhance Sydney's Night Time Economy

- The Accord supports a broader, more coordinated approach to the 'night time economy' across the whole of Sydney to provide greater business certainty into future.
- Licensed businesses involve both significant initial and ongoing investment in upgrading, modernising equipment, premises, processes and facilities to meet not only patron expectation, but safety and health regulations and requirements.
- Greater support from all levels of government to boost the night time economy and hence, provide our members with the resources/potential to increase trade, would provide greater certainty to invest in their businesses, remain competitive and in some cases, viable.
- The Accord supports the easing of Sydney's lockout laws to boost trade and business certainty.
- The 'night time economy' doesn't have to mean 'all-night economy'. The accord encourages measures to facilitate non-licensed businesses to trade into the evening/night time periods to create vibrant centres throughout suburban areas.
- Measures such as grants for licensed and non-licensed business, eg retail and services, to work collaboratively to grow the night time economy in their specific area are supported.
- There is scope to expand night time activities in some key areas to cater for the changing demographic.
- Some fitness centres are open 24 hours, some supermarkets are open till midnight and these could be used as a starting point to grow the night time economy around these businesses.
- A more vibrant and broader night time economy across Sydney, has the potential to increase member confidence to invest in venue expansion and create jobs.
- A stronger economy overall fosters sharing of information, upskilling, development of innovative processes and procedures.
- The introduction of Metro trains to the lower north shore will be advantageous to enhancing the night time economy in our area and further expansion of public transport would be welcomed.
- Greater availability to public transport is required beyond the main arterial roads to enhance safety.