

**Submission
No 318**

SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

Organisation: Eastern Beaches Liquor Consultative Accord Inc

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NSW Parliament Legislative Assembly

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

SUBMISSION

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 Eastern Beaches Liquor Consultative Accord Inc.

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Introduction | Executive Summary

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

In preparing this submission, the Accord reached out to members to submit their suggestions and the content was discussed at the Accord executive committee meeting on 18 June 2019.

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As the first formally established liquor accord in NSW, Eastern Beaches Liquor Accord has been in operation since 1999 and is well-structured and well-managed through a very experienced and committed leadership group.

The membership of over 70 licensed premises includes large and small registered clubs, hotels, restaurants, bottle shops, theatres and venues including some of the largest in the area – Australian Turf Club, South Sydney Junior Rugby League Club (The Juniors), SEALS Maroubra, Coogee Bay Hotel, Coogee Pavilion and Crowne Plaza Coogee.

The Accord has fostered and grown close working relationships with Liquor & Gaming NSW, Randwick City Council and Eastern Beaches Police Area Command and is well-positioned and prepared to address local issues as they arise. The Accord enjoys a high standing in the community and the industry and is proud of its long-term reputation for improving the local area in regard to alcohol-related issues.

The Accord covers the suburbs of Clovelly, Coogee, Maroubra, Little Bay, La Perouse, Matraville Pagewood, Randwick, Kensington, Kingsford, Malabar and Yarra Bay and our submission focuses on this area of Sydney in regard to a night time economy.

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.
- Some of our members operate courtesy buses to enhance the safety of patrons travelling to and from venues.
- Our members see one of the biggest obstacles to a successful night-time economy is community safety and the biggest obstacle to community safety is the lack of lighting, safe and reliable public transport, and safe (and OPEN) public amenities.
- However, we also see a big chicken-and-egg problem here - we won't get more people to engage in night time activities unless there is better lighting, transport and open toilets, but we probably won't get better lighting, transport and toilets until there are more people about.
- The highly anticipated opening of the Light Rail will be advantageous to improving transport through parts of the Accord area. However, the Eastern Beaches is serviced only by buses and safety of patrons walking from bus stops to their homes is a general concern. Continued vigilance against violence in our community is supported.
- To provide greater safety for our members' staff, we recommend that government provide educational information for international visitors on NSW liquor licensing laws and expectations of patrons visiting licensed premises.

We receive many international visitors to our member venues and the staff are regularly confronted with patrons who simply do not know the licensing laws and in some cases, react negatively when advised of them. In particular in regard to the Fail to Quit and RSA laws. Better education provided to visitors on entry into Australia may help to avoid such incidents escalating to the stage where police need to be called and better enhance the safety of employees in licensed premises.

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.
- Drugs: We commend police at all levels and other agencies for their work in combating this issue but we feel more work and further measures need to be taken in this area.

Drug-affected patrons pose significant risks to the safety of staff and other patrons. They can be mistaken for being affected by alcohol, which impacts overall on the licensed premises. Drug use is also a major health concern for the community as a whole, and further measures to combat this issue are much needed.

- Accord members participated in the Health NSW campaign to address supply of alcohol to minors.
- The Accord supports community health outcomes by providing financial donations to community groups so they can continue and expand their work.
- The Accord is the sole sponsor of La Perouse School Breakfast Club and Chifley Public School Breakfast Club. These are very important initiatives which are seeing positive outcomes for indigenous children and youth. More measures by other groups in this space would be encouraged to educate and mentor local youth.
- The Accord donated \$5000 to the Maroubra Salvation Army for the purchase of kitchen equipment to enable them to better provide meals to the community.
- The Accord made a significant donation towards the purchase of a new bus for the local PCYC to enhance their work in the community.
- The Accord collaborated with Randwick City Council and Eastern Beaches Police Area Command and fully financed the purchase of 100,000 coasters to implement a campaign against Domestic Violence.
- The Accord supports the annual White Ribbon Walk.

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

- The Accord is well-structured, professionally managed and has close working relationships with Liquor and Gaming NSW, Randwick City Council and Eastern Beaches Police Area Command. It is well-positioned to address any issues as they arise.
- The Accord supports current alcohol-free zones in our area.

Enhance Sydney's Night Time Economy

- A 'night-time economy' does not necessarily have to mean an 'all-night' economy, but simply one that extends into dinner time and beyond.

- The Accord encourages measures to facilitate non-licensed businesses to trade into the evening/night time periods to create vibrant centres throughout suburban areas. We understand that Randwick Council has started working in this space and some of our members have attended their workshops.
- There is scope to expand night time activities in some key areas to cater for the changing demographic.
- To especially enhance the ambience and pleasant environment of our local night time economy, the Accord developed and implemented a highly effective Fail to Quit campaign. Two distinct styles of creative were developed to create awareness of the laws to two distinct groups: mature and youth. By clearly communicating the law and expected patron behaviour in this contemporary way, has assisted members especially in the night time trading.
- The Accord has, and will continue to, implement programs to address anti-social behaviour and other alcohol-related issues.