

**Submission
No 330**

SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

Organisation: Retail Drinks Australia

Date Received: 1 July 2019

1 July 2019

Joint Select Committee on Sydney's Night Time Economy
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Email: NightTimeEconomy@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary,

Retail Drinks Australia (**Retail Drinks**) is pleased to provide the Joint Select Committee on Sydney's Night Time Economy (**the Committee**) with its submission on behalf of NSW's retail liquor industry.

ABOUT RETAIL DRINKS

Retail Drinks is an industry body representing all off-premise packaged liquor retailers in Australia with the clear vision and purpose of enhancing its members' freedom to retail responsibly through positive and proactive advocacy. Retail Drinks' members have a long history of collaborative and cooperative relationships with government, consulting on and progressing initiatives to increase leadership in the responsible sale of alcohol.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATIONS

Retail Drinks is strongly committed to pursuing policy outcomes promoting a safe, diverse, vibrant and sustainable night time economy in Sydney and, with this in mind, submits the following recommendations to the Committee:

- 1) In considering the standard trading hours for all licence categories, consideration should also be given to extending the standard trading hours for packaged liquor licensees from the current 5:00am to 11:00pm to 5:00am to midnight (Monday to Saturday).
- 2) In the event that the Committee does not proceed with Recommendation 1, Retail Drinks recommends granting individual packaged liquor licensees with an exemption to the standard trading hours, allowing them to trade for an additional hour until midnight, should they wish to do so.

RECOMMENDATION 1: EXTENSION OF STANDARD TRADING HOURS TO MIDNIGHT FOR PACKAGED LIQUOR LICENSEES

Retail Drinks argues that the Committee, in its consideration of operating hours for all licensed venues (including on-premise venues), should also consider extending the standard trading hours for packaged liquor licensees in NSW from 11pm until midnight on all days other than a Sunday. This represents a one-hour extension from the current standard trading hours for packaged liquor licensees of 5:00am to 11:00pm on Mondays to Saturdays. The standard trading hours for packaged liquor licensees also apply to home delivery services of alcohol.

In making this recommendation, Retail Drinks would highlight the fact that prior to the introduction of the state-wide regulation preventing the sale of any takeaway liquor after 10pm in February 2014 (relaxed to 11pm in December 2016), the NSW *Liquor Act 2007* contained a provision providing for takeaway liquor sales until midnight. The introduction of the state-wide regulation preventing takeaway liquor sales after 10pm was introduced in NSW despite Recommendation 35 of the Foggo Review (published in December 2013) stating that *"The current standard trading hours for packaged licences should remain unchanged"*.

Retail Drinks argues that the extension of trading hours for packaged liquor outlets would have beneficial effects on Sydney's night-time economy both from an economic and employment standpoint. In extending trading hours for packaged liquor outlets for an additional hour, this would make a positive contribution to employment outcomes in generating additional work opportunities for existing retail liquor employees and potentially leading to outlets hiring further staff members so that they may open for a longer period. Retail Drinks also believes that the extension of trading hours for packaged liquor licensees may result in positive economic flow-on effects for other businesses participating in the Sydney night-time economy. For instance, offering packaged liquor outlets greater flexibility in terms of trading hours may provide consumers with greater flexibility in terms of BYO dining options at late-night restaurants and other venues. In this way, the extended opening hours of packaged liquor outlets would be actively supporting the functioning of a vibrant and diverse night-time economy in Sydney and enhancing the overall experience of consumers.

Furthermore, Retail Drinks argues that the extension of operating hours for packaged liquor outlets and home deliveries from 11pm until midnight will not have any adverse impact on the incidences of alcohol-related violence or anti-social behaviour. Retail Drinks would draw the Committee's attention to the Callinan Review published in September 2016 which stated that *"the sale of takeaway alcohol, whether before or after 10pm, makes little or no contribution to violence and anti-social behaviour in the Precincts, even less so when it is home delivered."*

With respect to alcohol home delivery services, Retail Drinks argues that there is a strong consumer demand for deliveries until midnight which is being driven by the desire for accessibility and convenience. The Callinan Review also stated that the extension of home delivery services of alcohol until midnight would not make any significant contribution to alcohol-related violence or anti-social behaviour. Retail Drinks, in fact, argues that home delivery of alcohol represents a harm minimisation measure in of itself in that it may discourage consumers from driving to a local bottle shop under the influence of either alcohol or fatigue, particularly during long road trips or tourist drives. Separately to this Recommendation, Retail Drinks is imminently launching its Online Alcohol Sale and Delivery Code of Conduct which includes harm minimisation measures well above and beyond the existing Act.

RECOMMENDATION 2: GRANTING OF AN EXTENSION TO INDIVIDUAL PACKAGED LIQUOR LICENSEES WISHING TO TRADE FROM 11PM UNTIL MIDNIGHT

Should the Committee not proceed with Recommendation 1, Retail Drinks proposes the alternative of granting individual packaged licensees wishing to trade for an additional hour from 11:00pm until midnight with an exemption to the standard trading hours for a nominal fee. Whilst Retail Drinks does not have a view on the exact quantum of such a fee, it should only be charged for the purpose of covering reasonable administrative costs on behalf of Liquor & Gaming NSW.

Retail Drinks would like to thank the Committee for its consideration of the matters raised within this submission. Should there be any points requiring further discussion or clarification, please contact Retail Drinks CEO Julie Ryan on [REDACTED] or at [REDACTED]

Sincerely



Julie Ryan
CEO, Retail Drinks Australia