

**Submission
No 327**

SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

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To Whom It May Concern

I have lived in the inner west of Sydney for 25 years. I'm an active member of the LGBTQI community, we have an active social life that includes dinner with friend, live music, bars, nightclubs, art exhibitions etc. Most of our time is spent around the CBD, Darlinghurst and Newtown areas. Since lock out I have seen the city that I love loose it's sparkle. Friends from overseas are amazed Sydney literally shuts down now. I have seen this affect tourism, with people now opting for Melbourne over Sydney and in fact I've had several friends move out of Sydney. Lock out has killed many jobs and businesses, it's killed tourism and the city's vibrancy. And why? To make it safer? Then why don't I feel safer? In fact the opposite!

As a woman we always have to be aware about our surroundings and street smart however now in areas I would have felt safe I don't. The city it is a ghost town, with groups of young aggressive people often walking around. I have had friends harassed and one followed to her car.

In newtown (which has always been so queer friendly and why I moved into the area) my wife and I have had groups of young straight men follow us calls out "lesbians" and other things. So is lock out working? I don't think so!!

My daughter is now 16 and starting to go places in the evening with friends, movies etc. However now the areas that I always felt fairly safe are not and I worried about the experiences she will have over the next few years. And why? So the casinos can stay open late?

Lock out isn't the answer. Something needs to be done!