

**Submission
No 363**

SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

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I'm writing this submission as a private individual who is 25 years old. I was fortunate enough to experience Sydney's nightlife prior to the lockout laws being introduced. Sydney was a vibrant city, where people could knock off after a hard week's work, have a few drinks and if they so wished, continue on with their friends and colleagues into the early hours of the morning. There is no doubt that King's Cross had its issues. But having worked in European cities and travelled around much of the world, it strikes me as ridiculous that as a global city we cannot enter venues past a certain time, or that certain venues can't serve spirits past a certain time. It is a cop out by police, that despite the fact that they only had a square mile to police, they were unable to do so effectively and instead advocated to simply shut Kings Cross instead.

The cost to the city and to young people of not having a vibrant nightlife is profound. Instead of being able to enjoy themselves in Sydney, young people now see better value in saving up for a trip to Bali or to Europe because of the way having a drink after 1.30 am is essentially criminalised in Sydney. It truly is sad that even Adelaide is seen as a more vibrant place to have a night out for young people - think about that, the city of churches has a better nightlife than Sydney. In every other respect, Sydney is one of the best cities in the world. When people come here from other parts of the world, they almost invariably want to live here. But the sorry state of our nightlife makes us as a global laughing stock.

I'm not advocating a return of the days of Kings Cross. There is little doubt that it had become relatively crime riddled and a seedy area. However, it's offensive that a Liberal government that prides itself on valuing individual freedoms feels the need to tell grown adults that it's illegal to enter a pub after 1.30 am in the CBD.