

**Submission
No 371**

SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

I have worked in the hospitality industry as well as traveled and worked in hospitality around the world for almost 10 years and in that time have seen the many benefits of what having a 24-hour city can give to the economy.

I have grown up in Sydney and often reflect back on when our night life was booming and Kings Cross and the CBD were one of our largest tourist attractions. People traveled from all over the world to experience Sydney's night life. Sadly though, this is no more.

As a patron, I cannot express how disappointing it is that after a certain time we are confined to one licensed venue in the CBD and/or Kings Cross. We cannot leave to go and get something from the convenience store, or to have a cigarette or even take a phone call on the street in a quiet spot. We cannot go to another venue to meet other friends. The lock out law truly has created such a dull and tense environment that people would rather stay at home or their local than go into the CBD and Kings Cross to experience nightclubbing. People who have turned 18 while the lock out has been in force have not been able to experience what a 24 hour Sydney city is, and for that I am embarrassed and ashamed that they are not able to have the same great memories I got to have.

As the general manager of a very well-known city institution, the effect the lock out has had on my business is astonishing.

Apart from the staggering decline in figures, the decline in staff hours is the worst I've ever seen it. I personally am finding it close to impossible to hire anyone on a tourist working visa, where in the years prior to the lock out majority of my staff would have been international girls and boys. No one wants to work in hospitality in Sydney because there is no night-time economy anymore. One of the biggest issues for me is that staff don't want to stay in this line of work because there is no where they can go after they have finished their long hard shift. They can't have a few drinks and listen to some music with their fellow colleagues because more often than not, no one finishes in time to make it elsewhere before the lock out hits. They also aren't getting the penalty hours they need to afford the living cost to stay in Sydney.

Sydney was once one of the top ten cities in the world, now we are in the worst ten and I can guarantee this is because of our lack of nightlife.