

**Submission  
No 382**

## **SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY**

**Organisation:** Backpacker Operators Association NSW Inc.

**Date Received:** 1 July 2019

1<sup>st</sup> of July 2019

### **Sydney's night time economy inquiry**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find below a submission on behalf of The Backpacker Operators Association of NSW Inc. (BOA) into the above mentioned inquiry.

#### **Background**

By way of background, BOA was established in 1992 and is the peak industry body and voice of the youth tourism industry in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. The Association has about 85 businesses as members, including accommodation providers, food & beverage establishments, tour operators as well as other related businesses.

BOA is making a submission to this inquiry as its members hold concerns on the current legislative night time environment that they are required to operate. Stemming from the impact of the changes to legislation back in February 2014, namely 'Sydney Lockout Laws'.

#### **Concerns**

The legislatively change directly impacted a number of BOA members and others which resulted in significant loss of income and even closure of business in some cases. Whilst BOA understands the intention of the legislation, it is apparent that the impact on businesses, employment and the reputation of Sydney was not carefully considered.

The introduction of these laws had a near immediate effect on businesses income. The flow on then impacted employment in the precincts. These were short-term affects, however longer term the affects on Sydney's reputation as a destination is still suffering. BOA members are focused on youth tourism and a vibrant city is primary in this sector. Unfortunately Sydney is losing market share to competing Australian cities due to the current regulations.

#### **Recommendations**

BOA supports the inquiry into Sydney's night time economy and would like to see Sydney's reputation improve as a dynamic international city. As such, BOA recommends that a framework be developed to reverse the lockout laws and support the culture of the night time economy and creative industries. Increasing police presence, creating a zero tolerance for violent and disorderly behaviour and improving amenities in popular precincts could achieve this.

Yours sincerely,

*Sam Badans*

Sam Badans  
Hon Secretary