

**Submission
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SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

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The current approach is a catastrophic failure.

Festivals and club nights are over-policed, young people are dying and businesses across Sydney are closing.

Sydney's international reputation as a place to attract young talent is dire. The brain drain of our homegrown talent means we're bleeding brilliant young Australian minds to cities like Berlin, London, New York.

Every article like this (which I wrote as a journalist) is another nail in the coffin to us ever becoming a global city <https://10daily.com.au/views/a190131igk/why-sydney-is-becoming-the-most-boring-city-in-the-world-20190131>

Sydney has become a police state - and that is dangerous.

What people see is a domestic violence epidemic continue, with one woman a week killed by her partner or former partner, but what are police doing? They're lining up at festivals to arrest people for taking two ecstasy pills.

The 'just say no' approach is simplistic, ineffective and lethal. Kids see police and 'double drop' their drugs, which can kill them.

Parties that could be safe and practical about these things are being flooded by police who are criminalising people who aren't a threat to society. They need medical and social interventions and advice, not a criminal record.

Alcohol is the drug that makes people 'coward punch' and fight. Nobody ever punched someone on ecstasy. Any lawmaker with lived experience of this will know why.

Yet the public sees the government rake in tax money on alcohol and refuse to regulate drugs so young people don't know what they're taking. But history shows us, they'll still take them.

The greatest example of madness is doing the same thing and expecting a different result. Our young people are emigrating, taking their talent elsewhere, losing jobs from the nosedive in the high-time economy or dying. And our politicians STILL refuse to endorse evidence-based pill testing.

The lock out laws just add to this problem and don't resolve the issue of alcohol fuelled violence, they just shift it or drive it behind closed doors.

We need policy made by people with lived experience of going out at night, before Sydney becomes even more of an international joke, deterring tourists and talent.