

**Submission
No 411**

SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

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A city's nightlife has more of an effect than just the opportunity to stay out drinking. The lock out laws have damaged the way Sydney-siders engage with the city. Amce, Billy Kwong, Paper Bird, Long Grain, Bridge Room, Oscillate Wildly are all awarded, innovative, high quality restaurants of varying price points. And all of them are closing within weeks of each other. Countless others in the last few years. We have been trained that going out is an effort, and dinner time is only acceptable between 7pm-9pm.

The lockout laws and restrictive nightlife economy has killed the creativity and curiosity of Sydney. When I was 18-25 I went to bars that had dancing, which at that age was my way to socialise and meet new people. Those bars I went to had new DJs testing their skills. Those DJs turned out to be internationally acclaimed Flight Facilities, Anna Lunoe, Flume, Cassian. Maybe it's because my taste in fun has changed, but I don't see that level of talent having an opportunity to thrive in the current Sydney.

But it's not only the jobs and industries who have a direct connection to nightlife that have suffered. Creative people crave creative outlets, experiencing different, meeting new people. I don't know any places in Sydney where it's normal for people over the age of 23 to dance. We are becoming lonelier, and the government is making it harder to meet people. The lockout laws have trained Sydney people to expect and accept the mundane.