

**Submission
No 412**

SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

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I have been a resident of Woolloomooloo for some 11 years.

My partner and I enjoy being able to walk wherever we can. We walk to shops, work, to places for entertainment and to cafes, restaurants & bars. Potts Point and Kings Cross are places we find ourselves drawn to pretty frequently as the area offers everything we require. We dine there, drink there, shop there and market there. We have visited morning, noon and night.

We have a number of friends who have resided in the Kings Cross/Potts Point area both pre and post Lockout Laws. All talk of it being a vastly improved suburb with a now thriving community that's been able to flourish without the angst of alcohol fuelled anti-social behaviour.

Over recent years night life in Potts Point and the Cross has improved exponentially. No longer is one affronted by the sight or smell of people vomiting and urinating, yelling or drunk to the point of collapse.

We had stopped visiting the area because the crowds were so immense you'd get bumped into walking down the street and anti-social behaviour seemed the norm.

It was not fun, it was ugly.

Police patrolled the area on foot & in groups, in cars and on horse back. While one felt safe to a point, you were never quite sure what might happen and inevitably something did - punches thrown, drugs dealt and taken, drinking spilling onto the streets and onto peoples properties.

Rubbish, bottles, faeces and syringes were the norm on the morning(s) after. Property was damaged, garden beds walked on and destroyed, bottles left smashed on footpaths and roads until the City Cleansing Unit would sweep through every morning and so the 24 hour cycle would repeat itself.

As a resident of Woolloomooloo I am one who is eternally grateful for the Lock Out Laws as they freed up Police resources for Policing (rather than crowd control) and that meant we had more police on the ground down here.

Since the Lock Out Laws came into force I have observed a marked drop in drinking in our public spaces (Woolloomooloo is an Alcohol Free Zone), drug dealing, OD's, public urination, aggression, and other anti-social behaviour.

The roll on effect of the Lock Out Laws has been marked.

It is not about Gentrification, as those who have not lived amongst the alcohol fuelled ugliness call it, it is about Civilisation.

No one would choose to live in a neighbourhood racked by the ramifications of alcohol infused blind drunkenness - urination, defecation, vomiting, aggression, vandalism - as the area once was subjected to.

Kings Cross and Potts Point have come a long way since the Lock Out Laws and I would hope the old days will never be revisited.