

**Submission  
No 428**

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

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It is undeniable that Sydney's night time economy (NTE) has suffered from mismanagement. Over the last decade, Sydney saw a significant increase in the number of people visiting the three main areas of the city – Kings Cross, the CBD and Darling Harbour – on a Friday and Saturday night. Despite the increase in foot traffic, however, venues were left without the support and resources needed to cope with these large volumes.

The government's response in introducing the main reforms in the Liquor Amendment Act 2014 was misconstrued and reactionary. Further, it was done without any consultation with the members of the community most affected by these laws – in flagrant denial of procedural fairness and against all indicators of good public policy. Instead of tackling the problem with evidence-based strategies, the Government chose to penalise everyone for the behaviour of a few.

Sydney's NTE deserves a fair-go.

I put forward 7 key actions which, if implemented together, can achieve the goals of the lockout laws without the severe unintended consequences those laws have had on our city.

Those evidence-based actions are:

1. Developing best-practice policing strategies;
2. Investing in 24/7 public transport;
3. Implementing integrated urban planning reform;
4. Encouraging diversification of after-dark activities;
5. Establishing anti-violence education & intervention campaigns;
6. Incentivising well-run venues; and
7. Appointing a Night Mayor.

Recommendations in respect of the lockout laws are:

1. Removal of the 1:30am lockout;
2. Removal of the restriction on 10pm take-away liquor sales;
3. Removal of the blanket 3:00am cease of service to be replaced with restricted or extended hours on a case-by-case basis; and
4. Removal of the existing liquor freeze.

This submission will first address the limited statistical evidence of a positive impact of the lockout laws on public safety. It will then look at the significant negative economic, social and cultural impact of the lockout laws on industry and the community before providing further detail on the 7 key actions above.