

**Submission
No 441**

SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

Name: Mr Alex Taberner

Date Received: 2 July 2019

I am a 28 year old male and have lived around the Kings Cross area for five years. The lockouts were designed to make people safer, yet now walking home at night through the Cross I feel less safe. The place is a ghost town. It's dark. It's quiet. It's dead. Prior to the lockouts, the area was buzzing. People were out walking the streets. I felt safe.

You cannot call Sydney a vibrant city. A tram line and a convention centre does not make a city vibrant. Culture makes a city vibrant. Our culture at the moment is one of oppression from a state government that prefers high rise slum style accommodation over food, music and arts.

I've been to many cities in the world that do nightlife right - and by right I mean safe. In Austin, Texas, there are two main streets (6th St and Rainey St) with bars and clubs. They are about 1km apart - very similar to Sydney's Kings Cross and Oxford St. In Austin, on Friday and Saturday nights, 6th and Rainey are both closed to traffic. People can bar hop freely and have the space to do so. Police have a presence - but not one of intimidation like in Sydney. They're merely there to keep the peace and support where needed. It works really well. By locking out Kings Cross, the Liberal government has decentralised Sydney's nightlife to the underground. Organisers are now forced to find venues in the suburbs. Why not keep everything contained in one red light district instead of pushing it out to the suburbs? You've only further enhanced the problem...

Another piece I find truly hypocritical is Sydney's public transport. We need 24 hour public transport to ALL parts of the city. The current inner west light rail services from Central to Dulwich Hill cease around 1am. However, the services from Central to the Ca\$ino run 24/7. The government has a duty of care here which they are ignoring. Rather than dropping someone all the way home, they will drop them at the Ca\$ino. It is a disgusting example of where the government's priorities lie.

I can't wait to see these oppressive laws overturned.