

**Submission
No 438**

SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

Name: Mr Paul Hopper

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I'm writing to air my view on the subject of the seemingly increasing heavy handedness of the police & legislation regarding the lock out laws and the Sydney night time economy.

I moved to Sydney in 2005 as i had visited many times and found it to be a vibrant inclusive city with a vibrant nightlife.

Over the years i have seen & experienced a sad downturn in the nightlife and an increasingly intimidating presence by the police.

I am a 48 self employed business person (unrelated to nighttime economy) and therefore contribute to the overall economy in rates / taxes / employment etc.

I enjoy going out and socializing with my freinds who cover a diverse spectrum of ages , careers , genders , sexuality etc.

This weekend I attended the Boy George event at the Ivy , an afternoon event i might add, ive attended thr ivy before and assumed there would be security at a venue such as this so i brought my passport as id as i dont have a driving licence - another now necessary thing i nedd to take going out , having to take id at 48 years old now seems absurd to me.

The additionional police pressence was shocking and overbearing several of my friends were taken a searched for no apparent reason whatsoever- one was actually working as a dj at the event.

Having to have my fave scanned and checked at yhe entrance seems rediculous , is this part of an anti terrorism policy ? Its easier to get into a foreign country than attend an event like this.

Sydneys nightlife is a sorry state of affairs and no longer represents the city that i changed my life to be a part of.

Thankfully some areas that are not part of the lock out have some vibrancy left and should be looked upon as an example.

If there was as much money soent on police before the lockout laws then there would probably never have been as many deaths as apparently started this whole spiral of a situation.

Perhaps we shpuld be more concerned about the environmental big picture than worrying about a few hundred people wanting to go out and dance.