# SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

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I write this as a 'Nightlife Refugee' of sorts.

I left my home town of Sydney in early 2015 after the destruction of the nightlife started to take effect. I thought the lockout laws and restrictive policies would only last a year or two and I'd be able to return to my vibrant city in a year or two. That, this was a small correction and the politicians would realise just how much of an over-reaction the laws were. But I was wrong, the reckless destruction continues, to this day. I now call the UK home, I have freedoms and civil liberties here that NSW never afforded me, and that feels good. I didn't know how many of my rights had been eroded until I left NSW.

Cities need their youth. They need creativity. This is what made a city like Sydney a desirable place to live. Currently, Sydney is rapidly losing the youth, that once used to flock from the country to live in, and indeed the world. They don't want to brave Sydney rents to live in a dull, over-policed city like Sydney.

And it's not just Australia's youth that think this, Sydney now has a world-wide reputation as a boring city not worth visiting. I know this, because everyone in Europe who asks where I'm from immediately tells me that they hear Sydney has really lost it's spark, it's boring, you can't go out, and you can even get strip searched while waiting for a midday train.

And the sad fact is, they are right. They don't bother visiting Sydney, they visit Melbourne if they must go to Australia, but they prefer New Zealand. That would have been laughable 10 years ago but it's exactly what is going on.

Leave it any longer and the city;s reputation will be irreparable.

Either apply the Lockout laws to casinos, or scrap them altogether. Stop police strip searches. Cancel the sniffer dog program, it's dangerous and humiliating for innocent people… and please do it now, before it's too late. Please invest in Sydney's nightlife, it's almost gone forever!