

**Submission
No 435**

SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

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I have been fortunate to travel widely since 1976 both for business and pleasure. I have lived or stayed regularly in some of the great cities of the world as well as some wonderful havens. These include London, Paris, Amsterdam, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Athens, Rome, Istanbul, Washington, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Beijing and with the exception of Beijing, they all have one thing in common, a vibrant night life that attracts tourists, No! not casinos. Sydney used to be one of those cities, but its attraction has been diminished greatly by its active discouragement in the past few years. Recently, on returning to my home town after many years living in the environs of Rome, I went walking in Darling Harbour at 10:30 ish on a Thursday evening. We walked for 40 minutes and found not one bar or eatery open. Why? Because the tourists seem to have stopped coming to Sydney - maybe not the bussed tourists, but definitely the ones seeking a 24 hour city. Maybe we should all go to Melbourne, at least somewhere where there is a wide range of night and late night entertainment and bars/restaurants. Somewhere where the broad range of music lives - whether it be jazz bars, folk groups, classical, concerts or the most modern electronic music - that may not be my favourite but then I'm 70 and I would prefer EM to nothing - to what Korngold called 'The Dead City'. Open up the city again, expand the areas where people can be alive 24 hours a day. Give fun a chance. Maybe follow the Amsterdam 24hr model, or just be like Athens where you arrive at the restaurant at midnight to the sound of the local music.