

**Submission
No 454**

SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

Organisation: Great Southern Bar


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Great Southern Bar

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To whom it may concern,

Sydney-siders participating in social and cultural events during the day, and increasingly at night, are generating significant business and employment opportunities, therefore driving major economic activity within our city. The Great Southern Bar, located at 717 George Street in Haymarket, has been severely impacted from the lockout laws with patron satisfaction and revenue suffering the most. In the first year of the lockout laws, our trading income decreased by 10% and has been on a steady decline over the past 4 years, with less and less people visiting the city.

The City of Sydney's late-night trading plan was passed in May of 2019 to create a '24-hour city'. We strongly believe that, along with retail businesses, bars, pubs and restaurants will be instrumental in ensuring the success of this movement and in making Sydney's nightlife, and economic stand point, great again.

Since the introduction of the lockout laws in 2014, our venue has implemented strategies to ensure and maintain the safety of our staff, patrons and community. Our management of RSA is commendable and statistics show that in 71% of all cases, customers approaching intoxication are stopped upon entry by our staff or security. Regular walk-throughs of the venue and bathrooms are also conducted to make sure our venue is a safe environment. We also have implemented the voluntary platform, Auscomply, whereby management staff and security log all incidences to ensure we are removing threats to patrons and community in an efficient way. Our staff are experienced, practice good RSA and enjoy the transient and international crowd that frequent the Great Southern Bar, and the wider CBD. With the help of the 'zero tolerance' policy and on the spot fines issued by police, we have noticed our patrons are better educated and more aware of the consequences of anti-social behaviour. As a result of our security and community safety precautions, our venue would be more than capable of handling the removal of lockout laws.

Positioned adjacent to Central Station, and underneath a large hotel, we attract patrons from all over the globe. The long-awaited light-rail will also see an influx of people travelling in and around the George St area. Being included as a '24-hour venue' would enable our venue and other bars and pubs to create a fun and vibrant environment for consumers, changing Sydney-siders opinions of the city as 'the worst in the world for nightlife' (Time Out, 2019) to a more positive experience. Since the introduction of lockout laws, Sydney has fallen down the ranks to be voted number 39 in the '48 best cities in the world in 2019' (Time Out,

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2019), which places elevated importance on nightlife and entertainment. The desire for lockout laws to be removed will essentially enhance the overall experience in Sydney and, more importantly, encourage greater economic spend.

In 2014, issues were raised on the welfare of commuters leaving the city during the early hours of the morning. As this time coincides with the taxi-rank shift switch, more patrons were left on the streets approaching intoxication. However, the introduction of the light rail, Uber and other ridesharing companies has provided a safe transportation alternative, reducing the number of people on the streets and increasing the level of safety within the community.

In conclusion, the results of the lockout laws have been detrimental to not only our establishment, but to Sydney's nightlife as a whole. The employment of new forms of transportation, the enforcement of on the spot fines by police and measures taken at a venue-level to maintain and enhance the safety of patrons and the community demonstrates that Sydney is ready for lockout laws to be removed. Together, we can make Sydney great again.

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