

**Submission
No 663**

SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

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As a considered, life-time Sydneysider, the increasing police surveillance of young people is intolerable. Also, the hostile policing of outdoor music and dance is a plank in the definition of a police state. Both must be brought to an end and fast.

Treating young people as criminals by subjecting them to inappropriate searches - both strip and otherwise - in which a majority searches find no illegal substance/object, demonstrate the excessive use of the State to intimidate individual citizens. This is unacceptable in a democracy in which citizens should be free to move around without the threat of police subjecting them unjustifiable interventions.

The history of police abusing LGBTI citizens here is well known as formenting Mardi Gras in 1978. To put our head in the sand and pretend that all the current interventions and surveillance by police today are ok, is to ignore the history of their over-reach and misuse of powers.

Aside from the burgeoning and unnecessary use of searches, the use of police and/or local Government rangers to shut down music on the street, as happened during Vivid, is absurd and laughable if it weren't so offensive; <https://junkee.com/nsw-police-shut-dance-party/208109> and <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/the-feed/nsw-government-rangers-criticised-for-shutting-down-vivid-street-dance-party>.

This is another example of citizens in this state being treated with contempt, as if we are some kind of delinquents. There needs to be an official inquisitorial inquiry into these oppressive practices, in which politicians who represent the people grill Police and/or local government about the reasonableness of these interventions.

This is a golden opportunity to restore to Sydney's night-life a free and open vibe, free from the fear of Police and/or local government rangers over-zealously stamping out citizens engaging in fun, social times.