

**Submission  
No 666**

## **SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY**

**Name:** Mr Matt Newey

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To the Joint Select Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for the removal of the 1.30am lockouts and 3am end-of-service rules, and some further initiatives to make our city a more vibrant/safe place and to foster entrepreneurship.

I have been abroad for a number of years, and the most noticeable change to Sydney, upon my return, is the lack of diversity and evolution across the city. From bars to restaurants to nightlife there is barely anything new where these lock-outs laws exists. Hospitality is a fickle and tough business, and as venues close, new venues are meant to replace them, but the perfect-storm of hostility has stifled this evolution in Sydney. It is a perfect storm of strong growth in rents and low wage growth coupled with frankly anti-business Government regulations that has led to entrepreneurs to simply walking away from the city.

My suggestions for future reforms have mostly been formed by my time living in London, Amsterdam and Vienna.

#### 1. Remove the 1.30am lockouts and 3am end-of-service rules

I believe by lifting these rules it would encourage business to come back to the Sydney. These rules act as a blocker to a creative ventures that build a vibrant city.

Instead of these lock-out the regulations should be more focused on individual problem children, not the industry as a whole, or entire city.

#### 2.. Balanced precincts for entertainment (Decentralised model)

Regulations must foster a a diverse mix of entertainment precincts across the city. There is no point having all the small bars in one suburb and the mega clubs along one street. This a recipe for disaster and would repeat the negative aspects of the once-great King's Cross - everybody in one place. I believe Amsterdam is a good example of this, where they have used licensing and zoning to encourage a decentralisation of entertainment away from the city centre. They have allowed a decommissioned TAFE to be turned into a creative artist commune along with a club, called De School. Or converted an old canteen into a community venue which collaborates with entrepreneurs to showcase new parties, De Marktkantine.

For this to be successful the Government must support businesses through red-tape reduction to obtain licenses in new/usual locations and a more pragmatic approach to dealing with complaints from residents.

#### 3. Public Transport (Increasing connections)

I believe to encourage people to come out at night you must make it safer. And a 24hr public transport options make this possible.