

**Submission  
No 684**

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

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I moved to Sydney from the UK 7 years ago and adore living and working here but current Sydney is a completely different place to the Sydney that I moved to. I have lived around the Darlinghurst/Potts Point Surry Hills area for the majority of my time here and have witnessed a vibrant, exciting nightlife deteriorate to such a point that now the streets are empty even on a weekend by 11pm. It is not just trouble spots in the city and nightclubs for young people that have been affected by the lockout laws it all aspects of nightlife. Live music, late-night restaurants, pubs and wine bars have all been affected because of the unnecessarily strict rules around going out at night. A report from Sydney University states that the reduction in violence is not directly associated with lockout laws, more that it was already declining and now there are just far less people on the street so of course there is less violence. I am a paramedic and see first hand the devastating affects that alcohol-related violence can cause but I cannot see any evidence that punishing everyone in the city with overly strict regulations is helping, rather it is just keeping us in our own homes at night where we have the freedom to enjoy the drinks and music that we like or it is causing people to drink more alcohol prior to leaving home as they know that there will be restrictions on the type of drinks they can consume and the timeframe that they have to do it in. Sydney needs the lockout laws to be abolished and sensible rules implemented. It needs harsher punishments for criminals, not punishment for the vast majority of the general public who just want their city to thrive. I'd love to see the day that Sydney becomes what it was 7 years ago when I moved here. A vibrant, exciting, multi-cultural city that the rest of the world cannot wait to visit!