

**Submission
No 474**

SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

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To whom it may concern

I run a professional business in Sydney and have been very concerned about the lock out laws ever since they were introduced. Businesspeople from interstate or overseas are amazed at Sydney attempting to be a "Global City", but closing down at 1am.

I have two children who are now in their 20's, both who used to go to the Cross to party. Initially I felt some apprehension about them going to this "dangerous area" at night, until I dropped them off and picked them up from the Cross. I then felt that it was such a good idea having all of the party goers who were in their teens and 20's having a place where they knew each other, all the venues were close together and there was a large police presence that would keep trouble at bay or deal with it quickly.

Many of the people there would look out for each other and provide safety in numbers.

I know that young people getting intoxicated is not the best thing for them, but this area seemed to be ideal for them, rather than uncontainably spreading through the city. It also created an interesting atmosphere for other age groups as a place that was lively and vibrant.

I felt that when I was dropping off my kids it was similar to dropping them off at Luna Park; lots of different attractions in a small contained area... even though this was like Lunatic Park, I felt confident that they were safe. My main concern at the time was the lack of proper public transport.

From what I understand, the two unfortunate deaths that occurred at the Cross, for which all of this resulted from had nothing to do with the party goers at night. I have been told that both aggressors, had become drunk somewhere else and then gone to the Cross and committed their aggression. I also understand that both incidences occurred before 10pm.

As a result the lock out laws stopped going to a bar at 1am, which has very little correlation with the problem.. it was almost like something out of Flashdance, where a car accident led to banning of dancing in the town... it did not stop dancing, only moved it to another area.

The Cross is now a completely different area, not better or worse; just different and now like any other Sydney suburb, rather than a vibrant entertainment area. Given that 5 years of these laws have irrevocably transformed this area, with many of the venues permanently closed and apartment blocks rapidly taking their place, like Cortez, they have burned the ships and there is no going back.

However, it is time for Sydney to shake off this temperance, prudish nanny state and act like a Global City. Other major cities in the world and Australia are able to cope with this responsibility. I think it is time for the government to start taking their hands off our civil liberties and treating its citizens as adults, rather than children who are not capable of making their own decisions and being responsible for themselves.