

**Submission
No 719**

SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

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Since the lockout laws were introduced in Sydney there has been a severe decline in the wellbeing, happiness and cultural life of our community.

The lockout laws have caused the closure of many music venues, which has had a terrible impact on the live music scene in Sydney. As a musician I have been severely affected by the lockout laws as there are less venues to play at, therefore less work. Many musicians I know have been forced to move to Melbourne. Sydney used to be a vibrant city with many options for entertainment every evening and a rich cultural life. Now there is hardly anything to do, and people are unhappy.

Because there are no places for people to go out late in Surry Hills (where I live) there has been an increase in people being out on the street late with nothing to do. This causes more violence and crime, not less.

No one I know from out of town wants to visit anymore because Sydney now has a reputation as being one of the most boring cities to visit in the world. This is not good for our economy. Sydney's night-time economy is worth more than \$4 billion to the NSW economy and employs over 35,000 people.

The NSW Government needs to implement an evidence-based approach to Sydney's nightlife.

Sydney should have 24 hours public transport on Friday and Saturday nights, like other capital cities.

Concentrations of people in particular areas, eg in Newtown since the lockout laws, is causing more problems. The government should encourage nightlife all across the city.

Rather than punishing everyone in Sydney, the government should encourage good management of liquor licences by providing incentives .