

**Submission  
No 529**

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

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As a musician, my whole life is music. Since I finally turned 18 and had the opportunity to experience live music in Sydney, the lockout laws decimated not only the number of people going out but more importantly the culture, and the number of venues that could even survive, let alone thrive.

In my last semester of a bachelor of music, I can't even find \*unpaid\* work in the industry here, let alone a job! There are simply not enough opportunities, and with almost 200 venues closing indirectly due to the lockout laws and similar restrictions on civil liberties, it's easy to see what went wrong. The music industry is already so competitive, so underfunded and underappreciated, and ALREADY has one of the worst records for mental health out of any industry (lots of studies, google it).

All this talk of jobs and growth... Decimating NSW music industry and nighttime economy just to please rich boomers with property investments, in a city where I CAN NOT AFFORD TO MOVE OUT... the culture suffers, youth suffer and become EVEN MORE disenfranchised with the state of politics in this country.

I meet many young international travelers to Australia, and all of them tell me that Sydney is hugely disappointing, with no culture, no nightlife and an absurd/alarming level of fun policing. They all couldn't wait to get out of here, just like a lot of my musician friends (and me). People are fleeing to Melbourne, to Europe etc, anywhere where MUSIC is APPRECIATED as art and as culture, and not treated like some dirty little phase that kids go through and need to be protected from.

After traveling to about 40 countries, including communist(!) countries, I find it UNFATHOMABLE that it is here in Sydney, where I have lived my entire life, that I feel I have by far the least freedom. It makes me sick that a government feels it's okay to give me a bed-time, or tell me when it's okay to listen to music or drink a beer. The only other time I experienced a curfew was in Bangkok when there was literally a military coup.

Australian politicians need to use some of those insanely overpaid travel allowances to see something outside of this island. The ignorance to the rest of the world blows me away, so many cities have used culture and arts to attract more skilled, educated and wealthy residents, thus it is a huge factor in promoting gentrification (which is the goal of building all these high-rises, and redevelopments no?).

People are so unhappy with politics here, you need to start listening. Look at how many people support movements like Keep Sydney Open and ACKNOWLEDGE that it is just insane how many people have been adversely affected by these laws. The laws themselves have not even achieved anything, they simply pushed hetero and violent people into the once alternative and LGBT safe areas like Newtown, or toward the casino! Conveniently Sydney's most violent venue by far and yet somehow exempt from the laws intended to prevent violence...? No one buys it, Sydney has become a hall of smoke and mirrors, under the table deals and a tangible OBSESSION with money. A once promising global city, now devoid of any semblance of culture or civil liberty, I feel genuine shame telling people that I am from here, and I can not begin to imagine how hugely my life has been affected by the lack of opportunities here for musicians, deliberately stripped from us by our own government, telling us it's for our own good.