

**Submission
No 600**

SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

Name: Mr Alex Blokh

Date Received: 2 July 2019

Dear Hon Members of NSW Parliament,

I make this Submission in relation to current "lock out" laws. Those laws were made as a response to two incidents of unprovoked violence ("king huts") that resulted in deaths. In particular, death of a very young person.

As shocking and outrageous as it was, responding with blanket "lockout laws" was absolutely unwarranted and outright incorrect.

The media blew out mass hysteria, and the official response was lynching of venues.

Nothing more, nothing less.

The route of the problem is not the lockout after certain times.

It is the behaviour of certain individuals. And if they want to get themselves into insane condition, they can do it well before lockout time.

Also, nothing stops them getting liquor at the store, drinking home to insanity and then go outside.

What we need is a complex approach.

1) Lift the lockout laws and allow venues to trade 24/7.

2) At the same time, provide public transport 24/7 (buses, trains) so people can get home by public transport, rather than getting behind the wheels while being drunk. Not everyone may have enough money left for a taxi.

3) Monitor venues for behaviour of patrons and staff. If a venue allows an already intoxicated person to continue to buy drinks, perhaps liquor license is not the most appropriate thing for such a venue. Cut down of hours of trade, as well as a warning, could be a first step in bringing the venue to required standards. And visa versa: venues with staff ensuring good behaviour of patrons should be rewarded with 24 hour licenses.

4) "Put more police" notion, and especially "give more powers to police", are similar hysteria-based measures akin to lynching. The number of police should be as appropriate for certain places. "More" does not necessarily mean crime will be gone.

5) Educating people is another measure to address the problems. All these measures should be done in complex.

Thank you,

Yours sincerely,

Alex Blokh