

**Submission
No 546**

SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

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Date Received: 2 July 2019

"The NSW Government's lockout laws were a sledgehammer blow to Sydney's night-life when what we needed was carefully considered and evidence-based policies to ensure a safe and diverse city for all residents and visitors... The state government's lockout laws have had an enormous effect on Sydney's night-time economy..." - Lord Mayor Clover Moore.

This is evidence that the decision to operate the lock-out laws was not in the interest of the community, even within the NSW government itself. How could this decision be considered..considered!

Music, the arts, and the late-night economy itself, are an expression of our culture. It is an international language that unites people from all walks of life.

The arts are not essential for our survival, but it is what give value and joy to our existence. It is intangible from our cultural heritage and without culture we have nothing.

These laws are not solving the problems of violence and drug and alcohol abuse. We need social services and support those with issues, not a jail cell and city wide curfew. I feel as if part of my youth has been robbed by this government. Friends move interstate, musicians I have wanted see perform refuse to visit Sydney, festivals get shut down and fear is instilled by unnecessary strip searches and abuse of power.

I was always taught as a child that I was responsible for my own actions, however it seems as if a whole state is being punished for the actions of a minute handful. This hardly seems fair and is quite contradictory to the ethical teachings that are instilled into us at a very young age. Make those responsible accountable for their own actions! I have never been in an altercation in my entire life, and have still managed to attend countless live music events, spent nights at bars and clubs and roam the streets of Sydney under the influence of alcohol, as have all of my friends, family and essentially every single person I have spoken to about the subject. Why am I suffering for the actions made by others?

Please reconsider the existing Lock-out laws and Sydney's dwindling late night economy extensively and thoughtfully. There are businesses willing to operate late at night, and customers are willing to purchase goods and services late at night. What gives you the right to determine when a business can operate? What if the standard '9-5' business hours doesn't align with everyone's way of life?

You are literally crippling your own economy for no justified reason; a knee-jerk reaction to an issue without extensive thought or consideration of the wider community. This cannot continue; Sydney's reputation cannot withstand such nonsense for much longer. We are already the laughing stock of the world. I remember being told to go to bed as a kid and thinking 'when I grow up, I will be able to stay up as long as I like!'. How naive of me.

Please don't ruin this already incredible city. I want to stand proud and let everyone know that I am from Sydney - a place that accepts other cultures, thoughts and beliefs and allows those to express their ideas and emotions in what ever way they see fit, whether it be through music, arts or whatever medium they decide.