

**Submission
No 614**

SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

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Date Received: 2 July 2019

Please consider the reasons why the lock-out laws were first introduced.

The lock-out laws were introduced to curb alcohol-related violence. Now, five years on Sydney's nightlife has a bedtime and the city's vibrance and culture is no where to be seen. As an employee of one of the CBDs local hotspot and as a young Australian I urge you to reconsider the lock-out laws. I encourage you to revise the initial reasoning for their introduction. Sydney's nightlife can be just as safe as it can be fun and exciting.

In the last 5 years, many things have changed in order to keep up with a 24hr world. One thing in particular is how people are getting around. Ubers, rideshares & new public transport infrastructure means getting home is now a lot easier than it was a few years ago. In 2014, as a 20 year old female I was left stranded after a night out. Trains would stop from midnight, and buses would stop not long after that. Fast-forward to 2019, there are buses that travel to the furthest parts of Sydney all night long. The new metro line has just opened, with other transport infrastructure only a couple more years away from competition. It seems that Sydney is doing what it can to prepare for a city that is always open... yet it's not. Please consider that Sydney is not what it once was in 2014. It is a city that is eager to receive a second chance and prove that its citizens have worked hard to open it up again.

As someone who is working in the marketing department at the 3 Wise Monkeys – a CBD local hotspot, my job has become very challenging as the lock-out laws continue to be enforced. The fact that venues advertise that they are 'outside the lock-out zones' is enough to prove how damaging the laws are on a business and their brand. Our venue was sustained by visitors from outside Sydney who were attracted to the beautiful city's nightlife. It is very difficult to sell the idea that the city is awake when the government insists on overstepping our freedom and taking away the exciting nature of leisurely activities.

Sydney is ready to be a 24 hour city, it just needs someone to cut the ribbon. Please consider the reasons why the lock-out laws were first introduced. There was no intention on creating a ghost town. With this in mind, we should not punish our locals and visitors with a lifeless nightlife. Sydney can be just as safe as it can be fun and exciting.