

**Submission
No 725**

SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

Name: Mr Philip Gannon

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To whom it may concern,

After 4 plus years of legislation I feel that it is time we repealed these laws. As a lifelong member of the hospitality industry the effect it has had on Sydney's night time economy is huge. Deloitte recently valued it at 16 billion dollars lost. Primarily this is money not spent on the night time economy but also on a loss of tourism. People simply won't come to a city that shuts down at 9pm no matter what night of the week it is. Melbourne is now ranked globally as the second best city in the world for entertainment while Sydney has dropped to 39th. The difference? Melbourne adopted progressive laws towards their city at night. The lockouts were suggested and after public protest rejected. This public stance helped the Melbourne government come up with alternative options to make the city safer. The upshot of this is that Melbourne tourism has steadily risen while Sydney has slowly faded.

Apart from the economic benefits however there has also been a shift in our habits. Any of the big alcohol companies can provide data to show that drinking habits have changed dramatically. People are drinking less but drinking better. We have adopted a quality over quantity approach to alcohol. Both big beer companies have launched mid strength beers as a result of market sampling which indicates that younger people no longer want to go out to get drunk, but just to socialise.

Certainly as someone who has worked in the CBD for a number of years both before and after the lockouts, I'm aware there were rogue operators in the hospitality industry. But I feel it has become clear that a blanket approach to restrictions is not a solution that benefits the masses. Surely there must be some way for venues to continue to work closely with police to provide a safe environment for the public. At the same time those venues that continue to operate outside the law should face harsher penalties which restrict their trade.

I thank you for your time in reading this submission.