

**Submission  
No 621**

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

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When many people think of Sydney at it's prime - we reflect on the year 2000, the Olympics and the warm glow that lasted 5 or so years afterwards.

A city that had been scrubbed clean for the world to see. Thriving nighttime economy. Restaurants, shopping, beaches, the Harbour - Sydney had it all.

While it is true Sydney still retains its natural beauty (and will probably always have this).

The thriving, dynamic, exciting truly cosmopolitan city has been replaced with an establishment so restricted where any law abiding person can't enjoy a drink, at the venue of their choice, in the manner of their choice, at the time of their choice because of an over-legislated environment that chooses to punish the very many (literally every resident of Sydney) for the sins of a very minute few.

There are researchers and businesses who are much better positioned to comment on the economic impact that these laws have had on our city and I will leave it for them to make these cases far more compellingly and eloquently than I ever could.

But what I can say, without shadow of a doubt, is the life and soul of Sydney has been sucked out of our city. Bars, clubs and the businesses surrounding have shut down at an alarming rate. Taxi drivers can't find a job. It used to be you couldn't get home at 2am because the scarcity of taxis. Now as you step out of a venue, five of them pull up, eager for your fare.

So while our cousins in Melbourne laugh at us and mock our lock down city - I wonder why we have this curfew imposed on us. Is it not the right of law abiding citizens to make choices about where they go and what they do, so long as it doesn't cause harm to themselves or anyone else?

These lockout laws NEED to go, in addition, many of the alcohol consumption laws that are married to it need to be reviewed and FURTHER. The government needs to make a significant investment into injecting lifeblood back into the night time precincts that were killed in the process.

OH and public transport should be 24/7.