

**Submission  
No 633**

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

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## Submission to official inquiry into Sydney's Night Time Economy:

A vibrant nightlife is important to both the community as well as to encourage and support a more viable visitor economy. It is an essential element of the World's most popular and renowned global cities. The situation relating to the current lock-out laws in Sydney have done little to address the underlying issues regarding safety and have significantly impacted on the vibrancy of Sydney's night time economy as well as its international reputation. At best, Sydney is perceived as boring by night - at worst, a so-called nanny-State.

Credible global research into travel and tourism by organisations such as SKIFT and Phocuswright demonstrates the importance of the food and drink offering of a destination as part of its appeal. It reinforces the value of a vibrant night time economy.

The regulation would not have prevented the tragic incident that ultimately led to the lock-out laws, which occurred early in the evening. A more strategic and balanced approach that allows people to enjoy their leisure time should be a clear priority. As history has demonstrated, prohibition is not the answer. Furthermore, the application of these regulations by allowing exclusions for the casino and other areas outside a specific zone undermines the credibility of the process and purpose. Gambling is as detrimental to people's well-being as excessive drinking. The current situation was developed in response to society's worst-case scenario, negatively impacting on the lifestyle and diversity of opportunities for enjoyment of the majority of our community. I urge the Committee to reconsider these draconic measures and restore Sydney's night time economy.