

**Submission
No 651**

SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

Organisation: JM Ryan's Hotels Pty Ltd

Date Received: 2 July 2019

Joint Select Committee On Sydney's Night Time Economy
Submission by John M Ryan – JM Ryan's Hotel's Pty Ltd

Qualifications:

Licensee – Ryan's Bar since opening 1992-2011

Covent Garden Hotel since May 2018

I have held a license in Sydney for 30 years continuously since June 1989.

I have owned three venues in the lockout precinct, sold one in 2012 and currently have two venues being Ryan's Bar and The Covent Garden Hotel. My family also own three other venues in the lockout area which are the Ship Inn, Orient and Paragon Hotel.

Issues:

Public Transport; Buses, trains, light rail and ferry services running efficiently and in conjunction to meet client demands particularly later at night.

Private Transport; Easy city access to taxis and Uber pick-up and drop-off points.

Council:

Council must accept that late trading hotels and bars incorporating a differing array of entertainment including DJ's and bands are part of, and at the heart of, a vibrant city nightlife in Sydney's CBD. Crowds, noise and people on the street is at the core of any successful entertainment precinct world-wide.

Policing:

The attitude of police to the public and vice versa must change. The attitude of policing over the years from the goodwill and concern for the public at night to a far more aggressive form of control and regulations, particularly toward licensed venues and more disturbingly to a whole generation of younger people in social situations, has swung too far. There is now an obvious culture of disrespect on both sides that will takes years to recover from, even if inclination is there to do so.

A constant presence of police on the street in the non-threatening capacity, which was until several years ago the case, would be highly beneficial in terms of public safety and goodwill.

Any bad behaviour on the street should not automatically be attributed to hotels which are too easy to blame and target collectively.

Penalties towards licensed premises should be selective and not universal. In all instances the size and capacity of the venues as well the degree of severity of the assault/incident should be considered. Those venues and licensees that do not comply with their liquor licence, DA conditions, RSA and Liquor Accord conditions should be penalised accordingly. However, those venues that do operate within the boundaries of their approvals should not be detrimentally affected by a one punishment fits all approach.

I support the submission by the AHA that the current powers of the Liquor Act 2007 are comprehensive enough to regulate non-compliant operators and that the blanket lock-out laws should be abolished.



John M Ryan

Managing Director – JM Ryan's Hotels Pty Ltd