

**Submission
No 749**

SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

Hi.

I'm writing to recommend a repeal of the lockout laws as part of the Joint Select Committee on Sydney's night time economy.

The lockout laws have decimated Sydney's night life. What was once an exciting and vibrant city with plenty of nighttime entertainment options, has effectively been shut down. This has turned the entire city into a ghost town at night. As a result many places feel less safe than they did before as there are no people around. Shops, bars, clubs, restaurants and many other businesses have been forced to close during this time due to a lack of patronage. It's really sad to see this happen to an otherwise great city.

Sydney is now a joke and an embarrassment overseas. Everywhere we travel we get asked about what is going on in our home town. Sydney will never become a truly global city with such restrictions in place (not to mention the oppressive police force, random strip searches, festivals shutting down, clubs going out of business, and on and on). These days it is a really depressing place to live with way too many rules and restrictions. We often talk of leaving and living elsewhere.

It's outrageous that an entire city of millions of people is being punished due to the actions of a few. The incidents that first initiated the lockouts didn't even occur late at night and had no relevance to licensed venues. The lockouts in turn have just dispersed assaults and other crime to surrounding areas (such as Newtown). Before the lockouts it was much easier to police everything in one area (i.e. city and Kings Cross).

Instead of locking everyone out of venues, throwing them out into the streets at the same time, and placing restrictions on late night entertainment, the government should instead look at increasing police numbers at night, adding more public transport options, and creating a new position for a Night Mayor.

All lockout and alcohol consumption rules should be removed so we can return to how the city has been in the decades prior. We are grown adults and should be allowed to make our own decisions on where to go and when. We should be able to have shots after midnight should we choose, or drink an expensive scotch without being forced to add a mixer.

Another issue is venues and parties being restricted or shut down due to noise complaints from single individuals. In many cases these individuals have moved into the area well after the local pub or club had been established. Instead new apartment blocks should be responsible for blocking out any noise, and anyone moving into the area should not be able to make noise complaints which in turn change the nature of the area.

Finally restrictions such as the lockouts are turning away young workers and talent. At least 30 of our close friends have moved to Melbourne. It is not a fun place to come and work, and also blow off steam.

The City of Sydney's recent push to revive the night-time economy is a step in the right direction, however it is utterly pointless with the lockouts in place. It would be great to see the kind of vibrancy again across the city that we had back during the 2000 Olympics.

I would like to see the NSW Government take the following action:

- Repeal the lockout laws;
- Establish 24 hour public transport from Friday to Sunday night to give people a way to get home;

- Support the City of Sydney's plans to establish a 24 hour city centre, increase trading hours for low impact venues in local centres and establish a late night trading precinct in Alexandria.
- Support 'agent of change' laws and entertainment precincts to protect existing live music venues from noise complaints.

