

**Submission
No 553**

SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

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I support a complete repeal of the lockout laws. It is embarrassing that a city which markets itself as an international city has such strict restrictions on its nightlife.

In relation to the lockout for clubs, this is a further and unnecessary impediment on doing business in NSW. Many businesses are doing it tough right now in Sydney. When I walk around the areas affected by the lockout I see many empty shops and "for lease" signs. Many of those businesses were (and always are) doing it tough. But the lockout laws have pushed them into closing down entirely. These laws are arbitrarily punishing business and creating impediments to commerce. They are also unnecessarily restricting people's freedom to enjoy themselves or have a good time. It makes no sense to me that, due to the actions of a few individuals from years ago, and at times of night that bear no relationship to the time of application of the lockout laws, that there ought be a restriction on when a business in certain geographic locations can accept a new customer at night. These restrictions are arbitrary, unfair and unjust.

In relation to the lockout for the sale of liquor after 10.00pm from bottle shops, I consider that this restriction is counter-productive. It is bizarre that I cannot go down the road to purchase a bottle of wine after 10.00pm to consume at home. And if the intent of Parliament is to reduce people going out, then why prevent people from purchasing liquor to consume at home? It occasionally happens that one might not have any wine or a particular spirit at home, and I do not understand why there ought be a restriction on my ability to address that, particular when I have friends over at home or who are on their way to have a drink with me in my home (or vice versa). Again, this restriction is arbitrary and unfair and punishes local businesses. It also unnecessarily restricts the freedom of citizens to enjoy themselves or interact with one another.