

**Submission
No 750**

SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

Name: Mr William Mansfield

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Dear Joint Select Committee on Sydney's night time economy,

It gives me great pleasure to lodge this submission to call for a review of the current lockout laws currently crippling our dear city of Sydney. Immediate action must be taken to remove these laws if we wish for Sydney to be a culturally vibrant and diverse global metropolis.

This debate is something that is very close to my heart as I met my wife on the dance floor of Candy's Apartment in Kings Cross after a gig, who I now have two children with. This chance encounter would never have happened in this era of the lockout laws. I also spent my early adulthood playing in bands that gigged around the city in venues that no longer exist and I am devastated that this experience doesn't now exist for the next generation of musicians and artists. This is impacting the creative outlet and much needed critical forum of performance, stifling the creative life blood of our city.

I believe that the removal of these lockout laws needs to be accompanied by a wider reform such as 24-hour trains and other public transport to ensure people can get home late at night and that there isn't mass groups congregating in the streets. We need better management of liquor licenses including incentives for good management and penalties for badly managed venues. We need to foster and strengthen a more diverse night economy of eateries/ restaurants, small bars, retail shops, galleries, theatres, comedy clubs, performance venues, night markets, cinemas, bowling alleys etc that cater to a wider age range of people this will assist in creating a safer environment and a closer knit community. We need policies that spread venues out, rather than concentrating them in areas like Kings Cross. I believe that greater activation of public spaces with public art and video/ light installation will build a greater identity and sense of belonging to the city of Sydney and as a result will in turn deepen a sense of respect to place and others. I support the idea of appointing a Night Mayor to oversee these night time activities, who would work together with business owners in formulating a strategy to reshape Sydney's night life. I welcome the call to for all creatives - artists, musicians and writers etc to form a consultation board to offer feedback on proposed plans.

There certainly was a great energy and momentum in the city prior to the heavy handed lockout laws. Places like Kings Cross and the city were hubs for creative minds to perform, collaborate and share ideas in form of music expression and also a place where locals and tourists could socialise, dance, eat, drink and relax. The small bar scene was burgeoning and there was a feeling as if something very European was taking shape. Let's return our city back to the people and pick up where we started and build a safe vibrant and diverse global city of Sydney that is the envy of the rest of the world.

I am very optimistic that the Joint Select Committee will do the right thing and overturn this archaic law and implement an evidence-based approach with stimulating reform.