

**Submission
No 554**

SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

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Date Received: 2 July 2019

Very much against the lockout laws for a number of reasons. As a long term resident of the City of Sydney I am constantly appalled at actions by the NSW liberal party who on this and many other matters have made rulings that have huge negative effects on the people of Sydney while they seem content to completely ignore us.

I have worked in Erskineville for 6 years now and have spoken to literally thousands of locals as a hospitality worker and am yet to meet a single person who thinks the lockout laws have had anything other than a negative effect on Newtown and Sydney in general. King St Newtown is comparable to a zoo on Friday and Saturday nights as locals are forced from the streets to make way for outer suburb types who used to frequent the city before the lockout laws. While the stats on violence do reflect a slight rise in violence in the Inner West as a result they're ignoring the verbal abuse and intimidation which again, I couldn't tell you of a single local who isn't convinced it's a result of the lockouts.

The CBD has obviously suffered the most impact as we have become an international embarrassment, killing a nightlife icon like Kings Cross to seemingly assist developers while the hospitality and tourism market has suffered huge losses. The hardest pill to swallow is that the NSW Libs tried to convince us that this had anything to do with violence when the most violent venue in NSW was made exempt from the laws.

Sydney has, as a result of these ridiculous laws, lost a huge chunk of our culture that may be near impossible to bring back. These laws have conditioned Sydney residents to stay in at night, and sent a message to the rest of the country, and the world, that Sydney is not the kind of place you can have fun in, especially after dark. We've lost out to Melbourne in every way but the weather and considering this governments stance on climate change that may well change in the not too distant future too.

In essence, I firmly believe that the lockout laws have not curbed violence in any way other than reducing the amount of people around, they have spread the issues to areas less equipped to handle the drama while not even trying to hide the fact that the entire exercise either proves gross mismanagement on the governments behalf, or plain old open corruption with developers and the casino, I'm not sure which one is worse.