

**Submission
No 672**

SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

Organisation: Tourism & Transport Forum (TTF)

Date Received: 1 August 2019

29 July 2019

The Hon. Natalie Ward MLC

Chair - Joint Select Committee on Sydney's Night Time Economy
NSW Parliament
6 Macquarie Street
Sydney, NSW 2000

By email to NightTimeEconomy@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Chair

Tourism & Transport Forum Australia (TTF) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Joint Select Committee's inquiry into Sydney's night time economy.

TTF is the peak national industry group for the tourism, transport and aviation sectors, representing some of the most prestigious corporations across these sectors from airlines and airports to major hotel and restaurant groups and shared transport providers.

NSW is nation's powerhouse tourism state and topped the most recent international visitation categories, attracting 50.9 per cent of visitors and 36 per cent of visitor nights.

However, Victoria is catching up, growing 5 per cent in the visitors' category between 2018 and 2019 while NSW only grew 0.3 per cent, and growing 5.6 percent in the visitor nights category, compared to 3.2 per cent in NSW.

Tourism generates over \$40 billion in consumption across NSW and provides over 171,000 direct jobs across the State, with much of this heavy tourism lifting being done in and around inner-Sydney. With increased support for a safe and vibrant night time economy, there is the potential for tourism to make an even bigger contribution to the NSW economy.

In order to continue this growth, some key reforms must be made to achieve a safe yet vibrant night-time economy that will be attractive to visitors and locals alike.

Firstly, a broader response to the issue of alcohol-related violence could be more successful in addressing the issues rather than the existing draconian lock out laws, which should be removed. This response should include:

- consistent enforcement of Responsible Service of Alcohol laws across all licensed venues, encouraging measures that promote personal responsibility,
- the provision of quality education and training for licensed venues, and
- collaboration with these venues on measures that promote safety and discourage illegal and anti-social behaviour.

Secondly, the NSW Government must work with relevant local governments to create designated rideshare pick up and drop off zones in areas of busy night time activity. These should operate only on certain days and at certain times, like commercial loading zones. The introduction of ride-sharing to Sydney has increased the options for customers heading home at night and must be supported as part of a safe and vibrant night time economy.

Finally, train and light rail services should be extended to 24-hour schedules on Friday and Saturdays (like Melbourne and London) aligned with the operating hours of commercial precincts, to move people around the city and to key centres across Greater Sydney quickly and safely.

Sydney's night time economy is an integral part of the city's commercial, cultural and social fabric. On a broader spectrum, this economy plays a pivotal role in NSW, attracting interstate and international visitors that come to experience all that Sydney and Australia has to offer.

The Joint Select Committee should consider these recommendations to improve Sydney's night time areas, which would make the City more vibrant and easier to visit and move around in, for locals and visitors alike, which would improve the city and the NSW economy as a result.

Yours sincerely



Margy Osmond
Chief Executive Officer
Tourism & Transport Forum (TTF) Australia