

**Submission  
No 791**

## **SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY**

**Organisation:** City of Melbourne

**Date Received:** 22 July 2019

**TO THE JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE FOR THE INQUIRY INTO SYDNEY'S NIGHT-TIME ECONOMY  
JULY 2019**

Thank you for considering my late submission to this inquiry.

My name is Anne Malloch and I am Team Leader City Issues in the City of Melbourne. The City Issues Team provides city safety, crime prevention and harm minimisation expertise; addresses related emerging issues; delivers strategic activities and influences policy to create a city that is safer for people.

One particular area of focus is the impact of alcohol – both positive and negative – on the municipality.

Following discussions with the Night Time Manager at the City of Sydney Council, I understand the Joint Select Committee may benefit from gaining an understanding of the operation of and outcomes from the Melbourne Licensees Forum.

**BACKGROUND**

The City of Melbourne established the Melbourne Licensees Forum some 23 years ago. Violence, primarily amongst young men, was a major community concern. Very high levels of arrests for assault and drunk and disorderly were a common scenario played out every weekend. The Central Business District's Westend was the key location with more than 36 late night licensed premises within three and a half city blocks of King Street. In 1996, which now seems relegated to a distant time in history, the Bulletin Magazine (Australia's version perhaps, of Time Magazine) named King Street as Australia's worst street.

The nightclub industry applied for Federal Government funding to develop a partnership initiative to address the issues. When unsuccessful in gaining funding the City of Melbourne decided to fund the initiative.

This initiative acknowledged the important role of licensed premises in ensuring a safe city and the need to collaboratively address licensing issues across the central city. It is notable that the Forum has continued without a break since October 1995. The late night venue licensees, Victoria Police command and licensing police, City of Melbourne executive and officers, Victorian Commission for Gaming, Licensing and Regulation and the private security industry were all involved in the establishment and continued development of the Forum. This partnership was integral to our success, and continues to this day. Victoria Police local Inspectors chair both the Forum and its Steering Committee.

The Melbourne Licensees Forum Steering Committee provides the strategic leadership and builds high level partnerships between the key stakeholders to achieve vibrant and safe late night environments across the city. The Committee comprises government and industry representatives and guides the activities, agendas and strategic direction of the Forum.

**CURRENT STATUS**

The Forum meets quarterly. Its average attendance is 60 plus licensees, industry representatives, and representatives of authorities. The City of Melbourne continues to perform the duties of executive officer and the coordination and facilitation of the development of initiatives.

Key achievements include:

1. Establishment of a relationship between industry and government that is collaborative, trusted and addresses problem solving with success;
2. Involvement of licensees in the development and ownership of initiatives to address identified issues;
3. Providing the basis for a vibrant and successful night time economy.

**DOCUMENTS FOR REFERENCE.**

1. Melbourne Licensees Forum Terms of Reference 2004
2. Melbourne Licensees Forum Steering Committee Terms of Reference 2019
3. City Licensees Forum outcomes report 2002
4. Licensees Safety Summit outcomes (an initiative of the Licensees Forum Steering Committee) 2009
5. Evaluating industry leadership and collaboration in addressing alcohol issues late at night in the City of Melbourne 2011

**CONNECTING WITH CITY OF SYDNEY**

The Cities of Melbourne and Sydney, along with the other capital cities, connect regularly through the Local Government Safe Cities Network, which is meets under the banner of the Council of Capital City Lord Mayors. In 20In This presentation tells the story of how a local government – in this case a capital city local government - can rise to the challenge of managing the city environment at night.

In 2009 I presented to the Australian Institute of Urban Studies in Sydney, on the City of Melbourne’s approach to managing a 24 hour city environment to achieve recognisable and sustainable change, and identify local solutions that could help us balance the competing needs of an increasingly vibrant mixed use city.

On 28 August 2019 the City of Melbourne is hosting a delegation from Sydney, to meet with members of the Steering Committee and observe the next Melbourne Licensees Forum. The delegation comprises:

NSW Police	
Liquor & Gaming NSW	
AHA NSW	
City of Sydney Council	

I would be happy to speak with the Joint Select Committee via teleconference if the Committee has any questions regarding the operation of or outcomes from the Melbourne Licensees Forum.



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