

Submission
No 187

**INQUIRY INTO THE MUSIC AND ARTS ECONOMY IN
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

About a year ago, I ran into a couple on a Friday night who asked where “everyone goes” now that Hugo’s has shut.

The couple were in their late 40’s, and as we waited for the lights struck up a conversation. As it happens, it was their wedding anniversary, they had just been to see a show at the State Theatre, and as it was a warm night decided to stroll home to Paddington stopping at a bar or two on the way. My answer to their question was, “Everyone stays home. Who goes out now?” Which is when the conversation led to how sad we all were to see our once vibrant nightlife in our wonderful city die, all for the actions of a few bad eggs. How it felt to be treated like children. How disappointing it was that our state government makes knee jerk decisions rather than following the proven and successful examples of other global cities in their effective weekend policing and transport strategies.

The answers to a safe night life are all there. They are tried and tested, they are proven and effective. A government’s job is to implement policies which balance the needs of the community. Any government who gets this balance wrong by wilfully ignoring the community and treating adults like children will soon see themselves sitting back on the opposite side of the chamber.

Look abroad for real solutions.