

Summary Report – Meeting No. 2

Roundtable Meetings – Developing a safe, strong and vibrant night-time economy for Sydney

Roundtable Meeting No. 2 – Developing workable solutions for Sydney’s night-time economy

Date	Thursday 28 April 2016
Time	10.00am – 1.00pm
Attendees	ClubsNSW, Tourism & Transport Forum, Restaurant & Catering Association, 2011 Residents’ Association, The Star Entertainment Group, Treasury, Music NSW, Planning and Design NSW, Uber Australia, Crown Resorts, City Resident Action Groups, Committee for Sydney, Australasian College of Surgeons, Australian Hotels Association, Live Music Office, City of Sydney Council, NSW Police Force, Liquor Stores Association, Greater Sydney Commission, NSW Health, Department of Premier & Cabinet, Liquor & Gaming NSW, NSW Taxi Council, Department of Justice, Destination NSW, Police Association of NSW, Transport NSW, Office of the Small Business Commissioner, Keep Sydney Open
Apologies	Drug and Alcohol Coordination (NSW Police Force), St Vincent’s Hospital

Introduction

The NSW Government is holding a series of three roundtable meetings to examine the challenges and opportunities for growing a safe and vibrant night-time economy in Sydney.

The outcomes from the roundtable meetings will be presented to Government, and will also be considered as part of the independent Liquor Law Review being undertaken by the Hon. Ian Callinan AC QC.

A key outcome for the roundtables is to identify strategies and actions that are new and innovative. It is therefore important that the roundtable discussions are wide ranging and do not have too narrow a focus. Discussion of successful strategies adopted by night-time economies in other cities is encouraged.

The second roundtable, held on 28 April 2016, focused on identifying workable solutions and discussing strategies and ideas that are new and innovative for the development of Sydney’s night-time economy.

2016 Night Mayor Summit in Amsterdam

The Roundtable Chair, Ms Samantha Torres, and other roundtable participants who also attended (Ms Suzie Matthews and Mr Tyson Koh), spoke about their experiences attending the 2016 Night Mayor Summit in Amsterdam – which brought together people from around the world whose role it is to drive initiatives that support the economic and cultural value of the night:

- The conference involved diverse perspectives and presentations. While there are important contextual differences between NSW and Europe, in terms of operating and licensing, it was noted that it is important to decouple night-time and vibrancy from the licensing of 24-hour venues.
- Important differences between Sydney/NSW and Amsterdam are: in Amsterdam, the location of 24-hour licensed venues is much more dispersed; in Amsterdam, 24-hour venues have only been in place for the last three years, so there is a need to watch this space. The entire model for the night-time economy in Europe is very different to ours; European cities have later opening and closing times across the board – including later opening museums, retail and other services. While NSW has more in common with the US context, Sydney needs to blaze its own trail.
- In Sydney, we can at times be parochial and think the issues we have are ours alone. It's not true that in Europe people don't experience alcohol-related problems and anti-social behaviour etc. Europe has its own problems. For instance, Amsterdam is a place that some people go to for the purpose of 'getting completely wasted'.
- Cultivation of a strong night-time economy cannot be done without collaboration – it needs to involve residents, government and industry.
- The night-time economy is not solely for the under 25s. We have an ageing population and our night-time economy needs to accommodate a mix of options that appeal to people of all ages.
- Intent and recognition are very important. When we recognise the night-time economy is vital to a global hub, we have the intent to put the right strategies in place. This could be a range of things that contribute to people's experience of the city – from graffiti murals in city streets, being able to see a live band, and going shopping late at night etc.

Summary of participant perspectives

Developing workable solutions for Sydney's night-time economy

A summary of possible workable solutions and strategies for developing a safe, strong and vibrant night-time economy for Sydney discussed by participants in Roundtable No. 2 is outlined below. Further discussion is scheduled for Roundtable No. 3 around outcomes, actions and accountabilities.

Possible strategies and solutions for consideration for the key themes focused on:

a) Planning, design and place making / place management

Ideas for consideration focused on:

- Planning for the appropriate density of venues in the precincts.
- Creating a more diverse night-time offering.
- Improving urban amenity and public safety.
- Improving access to transport for people travelling to / around the precincts at night.

- Placemaking that involves local stakeholders working together.
- Development of an integrated master plan for Sydney's night-time economy.
- Activating street frontages.
- Good governance of our shared spaces at night.

b) Transport and access

Ideas for consideration focused on:

- Reviewing the late night transport service model and providing access to more transport options.
- Creating a central online hub or app that is fully integrated and intuitive.
- Providing wifi in the public domain – enabling people to access integrated data in real time.
- Improving accessibility and mobility in the public domain.
- Improving walkability and accessibility throughout the city.
- Improving wayfinding systems (incl. for those new to the city) – for bus and cab ranks, train stations etc.

c) Policing, enforcement and regulation / technology

Ideas for consideration focused on:

- Reviewing the resources available for policing and how these can be most effectively utilised.
- Using technological solutions.
- Using data for intelligence-driven policing, resource deployment and enforcement prioritisation.
- Using taxation and pricing to reduce intoxication and pre-fuelling, and influence consumption and behavioural outcomes.
- Establishing better coordination of the regulatory space.
- Considering how police can help identify situations where alcohol is involved in relation to incidents.
- Identifying night-time economy issues in the Liquor Act and other relevant legislation
- Addressing the perception among some members of the community regarding police – police should be associated with safety and support.
- Addressing the inconsistencies related to various approaches to licensing, policing and enforcement.
- Establish mechanisms to build capacity among police – working in partnership with communities.
- Addressing the need for safe and vibrant places for people of different ages.
- Establishing a more permanent role for precinct ambassadors.

d) Cultural and behavioural change

Ideas for consideration focused on:

- Understanding the needs and aspirations of different demographics and their patterns of use within the night-time economy.
- Involving young people in the conversation.
- Acknowledging that this issue is about Sydney as a city.

- Using an “eco-system planning” approach that moves beyond the current narrow focus of our NTE.
- Developing more creative approaches to education and undertaking research around effective ways to achieve cultural change / education.
- Reviewing night-time alcohol and food pricing, to ensure a range of options are available – including affordable food options.
- Identifying opportunities to use creativity to support a safe and vibrant night-time economy.

e) Diversity including arts and culture

Possible solutions for consideration focused on:

- Cultivating the arts and culture as an important part of Sydney’s night-time economy – from large scale institutions through to smaller scale organisations.
- Working with small business to identify who their patrons are – with a view to developing a robust profile of night-time economy users.
- Identifying options to improve services for the late night workforce, to provide greater connectivity/choice.
- Promoting Sydney’s night-time economy through destination marketing that includes positive message to communicate there are a lot of things happening in Sydney at night.
- Addressing the challenges / barriers faced by cultural institutions to stay open at night.
- Reviewing the affordability of meals available at night / range of food venues.
- Improving late night trading.
- Supporting an understanding that activity and gatherings contribute to a vibrant city life.

f) Governance and coordination for action

A summary of participants perspectives for consideration focused on:

- Collaborating with all relevant bodies to develop an integrated master plan for Sydney’s night-time economy
- Appointing a state government lead with a coordinated central government approach for the development of Sydney’s night-time economy.
- Ensuring both state and local government is involved in the governance framework.

The Roundtable will develop an action plan for Sydney’s night-time economy including a series of strategies for action that this group seeks to recommend to government. Subject to relevant approvals, the actions would then be the responsibility of the relevant line agencies.

g) Communication strategy

A summary of participants perspectives for consideration focused on:

- Changing the language of the way we talk about the city and Kings Cross.
- Ensuring that residents and others around the city understand the area is now safer than it was.
- Working to achieve positive messages / good news stories about live music in Sydney/NSW.

Next steps and actions for Roundtable No. 3

***Action:** Department of Justice to conduct a discussion session with young people to help establish their needs for Sydney's night-time economy within the next two weeks, with a report to be provided for the third Roundtable meeting.

- The third Roundtable meeting will build on the second roundtable's discussion, and will consider outcomes, actions and accountabilities for the development of a safe, strong and vibrant night-time economy for Sydney, to focus on clarifying recommendations to government.

Final Roundtable: Thursday 19 May 2016 –

Outcomes, actions and accountabilities for developing a safe, strong and vibrant night-time economy for Sydney