



Keep Sydney Open advocates for a relaxation of Newcastle's lockout laws to a system where venues are restricted on a case-by case basis. KSO also calls for unmixed drinks to be allowed in all venues until midnight. For a more balanced nightlife, and to offer late-night options for more mature users of the night-time economy, KSO advocates for smaller bars and other well-run venues that currently trade until midnight to be allowed to trade until 2am.

The night-time economy provides cities with opportunities that aren't available in towns and rural areas. In particular, musicians, students and other young people are dependent on night-time work and work in venues. The Hunter region has a youth unemployment rate higher than the national average, and it should be stressed that strengthening a night-time economy is a way to address this problem.

The climate that led to lockout laws being placed on Newcastle CBD venues was entirely different to that of today. The number of assaults have declined in Newcastle and other parts of NSW where there were no changes to entry and cease of service times to venues.

Measures that lead to both increased safety and night-time activity include:

- diversifying night-time businesses (cafes, food, retail, etc.) and activities
- more adequate public transport that runs through the night
- visible police and first aid personnel in key
- improved lighting around night-time hotspots and taxi ranks
- incentivising well-run venues

It is interesting to note that many of these measures are also supported in the *Young People and Night Time Economy (Feb 2014)* report published by The City of Newcastle and Newcastle Youth Council.