

Department  
of IndustryNewcastle Review <[newcastle.review@ilga.nsw.gov.au](mailto:newcastle.review@ilga.nsw.gov.au)>

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## Newcastle review submission

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Milo Kei [REDACTED]  
To: [newcastle.review@ilga.nsw.gov.au](mailto:newcastle.review@ilga.nsw.gov.au)

Wed, Jan 24, 2018 at 9:09 PM

Dear Jonathan Horton QC,

I'm new to Newcastle, from Melbourne. I enjoy the nightlife and want the city to continue to prosper with its revitalisation projects and burgeoning art scene. It seems to me that a lot of this economic success depends on the people assiduously selected to re-populate the city centre. They are generally pretty outgoing, vibrant communities that wish for more liberal drinking and club rules than presently imposed on the city.

As you carry out your review of current licensing conditions that affect the specified venues here, I ask you to consider all we have learned in the past decade. I ask you to allow us the freedom to live in a city that so many people can be proud to call home.

In NSW, Newcastle is second in size only to Sydney, and as such, I would like to enjoy parity with Sydney - where laws were reviewed after just two years based on modern views on restrictions - including parity of lock out times and the freedom to purchase drinks of choice until 12am, so long as its contents are listed.

In the past decade we have experienced a decline in the occurrence of non-domestic assaults at licensed venues, but so have other areas that are comparable to Newcastle. Parramatta, Penrith, Wollongong have also experienced declines, some of up to 70%, and these are areas with no lock out restrictions at all.

As a new resident here, I cannot compare the past with the present, but depend on the data supplied by UoN, John Hunter and other academic research that illustrate the drop in violent offences in the Newcastle CBD but note a corresponding decrease in other areas these laws do not apply (Hamilton and Mereweather). Are the laws effective for these areas if they do not apply?

I recognise the significance of making changes to laws here that could have ramifications in other areas of the state where these 'lock-out' laws now apply (implemented before appropriate evaluation here) and the political and other ramifications, but urge you to ease restrictions in Newcastle as I've highlighted above. Parity of times, simple easing of drinks content and no onerous requirements regarding people's choice of beverage.

Many thanks and regards,

Milo Kei