

Department  
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## Lockout Laws

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Tue, Feb 6, 2018 at 3:35 PM

To whom it may concern

It would be a great pity if the gains made by Newcastle in creating a safe night-time economy and a 'living city' were sacrificed to satisfy the demands of publicans. The 'Newcastle Experiment' is nationally renowned as a successful initiative to combat drunken and anti-social behaviour.

Newcastle is now a 'residential' city with a planned mix of commercial and residential property. This adds a positive character to nightlife in the city that did not exist prior to the mid 1990s. People want to live in areas such as East Newcastle, the CBD and Honeysuckle. There has been deliberate planning by local, State and federal agencies to facilitate this mix.

Any proposed changes to the laws must take into account the tens of thousands of residents, young and old, children and aged people, who have made the city their home since 2000 as a result of planning decisions encouraging them to move to the city and revitalise Newcastle.

A particular problem has been the trend in areas newly established as residential and retail, for venues with a PSA licence to operate contrary to the terms of such a licence in regard to both liquor and music controls. In the area I live this has created continual tension between venue operators and residents.

A one sided redefinition of the controls already in place would be of great concern.

As a resident of inner Newcastle for almost 40 years I have never seen such a vibrant and optimistic atmosphere in the city. Following my retirement in 2003 I stood for Council on a platform of removing the inner city rail line. I believe in revitalisation. The revitalisation is the people who live, work and play in the city.

There is nothing 'closed' about Newcastle. It is already 'open' and fun to live in for all ages. It would be a great pity to go backwards.

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