

The Hon. Ian Callinan QC AC  
Independent Review of Liquor Amendment Act 2014  
PO Box 7060 SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Callinan,

To put it simply the introduction of the Sydney CBD plan of management restrictions have been a nightmare for my venue the 3 Wise Monkeys.

It has forced us to cut staff, reduce staff hours, reduced our turnover and has killed what was once a vibrant live music scene.

### **Staffing and Turnover**

The restrictions have seen a reduction in turnover within my venue of more than 17 per cent.

In addition to the downturn in trade and turnover there has also been a negative effect on staff hours with average weekly rostered hours dropping from 960 hours per week in pre- lockout January 2013 to 811 hours in March 2016, a drop of 15.5%.

We have also had to terminate staff, with a reduction of overall staff numbers from 35 pre lockout to the current 27.

These figures can be directly attributed to the Lockout and cease of alcohol restrictions.

Foot traffic in the area is reported to be down as much as 84% and as a result Staff numbers and Entertainment offerings have had to be downsized.

### **Live Music and Culture**

The lockouts have made it impossible to successfully promote any sort of live music scene in the 3 Wise Monkeys.

Pre lockout we were running live music acts 7 nights per week, and had over 700 live acts playing each year.

But we no longer can.

The 3 Wise Monkeys was previously both contributing to the culture of the city and employing thousands of musicians on a semi regular basis.

Live music is in no way financially viable post lockout, as the reduced foot traffic in the area and restricted alcohol service parameters has hindered admissions to the point where live acts are just no longer feasible.

### **Security and the Safety of Patrons**

Tighter Alcohol and admission restrictions has meant the Directors and management team must hold an extremely tight rein on the expenses of the business, whilst trying to maintain customer safety and enjoyment.

A very difficult feat with high overheads and business expenses.

Having an experienced security team has always been a priority for the 3 Wise Monkeys, to ensure the safety of patrons, staff and the general public.

But with reduced turnover and profits comes tighter restrictions imposed on relegated security rostering, which in turn could have a negative effect on the safety of staff and patrons.

### **Local Late Night trade**

Other notable knock on affects are the late night food trade in the general vicinity of the business. With businesses such as the major brand Hungry Jacks, formally located on the corner of George Street and Liverpool Streets no longer able to turn a profit and forced to shut its doors for good.

### **Unfair targeting of Businesses within the CBD plan of management precinct**

The introduction of the Sydney CBD and kings cross plan of management saw an unfair target placed on our venue and hundreds of others.

A pressure that was unwarranted and selective, when the 3 Wise Monkeys and the majority of licensees strive to provide responsible and safe venues for patrons to enjoy themselves.

Allowing venues outside of the precinct to trade without restrictions can't be called anything other than discrimination. And therefore in the eyes of the law must be deemed unjust and illegal.

I strive to provide all customers with a pleasurable and safe experience which is properly monitored by a range of qualified and experienced staff ranging from bartenders, security, and duty managers.

Not to mention myself who has worked within the Hospitality industry my entire life. As have most of the licensees who are responsible for the pubs, bars, clubs and restaurants throughout Sydney and NSW.

To unfairly target professionally run and staffed venues for the idiotic actions of a few, who I might add where not located inside licensed premise, is deplorable.

This ideology that licensees need to be wary or fearful of a police presence in our venues is a terrible way to control high risk situations.

Systems like the three strike system and the CBD plan of management that place the onerous directly onto licensees for the actions of others is not conducive to a harmonious relationship between venues and the police.

I feel venues and police should be actively working together to combat antisocial behaviour and looking at grass roots approaches to curbing some apparent problems with Australia's drinking Culture like pre-loading and binge drinking.

The constant restrictions imposed on venues as well as CPI increases and increased alcohol tax revenues does nothing to help venues survive in an already crowded and challenging industry, which evidentially does nothing but forces patrons from the safety of well managed and monitored venues to the unsafe practises of consuming copious amounts of "booze" in a park somewhere before heading out. An idea that Mike Baird and Clover Moore fail to grasp.

I have included a comparison table of revenue from December 2012, before the lockouts and October 2015 – December 2015 to show you my point.

**October – December 2012 ( Pre Lockout ) – October 2015 – December 2015 ( Post lockout )**

**Review of Quarterly Numbers**

Area	Surplus/deficit/%
George Street Bar	-13%
Mezzanine Bar	+35%
Entertainment Bar	-44%
Totals	-17.5%

Thanks for your consideration,

Jarrad Traynor

Licensee/General manager

**3 Wise Monkeys Pub**

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