

Submission to the Callinan enquiry on liquor laws

BM Bradley Methodix [REDACTED]

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April 4th 2016

The Hon. Ian Callinan AC QC

Dear Sir,

'i have a take away business on one of the busiest street at CBD, after lock out start loosing a lot of money and now really hard to manage everything, business down 45-55% i dont know what to do cant move anywhere anyway saddest situation for me now getting help from centrelink WHY?' *Mehmet Cansız Facebook Keep Sydney Open page 20th February 2016.*

These are the very real words, depicting very real suffering, from a very real member of our community. Mehmet Cansız is not a member of the late night industry; Cansız owns a take away business that has obviously felt the devastating flow on effects of the Lock Out Laws. He is not alone, the many closures of businesses are well known and impossible to ignore. We can only imagine the family turmoil and damage this is causing to so many. When a policy adversely impacts members of the public in this way, it is the wrong policy.

While the incidents that led to this Government decision were heartbreaking, unfair and unnecessary, they occurred on the street before the 1:30am lock out law and the 3am last drinks would have had any impact. Furthermore, the inherent violence and anti social behaviour within the Australian culture are not addressed by this legislation. When a policy does not address the issues, it is the wrong policy.

The knee jerk reaction from the Government and emotional attachment that was associated with the development of this policy was not the correct approach. When a policy is rushed and influenced by media hysteria, it is the wrong policy.

Global best practice has shown what improving public amenities and activating public space can do to enhance safety and reduce crime. Many global cities have looked to lighting design as one way of achieving these outcomes. The more light, the more people and the more activity in an area, the safer the public will be. The additional benefit of increased foot traffic in activated public spaces is a boost in trade and stimulation of the economy. A policy that does not consider global best practice is the wrong policy.

The late night industry is a significant sector, and an industry the size of this should be included in a decision that obviously impacts it so greatly. Not all venues are alike and should not be treated as such. When a policy does not seek input from all relevant stakeholders, it is the wrong policy.

I will keep this submission short, as others will have far more detailed and researched recommendations. The opportunities for the Government that I would like to echo are to increase late night trade and the activation of the City of Sydney by implementing best practice public lighting design, increasing lines of sight and improving public amenities. Not all options for a night out should be about drinking and we should be seeking more diversity in our night-time activities. It is the responsibility of the Government to enable this to naturally occur as the market dictates, not to stifle it with an ill informed policy decision.

Yours sincerely,

Bradley Anderson