

Dear Sir,

I purchased a home in Woolloomooloo a few streets from the centre of Kings Cross in July 2002

After midnight on Friday 29th October 2004 (so in reality it was early morning on Saturday 30th) I was walking home alone. A group of young men drinking in the street took offence at my looking at them and attacked me. I was 56 at the time. I took out my phone to call 000 thinking that they may be deterred. I was not far from my home so I ran knowing that I could not out run young men and even if I did I would not have time to unlock the door and get inside. As I ran I was hit on the back of the head with a bottle which split my ear and caused a large amount of blood. My attackers then ran away. Fortunately I did not lose consciousness. I called 000 and the Police and Ambulance arrived and I was taken to St Vincents Hospital.

For those that suggest that alcohol fuelled violence can be prevented with more Police I would say rubbish. An attack occurs in seconds there is no time to do anything.

Over the following years as the number of licensed premises increased and also the crowds in the Cross increased the noise and anti social behaviour also increased. Large numbers of people attending the pubs and clubs would park their cars in the streets of Woolloomooloo. Returning to their cars at 5 or so in the morning screaming smashing bottles urinating or continuing to drink noisily in the street. While this behaviour was annoying the worst element was the feeling of being unsafe in the streets. Going out on Friday or Saturday nights using public transport involved returning via Kings Cross station in the middle of the war zone. I stopped going out alone. It is completely wrong that the so called night time economy should result in residents being apprehensive to leave their homes.

The introduction of the modest suite of changes in February 2014 had an instant effect. The 5am drunks returning to their cars ceased and more importantly the crowds of angry drunk young men and women milling around in the streets of the cross also vanished making the area much safer. The conversion of hotels in the Cross into apartments has been going on for decades driven by the property boom and the desire of people to live close to the CBD. While every new hotel conversion is blamed on the lock out laws it is simply not true. The closure of some Friday Saturday night businesses has led to the opening of a variety of businesses catering to the increasing resident population. The day time economy is booming.

Thank you for reading my submission.

Regards

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