

The Liquor Review

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
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To: Liquor Law Review <liquorlawreview@justice.nsw.gov.au>;

To the impartial review of the lockout laws,

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For someone who has worked in the industry, here and abroad, and lives within the lockout zone, i am passionate about the affects these laws have had on our city.

I am sure you are well aware of statistics these lock out laws have had, from the decreased foot traffic in the Cross, Crown St and Oxford St, the number of closed businesses, the loss of jobs, and yes - the decline in alcohol related violence in these areas (please note the declining trend over the last decade as well as the misleading statistics that the media and government seem to be twisting to support an agenda).

I would like to share some of my personal experiences. I have had friends lose their jobs, favourite venues closed down forever. I have met up and coming dj's having to give up their dreams because pursuing a music career in Sydney is now no longer viable. I have had friends from overseas come and visit and question why we cant buy any alcohol at a bottle shop after 10 am. How i have to try and explain why all the venues are empty struggle to give them a suggestion on a venue to go to. To see them try and comprehend why we cant get in anywhere after 1:30 am. Current friends in the industry unable to have a drink after they finish work. They tell me it is so hard now to have a social life because nothing is open. I have had friends at university struggle, unable to earn enough money to support themselves with the reduced nighttime economy. I have seen a city, segregated enough as it is, become even more distant and disassociated.

Instead of having a lockout we should be encouraging people to visit this beautiful city of hours, from here and abroad. This includes having a vibrant nightlife where people can meet and explore and express themselves. We need to follow examples of Amsterdam, London, Berlin, Toronto, Barcelona, Melbourne (yes i said it). How can we expect to be one of the greatest cities in the world when there are so many restrictions placed due to the actions of only a few?

There is no question, we all want our city to be a vibrant and safe as it can be. There has been so many good suggestions, from 24 hour public transport, more police on the streets, crowd marshals at hot spots, exemptions for music venues, more live entertainment, street markets and art, ID scanning at all venues (technology that already exists). To simply shut people out is not solving the problems alcohol is causing in our community. I do not need to tell you the statistics for that.

Please perform an impartial review of these lock out laws!

From a concerned but proud Sydney resident in the lock out zone.

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P.s I didn't want to drag on about the exemption of the lock outs at the Star and Barangaroo. Please do not insult our intelligence. You can not implement these laws and have exemptions for those who pay for it.