

Some more thoughts...

[REDACTED] on behalf of Daniel Arena [REDACTED]

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

There's a pretty big gap in a lot of the debate on the pub lockout laws.

I spent a neat couple of decades playing in bands around Sydney. There's a ton of work that happens on the night of a show that isn't usually visible to audiences. Bands and crew will start setting up well before doors open, and by the time you've lugged the equipment to whoever lives closest to the venue after the show, it's really late and everyone involved is still pretty full of adrenaline.

So, now it's 1am on a Friday night, and half the active musicians in Sydney are wide awake (and some are possibly even sober - someone had to drive everything around). The pretty natural consequence of this is that groups of people are going to converge on a couple of central places - i.e. pubs and bars - to talk about music, connect with other musicians (and fans), find out about new bands and music, hustle support shows, and just generally grow the local scene.

A lot of my longest-running friendships and musical connections developed for me in this sort of environment. The new lockout laws mean that a generation of musicians and bands in Sydney are going to find it difficult to build a cohesive and supportive artistic community. That sort of damage can take years to undo.

Thanks for your consideration.