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Liquor law review

SA Sally Armstrong 



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To: Liquor Law Review; 

Sun 3/04

Inbox

Hello,

My name is Sally Armstrong and I am opposed to the 1:30am lock out, the 10pm ban on buying take-away alcohol, and the associated police targeting of music venues.

I believe that if this review is truly independent, you will find that these laws were a knee-jerk politically driven reaction, rather than an actual attempt to minimise night time violence. You will also find that the impact of these laws on the freedoms of individuals and the city's economy far outweigh any good we are being 'told' they are doing.


Cities around the world have 24/7 economies, where adults are free to enjoy live music, night clubs and late night/ early morning dining. In these cities, people are trusted to do the right thing, and only those who do the wrong thing are punished. Police work in partnership with night time entertainment providers to ensure public safety. This is what Sydney needs. A government and police force that partners and protects, not one that controls.

Limiting an individuals ability to enjoy a city's night life, fundamentally contradicts the point of living in a big city. Cities provide a diversity of experiences, which is what attracts people to them and keeps cities vibrant. Global cities simply can not exist with both a day and night time economy.

The exemption of the casino from these laws is corruption in its most blatant form. What else can I say.

Lastly, in Australia we are a clear separation of church and state. Yet, to me, the comments of our police commissioner and premier regarding these laws seem to be targeted at controlling the actions of 'young' people in line with their own religious beliefs. Both men are entitled to hold any belief they want, but they are not entitled to impose their personal beliefs and ideals on the wider public. Their jobs are about representing and protecting the public, not controlling us.

I truly believe that the answer to night time violence does not lay in over regulation and enforcement. It lays in venue, public and police partnerships based on understanding and a genuine desire to keep people safe. I hope this review is has the courage to be truly independent and look at this issue from all angles. If it does, I am sure the answer to reclaiming Sydney's position as a global city will be to remove the lock-out laws and to build community partnerships.

Thanks for reading.
Sally Armstrong


Sent from my iPhone

