

Liquor law review submission

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

To whom it may concern,

I'd like to submit my input regarding the review for the lockout laws currently in place in the Sydney city area.

It's true that late-night inner-city violence is an issue that we should try to minimise, through legislation or otherwise. It's also true that the lockout laws put in place have decreased overall violence in the city.

However, the cost of doing so has greatly outweighed the benefits. Foot-traffic in the area has decreased by about 80% in parts, causing businesses to close down, many of which never had any issues with alcohol-induced violence. The nightlife of a city is a time and place where people can truly express themselves and experience the best of its culture. The knock-on effect of strict alcohol-vendor laws has rendered the city empty and lifeless. The people hit hardest by these laws are mostly innocent businesses and people, punished by the ridiculously stupid actions of a few.

Nearly all of us want to lessen violence in this city, but we feel it's possible to do this without compromising on the soul of the city itself. Other cities have been able to do this effectively: Melbourne comes to mind.

It's a tricky thing to argue, partially because it's easy to find statistics on violent incidents in the city, and although you can find statistics on foot-traffic, money spent or lost and businesses closed in the area, what's harder to measure is the culture and spirit of a city. It's something that can't be effectively put in words, or in numbers, but it's something so vital to our city and our identity, and it's something we all value. I implore you to take this into consideration in your review.

Thanks,

- Michael