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# Liquor Law review

SB Sean Baxter 



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To: Liquor Law Review; 

1:34 AM

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My name is Sean Baxter and I work as an ambassador for Johnnie Walker whisky.

I relocated from Melbourne 24 months ago in order to assume the role and I was shocked at immediately how different each cities night life was. Of course, this was still early stages but the warning signs were there. I remember when similar legislation was passed in Melbourne and then was subsequently removed after a short 'trial' period. It didn't seem to solve the problem, and only forced more people out into the streets at the same time. If they had persisted I'm sure they would be in a similar situation as we are now, with no people on the streets whatsoever.

Walking the streets of the Sydney CBD last week, the effects of these lockouts have been cataclysmic, the night time economy has been hit hard, and I seriously doubt if it can drag itself off the canvas. We've witnessed Sydney's nightlife take a massive dive. Gone are the nightclubs and gone are the music venues. Barely a month goes by without the announcement of another bar or licensed premise closing down. The once vibrant Kings Cross, the home of artists, bohemians, the creative and the eclectic, is all but dead. It's scary to think of where this city will be in another 24 months under these same laws.

The draconian environment around liquor laws and particularly the lockout legislation have resulted in the bankruptcy of dozens of commercial businesses, most of whom I or colleagues of mine have worked with closely. This is also not limited to just licensed venues, but also completely unrelated businesses. The night time economy has been devastated with hundreds of businesses that were formerly open now being closed at night. Night time foot traffic in the main entertainment precincts of the biggest capital city in the country of Australia has dropped up to 90% (or more).

The outcome of these regulations has been a complete collapse in night time foot traffic and trade in the main entertainment precincts in the City of Sydney. It has resulted in unemployment of hundreds, loss of income and loss in business takings. It has resulted in a severe curtailment of civil liberties and freedom. It has resulted in a huge loss to the international standing and reputation of Sydney as a global city and as a tourist destination.

I hope that through this review, these laws will be amended to take into account some consideration for those people wronged by these unjust and heavy handed legislative changes.

regards

**SEAN BAXTER | NATIONAL JOHNNIE WALKER & CLASSIC MALTS  
AMBASSADOR**



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