

Liquor Law Review Submission

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roducing some

positive outcomes regarding violence reduction in Kings Cross, are not the best way to address the issue and have largely shifted the problem elsewhere and killed a significant part of Sydney's culture, along with many small businesses.

It is illogical to apply one law across all venues due to the problematic nature of a few dangerous establishments. This is particularly offensive when The Star casino, boasting among the highest number of assaults of venues in the city, is not included in the affected venues.

I understand that violence in Kings Cross was reaching untenable levels, but this could have been addressed in more effective ways including reviewing liquor licenses more frequently, suspending licenses for venues that fail to maintain safety and increasing late night transport provision.

Moreover, the real problem facing Sydney is cultural, with a lack of respect for each other and unabated aggression considered acceptable or expected amongst young males, particularly once under the influence of alcohol. The restriction of operation of venues where violence is common should be accompanied by exemptions of lockout laws for responsible venues and encouragement of alternative night time entertainment to provide alternative activities that foster non-alcohol-related entertainment. This would be necessary to realign night-time culture in Sydney.

Further, many marginalised communities have been damaged in the establishment of these laws. There has been an increase in cases of violence or assault against transgender people in areas traditionally safer for them like Newtown, which is being transformed into a new Kings Cross as people find ways to circumvent the laws.

Also, many businesses on Oxford street important to the queer community have had to shut due to these laws, not to mention the countless number of other businesses that are failing directly as a result of government policy implemented by a government that claims to support small business.

If Sydney is to viably compete as a world city and attract leading workers, thinkers, businessmen, students etc. the night time economy needs to be reinvigorated. Even disregarding that, responsible sydneyiders should not be punished for the actions of an

irresponsible minority.

To my own eyes it also seems like another case of big business and state government getting way too cosy behind closed doors. The voting public sit by powerless as property developers buy up the Kings Cross businesses that are now failing as a result of these laws, in order to develop prime real estate (now conveniently devoid of noise and nightlife) for the privileged few, with profits delivered to the richest in our nation, while directly below them poverty is rife in Kings cross streets and social housing is stripped from the inner city as quickly as humanly possible.