



Liquor law submission

LC

Liam Casey [REDACTED]



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As a resident of the City of Sydney for more than a decade, I believe the recent "lockout laws" have negatively impacted the culture of our city without improving its safety.

I have long believed that a major factor in Sydney's nighttime problems is its poor public transport. Many people visiting Sydney from areas such as Newcastle, Wollongong, and the Nepean are effectively stranded in the city between midnight and 5am. It's no wonder some of them just kept drinking rather than sit on a Central station platform for hours until service resumed. We should be making it safe and easy for people to get in and out of the city to enjoy everything Sydney has to offer. I have been amazed when visiting international cities such as London, Stockholm, Berlin, and Copenhagen by how easy and safe it is to get around the city at night.

Sydney's approach has long been to shut off service and essentially lock people in the city after midnight. Even travelling to my inner city suburb of Waterloo is difficult after 10pm, with only one crammed bus every half hour or so. Now that entertainment options - because let's not forget that these laws also affect music venues, small bars and restaurants as well as nightclubs - are being shut off, it's no wonder people are staying away. In Sydney, there's nothing to do and no way to get home after a certain time. We are losing the fun and creativity that make us such a fantastic world city.

I'm concerned by the government's misleading use of statistics to support the laws, but others have covered that better than I have. What I will say is that I believe the statistics reveal a statistically insignificant change in violence at the cost of the devastation of Sydney's nighttime economy. Hundreds of people have lost their jobs, and hardworking young people are leaving the city in droves. Some real solutions - like proper nighttime public transport - could reduce violence while improving the accessibility and profitability of nighttime venues, and reignite the creative spirit that has made Sydney such a beloved world city.

Kind regards,
Liam Casey

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