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# Submission to the 2016 NSW Liquor Law Review

LC

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To: Liquor Law Review; ▾

Sat 2/04

Inbox

As a long-term (18+ years) resident of inner Sydney, currently living in the Kings Cross end of Potts Point, I strongly object to the liquor licensing / lock-out laws that have been in effect for the past 2 years and call for their immediate and complete removal.

- They were introduced as a first and only option. They are an ill-considered, rapid, knee-jerk reaction to media hype and political concerns, implemented without public consultation, following the terrible deaths of two young people.
- Given the location and time of those deaths, there is zero evidence to support the claim that such laws would have prevented those deaths.
- As a resident, I note a major issue prior to the introduction of the laws is the lack of public transport options for revellers to leave the area late at night. This leads to large groups of intoxicated people on streets. Some were aggressive; most were simply young people walking around and having fun with friends - like most of us have done at some point in our lives.
- They have had a significant and negative impact on the day and night time economy of inner city Sydney. The huge drop in foot traffic has cost many individuals (not just club/bar owners, but also students, restauranteurs, and other local service SMEs) their businesses and jobs.
- As a 40+ year old adult, I am unable to purchase a bottle of wine after 10pm, and I am unable to have a scotch or whisky on the rocks in bar after a specific time without mixing it with cola. These laws are invasive and plainly ridiculous in a modern society and world-class city like Sydney.
- While many enjoy casinos, they should not be the only late-night entertainment option available in a world-class city. There is also a concerning lack of transparency on the decisions behind the exemptions.
- There is evidence that the laws are driving an increase in "underground" events with potential for unintended consequences: lack of venue and attendee safety, lack of responsible service of alcohol, or worse. <http://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/food/restaurants-bars/outrageous-law-sending-sydney-parties-underground/news-story/1695318744c5c81e4bd103265c491511>
- They will (if not already) lead to an increasingly negative impact on Sydney's tourism economy. Online news articles and social media posts globally note the effect of these laws on Sydney's desirability as a destination. They undo the great work and investments made by

Tourism NSW. It will take time and further investment to counter these global perceptions when the laws are removed.

<http://edition.cnn.com/2016/03/29/travel/opinion-sydney-wild-to-mild/>  
<http://thediplomat.com/2016/03/locked-out-sydneys-nightlife-takes-a-hit/>

- The case study cited (Newcastle) showed a similar approach achieved a significant reduction in violence. Sydney is not Newcastle. It is a large city with a significant population that works, shops, dines, plays, and resides in the densely-populated inner city areas targeted by these laws. The negative impact on the cultural fabric and economy is amplified in Sydney.

- A better, local comparison is Melbourne, where similar laws were trialed and discarded, with the Victorian Premier, Daniel Andrews, publicly noting that "Sydney has lockout laws. Melbourne has 24 hour public transport on weekends".

- Internationally, more considered and balanced approaches to alcohol consumption are evident in London, Amsterdam, Paris, Toulouse, Berlin:

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/inquirer/london-cuts-alcoholrelated-crime-without-sydneystyle-lockouts/news-story/5a4d0f0623f94f80ae1705c6ab15de95?nk=8b25a03bbbf44ff08f55df0fdc0d9b4-1459559908>

- While the so-called "silent majority" may indeed support the laws, those actually affected by them (residents) do not: <https://au.news.yahoo.com/a/31215171/voting-for-change-survey-results-show-sydney-residents-want-lockout-laws-removed/>

Thank you for your consideration.