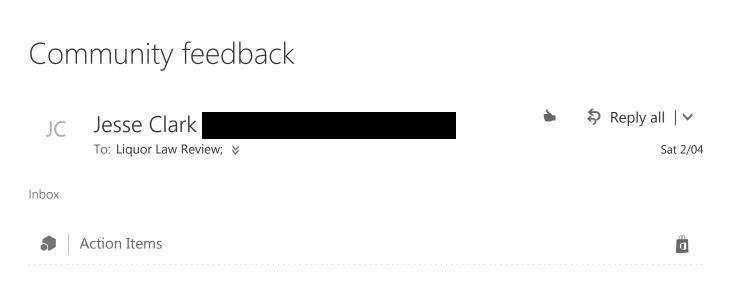
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I am a high school teacher and have been a Sydney resident for 30 years.

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Sydney has already lost so much of its culture through the lockout laws, and if things continue as they are, the damage will be irreparable.

For a city (and country) with such a short history, areas that have a distinct culture are invaluable. Without areas like Kings Cross and Newtown, Sydney has no point of difference to any other modern city. What's more, these are part of our modern history and we are erasing them from existence.

Young travellers used to choose to visit Sydney for its night life, among other reasons. Without a vibrant night life and distinct culture, Sydney will lose out to Melbourne which has these two things in abundance.

The preference for Melbourne extends beyond travellers, as young Sydneysiders will either choose to live in Melbourne because it is a much more lively city, or will move abroad to cities like London, New York and Berlin.

Even Singapore has a much healthier night life than Sydney. Who ever would have thought that would be the case?

I would consider myself to be the type of citizen that Sydney, NSW and Australia wish to keep on home soil. I am a hard working, tax paying, compassionate citizen of 30 years old. If the lockout laws remain in effect I have no doubts that I will leave my home in Australia. I wonder how many other young people feel the same way...

Jesse Clark