

Liquor Law Review

Gareth Coakley [REDACTED]

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To: Liquor Law Review <liquorlawreview@justice.nsw.gov.au>;

Good afternoon,

I am writing as a concerned resident of Sydney, but also as a stakeholder, in regards to the Lockout Laws imposed on the Sydney CBD and surrounding areas.

Firstly, as a stakeholder, I work in the tourism industry and the reduction in people in the Kings Cross area has seen a result in reduction in sales across the different products I sell. All of the travel agencies I work with also mention a reduction in people coming into their stores. Without going into the exact numbers, I have seen a reduction between 15-20% in my companies sales since the lockouts have been introduced from stores based in the Kings Cross area.

Secondly, as a citizen of Sydney I have had to change the way I live to my life to work around the lockout laws. Now if I want to go to a live music event and then go to a few bars afterwards for a few drinks to wind down, it is nearly impossible! I moved to Sydney just under three years ago, to a city that was incredibly vibrant, exciting and I was proud to tell friends and colleagues I live here. Now, my pride for Sydney has nearly diminished and I will probably be the last person to say where I live.

We have hurt the many, to stop the few. I agree that we need to find ways to reduce violence, that is always a good thing, but this has to be ingrained into the Australian mindset. These lockout laws are having a reverse effect, stopping the few putting their anger into violence and the many becoming angry because of the restriction on their lives. Who knows what that increase in anger of the many, will do in the long run.

I want to be proud to say I live in Sydney, please let Sydney stand up as the great city it used to be!

Kind Regards

Gareth Coakley