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Objection to lock laws/no take away alcohol after 10pm.

MC Mikee Collins 

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To: Liquor Law Review; 

Sun 3/04

Inbox

To whom it may concern,

I have been in hospitality for 22 years. I have lived in Sydney for 15 years and in Potts Point, backing Kings Cross for over 10 years now; I am married and 38 years of age. This is my formal submission in support of lifting the lock out laws/no take away alcohol after 10pm.

I have been going out in Sydney since I was 18 years old, that's 20 years in bars & clubs in Sydney and I have never seen the problems at the level we allegedly experience now. I would regularly go out all night and I saw the odd fight or two but that's human nature: people fight at soccer games, people rub each other up the wrong way when they're sober and fight; they always have, they always will. What incenses me the most about these laws is that it's the night operators of hospitality and supporting industries that are being punished for the violence on the streets, all because they sell alcohol. How about looking at there real issue here; these individuals who are 'coward punching' young kids to death are exactly that, individuals, not bars, clubs, liquor shops or alcohol companies but individuals and should be severely punished. Why would you stop adults from being able to safely drink into the early hours and stripping an international city like Sydney of culture, vibrancy and colour to be the answer to preventing malicious assault on the street?? Legitimate, licensed businesses that are responsibly serving alcohol to responsible adults can't stop the violent people of world from walking around on the streets; they're everywhere and alcohol can't be the catalyst for them flipping out otherwise why would it even be around for centuries in the first place? I'd be confident in saying that wars don't start from people drinking after a certain time of the day and night.

What is disgustingly obvious is that the playing field is nowhere close to level. With the The Star Casino and the Barangaroo gaming developments granted exemption, are all the hard working smaller to medium sized business that don't have corporate financial backing and State government "endorsement" just meant to cop the brunt of these laws??! Are Sydney's residents and visitors alike who want options to drink where they want and at what time of night be left with nothing but options monopolised by casinos?? This is actually happening. Does the State government genuinely think this is a fair strategy to create of jobs and increase tourism? You've sacrificed huge parts of industries that play a key role in keeping Sydney a world class destination. Gambling is a whole other beast that will do just as much damage as alcohol potentially can but just in a different way.

Consider the massive damage that this has already done. How about 24 hour transport, more Police on the street, heavier penalties for anti social behaviour, even a licence to drink and you have demerit points just like a driver's licence, more ID scanners, street cameras absolutely everywhere?? The suggestions are all out there, I'm sure that you'll have tens of thousands to consider. Pushing a whole city into a 24 hour gaming venue is anti-cultural, dangerous, stinks of corrupt hands shakes and is an international embarrassment.

There will be more deaths, it's part of life. Things will go underground and you will open Pandora's box down in Pymont and Barangaroo if you don't level the playing field.

KEEP SYDNEY OPEN, PLEASE.

Regards,

Mikee Collins