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Submission to review liquor laws by a community member

RC Ryan Collins 



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To: Liquor Law Review; 

3:17 PM

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Action Items



To whom it may concern,

I wish to express my disapproval at the restrictions that have been imposed on access to alcohol by the NSW Government. While I applaud the state government in its efforts to tackle late night violence in Sydney CBD, I believe it is going about it in the wrong way. I don't disagree with the facts that violence has decreased in certain areas as a result of the new laws passed in 2014, but I believe they have done so at a cost to the liberty of law-abiding citizens. We know also that it is possible to decrease violent behaviour without the sorts of draconian measures that have been imposed.

Consider Germany for example. I had the pleasure of visiting several German cities in 2014. Each city has kiosks and corner stores in abundance in which you can purchase alcohol 24 hours a day. In most German cities, you are free to drink openly on the streets, the legal drinking age for beer is 16, the bars are open until whenever they please, and most of all, alcohol both in take-away form and in bars and clubs is extremely cheap, even when the cost of living is factored in, due to a low alcohol tax. This would seem to be a recipe for creating alcohol-fueled violence, yet they don't seem to possess the sorts of problems with violence that is experienced here. Clearly other factors are at play here, and the government should be looking into other avenues that address the problem in a way that doesn't infringe upon the overwhelmingly law-abiding majority.

Furthermore, while I understand the rationale behind the 1:30am lock-outs and 3:00am cessation of liquor sales in certain problem areas (even if I disagree with it), I cannot for the life of me wrap my head around why a state-wide 10:00pm curfew on take-away liquor has been imposed. How does violence in the heart of Kings Cross have any bearing on the take-away alcohol in the other suburbs of Sydney and in rural areas of NSW?

Thank you for accepting and considering this submission,

Ryan Collins