

Robert Coppola

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To whom it may concern

I wish to express my dissatisfaction with the NSW 'Lockout Laws'.

I have lived in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs, for fifty years. I am married and have four adult children. I run two businesses in the wholesale/retail sectors, employing about 25 Australians. I have always been proud to live in a great city. Now, I feel embarrassed.

These laws are:

ineffective – (they do not stop or curb street violence)

unfair – (they penalise people who depend on late night trading - e.g. bar, club and pub owners, their staff and musicians)

regressive – (they restrict our nightlife options to limits not experienced for decades)

anti-competitive – (they bestow unfair advantage to businesses outside the arbitrary boundaries of the lock-out precinct)

If Sydney is to regain its position as a world-class city, our State needs to grow up we need to identify and face the real issues facing any contemporary metropolis. These may well include:

- better transport services (e.g. longer hours for buses/trains and transport hubs)
- improved security at venues (and on transport)
- better social education, and communication

These all form part of a solution that does not need to focus on prohibition.

The members of the community of NSW need to be allowed to make more free choices. We also need to learn about and understand the consequences. Our state should trust us and support our right and freedom to make such basic choices.

Repeal the Lockout Laws.

Faithfully.

Robert Coppola (1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 )