

Lockout Law Review, please save our once great city.

PD Peter Dimou [REDACTED]

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Sat 2/04

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I initially wrote this letter to Premier Baird a few months ago without any viable response, so I will edit it for sake of the public submissions of the official review.

I write this message to you with a simple plea. A plea with regards to the living passion and love of myself and my friends and community.

I am not a drug addict, an alcoholic, or a thug. I am an average 23 year old, with a Bachelor of Science from the University of Sydney, working full time with a silly pipe dream of chasing my passion that is producing electronic music.

I have lived and loved the city of Sydney since the day I was born, have fought and worked hard to contribute my tiny little piece to its character of culture and beauty, but two years ago every piece of creative struggle I have put into my work as a composer of music and DJ has been fought by legislation that is hurting our city and its economy.

I still attend and play gigs in this city, but they are becoming more and more sparsely spaced out as venue after venue closes down as a direct consequence of these lockout laws.

I walk the streets at 3am after playing at a club fearing for my well being as the streets are addled with the shadiest of characters.

As the foot traffic through the city decreases, my fear rises. I do not feel safer. Unprovoked attack feels imminent as I have no safety in the crowds around me, a ghost town is not a safe town.

These lockout laws have not just hurt the economy and tourism of our city, have not only failed to fix the violence in our city, they have stripped me of the only love I have, the only aspiration I have ever dreamt of chasing in this once amazing side city of ours.

I plead with you Mr Callinan, on behalf of everyone who cares about the lifeblood and reputation of our city, repeal these lockout laws so our city can breath again.

It is completely unfair or the majority of upstanding citizens to be punished for the sins of few. It goes against our liberties and free Australians. With this there are magic exemptions

made for The Star Casino and future Barangaroo Casinos? This is not fair. Art and culture suffers, but gambling endorsed? The consequence of this is that young 18 year olds, finally of age want to go out and have some fun on an evening have no choice but to go to the casino to get a drink. Here they're impressionable minds are exposed to gambling which can suck them into a world of addiction that could affect them for the rest of their lives. Why aren't the statistics of suicide as a direct result of gambling considered (1 in 3 suicides are somehow related to gambling in Australia FYI).

I am a Utilitarian, if we want to push for the greater good and happiness of ALL of the people, we must consider far wider implications of these terrible laws that are hurting more than they are helping. Having lower assaults in Kings Cross (as a direct result of lower foot traffic) is NOT ENOUGH of a reason for the government to still back these laws. We need social change, we need to unlock Sydney and allow the beauty and culture to grow again.

This is my plea to you, I pray that you and your committee will take this into consideration and save Sydney from a wound it still may never ever recover from.

Sincerely,

Peter Dimou