

 Reply all |   Delete Junk |  ...



Against the Lockout Laws

LE

Luke Egan To: Liquor Law Review; 

 Reply all | 

Sun 3/04

Inbox

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my strong objection to Sydney's lockout laws.

First, the lockout laws aren't working. Assaults are down in the lockout zone, but foot traffic is down by a larger percentage.

Second, the laws are bad for the economy. Numerous businesses have closed, and thousands of people have lost work. The centre of Sydney is becoming a laughing stock, when it is supposed to be a vibrant, global destination that is attractive to both locals and tourists.

Third, the laws are bad for Sydney's culture. The night-time economy underpins countless cultural and artistic activities, such as music, dancing, and socializing. These activities are under threat.

Fourth, and most important, the laws are immoral. There is no justification for taking away the freedoms of millions of innocent people in order to prevent a tiny minority of individuals from breaking the law. I belong to the vast majority of Sydney residents who have been punished for crimes they didn't commit, and will never commit.

I would fully support alternative laws that targeted the minority of anti-social individuals in our community, for example, with harsher penalties for assaults. People respond to incentives. At the moment, the incentives are skewed in a way that disincentivizes Sydney's nightlife for the benign majority, rather than disincentivizing anti-social behaviour for the violent minority. This is twisted.

The people of Sydney deserve much better than this.

Yours faithfully,

Luke Egan
Coogee, NSW