

Keep Sydney Open

Reem F [REDACTED]

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To: Liquor Law Review <liquorlawreview@justice.nsw.gov.au>;

I have been a resident of Sydney since December 2001, and part of the reason for moving here, in addition to work opportunities was the attraction of Sydney's (formerly) vibrant nightlife.

Based in Darlinghurst, Potts Point and Surry Hills, I took advantage of late opening clubs, bars and in particular restaurants and cafes. I lived in these suburbs knowing full well that they were late night districts.

My friends and I loved hanging out at the quieter venues that offered food and wine in a more low key laid back style.

Having moved to the Inner West and with small children I'm not able to go out as much, and was shocked when I recently had dinner at Billy Kwong on Macleay St and saw how the guts and vibrancy of the Cross had been completely decimated.

Every city has it's "Night district" whether it's located around nightclubs, the sex industry or food, and Kings Cross was all of these and has been since the early 1900s. If only Tilly Devine and Kate Leigh were around to see themselves on TV! To move in and start shutting it down is futile and short sighted. All you do is cause a massive loss of jobs, the loss of ability to contain certain activities within a patrolable area and the creation of smaller less suitable areas for these activities.

Better public transport is key to managing issues in The Cross. Get the trains running overnight, even if it's just to key interchanges: Town Hall, Central, Redfern, Bondi Junction, Strathfield, Parramatta, North Sydney, Chatswood, Bankstown, Sutherland, Parramatta. Have them running to central every 15 minutes, to move people around. Simply doing this removes the hordes of people standing around, off their faces waiting for taxis (looking for a way home) This is when the trouble starts in my experience.

I think the idea of a Night Mayor is also really sensible: <http://www.theguardian.com/cities/2016/mar/21/night-mayor-amsterdam-holland-mirik-milan-night-time-commission>

Ideas like this help bridge the gap between enforcement and social obligation. Concepts such as this should be trialed before knee jerk reactions to tragic situations.

I look forward to hearing about the outcome of this investigation

Yours sincerely

Reem Finkelde
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