

liquor laws review

AF Ashlee Fox-Smith [REDACTED]

To: Liquor Law Review; ▾



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I wish to comment on the liquor laws that were introduced to parliament on the 30 January 2014 which imposed a 1.30am lock out and 3am cessation of liquor sales requirements on venues in the Sydney CBD Entertainment and Kings Cross Precincts.

I will address my concerns by commenting on the terms of reference in which this review is being undertaken please see below.

1. The review will assess the impacts of the 1.30am lock out and 3am cessation of liquor sales requirements on:

a. alcohol-related violence and anti-social behaviour in the Sydney CBD Entertainment Precinct, Kings Cross Precinct, potential displacement areas, and the broader community;

I do not believe the levels of alcohol related violence has decreased in proportion to the number of patrons attending venues within the entertainment precinct since the laws were introduced. As the number of patrons who access the entertainment precinct reduces there would be a reduction in the number of violence related offences however the reduction has not been proportionate to the low numbers of patrons accessing the the area. As there has not been a proportionate drop in the number of alcohol related offences and anti social behavior I don not believe the lock out and reduction of liquor trading hours is the right solution for Sydney.

I wish to see the statistics on the number of drug related violence and anti social behavior that has been present during the introduction of lock outs and reduction of liquor trading to see if there is a correlation with the number of people choosing to consume drugs over alcohol and if drugs are the bigger issue not alcohol

b. safety and general amenity in the Sydney CBD Entertainment Precinct, Kings Cross Precinct, and potential displacement areas;

As a visitor to Sydney I have not seen any change to the General amenity of the Sydney CBD. In my opinion it is not alcohol that is causing a reduction in the general amenity of the area. This requires a cultural change of all peoples who live and visit the city to dispose of thier rubbish appropriately, have respect for property and desire to live in a city that is clean and free of vandalism. When visiting I see those who are from the city acting in a way that

does not improve the general amenity of the Sydney CBD and these instances are not during the 1:30 am and 3am or whilst under the influence of alcohol.

c. government, industry and community stakeholders, including business, financial and social impacts, and the impacts on patrons and residents (including whether venues continue to trade after 3am when alcohol service ceases).

One of the main reasons I visit Sydney is to access services that are not available in regional areas such as concerts, entertainment, food I have noticed a marked decline in the availability of these services since the introduction of the lock out and liquor trading hours as a result I have chosen to travel to other major cities such as Melbourne to access these services.

2. The review will consider the positive and negative impacts of the 10pm takeaway liquor restriction across NSW, with particular regard to be had to the needs of rural and remote communities, and the social and economic impacts of the restriction on those communities.

I live in a rural community and many of the services area already closed or not available this is just another service that will become unavailable.

3. The review will consider the impact of the periodic licensing system on business viability and vibrancy.

I agree that reviews of venues should be undertaken and if they have been deemed to be in breach of licence condition then they should be subject to additional conditions, increase in fees etc. Reviews of licences should be undertaken more regularly and thoroughly to ensure they are meeting the conditions such as responsible service of alcohol.

Regards,

Ashlee Fox-Smith