

Dear Justice Callinan,

We write to you as a group of artists and small businesses who while we've developed international careers and profile, all still proudly call Sydney home.

Starting as an after-work labour of love in the living room of a small Chippendale terrace, we, Future Classic, have grown to be one of Australia's leading independent music companies spanning artist management, record label services, touring and events, and music publishing. We are pleased to say we work with and represent some of the best Australian music talent, including Flume, Chet Faker, Flight Facilities, Jagwar Ma, Touch Sensitive and Ta-ku. Collectively our artists have 23 ARIA award nominations, 9 ARIA award wins, 1 gold album, 4 gold singles, 1 platinum album, 1 platinum single, 1 multi platinum album and 5 multi platinum singles. Internationally, we have artists who have cracked Top 40 radio in America, who are headlining international festivals and selling out 10,000 + capacity venues. These are Australian artists, artists who've grown and developed here in Sydney, taking to the international stage.

We are deeply concerned by alcohol related violence and the impact this has on the victims, their families, friends and our society overall. We want a safe city and absolutely agree that as a community we need to acknowledge this problem and look at initiatives to address it.

The current lock out laws do not solve the problem. Not only do these lock out laws not solve the problem of alcohol related violence, they are destroying the cultural fabric and economy of the city.

Simply put, the lock out laws means venues that support the next generation of artists can no longer sustain themselves. For us and all of our artists, live income is a critical revenue stream. It's also where we've built our audience and honed our skills, in order to grow to the next level. It's the essential link that has enabled us go from producing music in bedrooms, to achieving multi-platinum album sales and touring both nationally and internationally. It's what helps sustain livelihoods, to become compelling businesses, to employ staff and continue to grow international careers.

We and all of our Sydney based artists, including Basenji, Flight Facilities, Flume, Hayden James, Jagwar Ma, Panama, Seekae, Touch Sensitive, Wave Racer and World Champion started our careers in late night venues across Sydney. That Sydney was one that nurtured talent and helped us develop skills that have seen us take Australian music to an international stage, and bring international music to an Australian audience through promoting tours. That city was vibrant, safe and economically compelling until 2014. Since these regulatory changes came into effect we have seen a difference in revenue. Beyond the immediate financial impact, we are saddened by the idea that the next generation won't have the opportunities we've had, not because they're not good enough, not passionate enough, or there's not an audience - but because there's no places for them perform, to grow and develop.

There's a complex tapestry of people whose livelihoods are impacted on the closing of late night venues. The implications of these laws don't just impact on music careers. The reduction in people out in the city also means other small businesses (restaurants, news agencies, taxis and so many more) are suffering.

We live across the city, from the Northern Beaches, North Shore, Eastern Suburbs, Inner city and South West. We've travelled the world and Sydney is our favourite place, but the place it is becoming is not the Sydney we know and love. We can be - and are - better than this.

We'd like the Government to do something meaningful to address alcohol related violence. However, please listen to the many voices across the community who are telling you the current lock out laws are not only not solving the problem they were created for, but are additionally having a detrimental impact

future classic.

---

on Sydney's culture and economy. Like you, we care about Sydney being a safe city, but we also want to nurture the cultural fabric and economic viability of music in Sydney.

Yours,  
Future Classic