

# Liquor Law Review - Rule of Law

PG

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e influence and

authority of law within society, particularly as a constraint upon behavior, including behaviour of government officials or other people with power. Rule of law implies that every citizen is subject to the law.

I wish to highlight the perceived arbitrariness and even corruptness of the Lockout Laws.

Thousands of people have LOST FAITH in the rule of law. Thousands included myself commented pointing out that the city's two casinos were exempt to the lockout laws, and that the crime statistics Mr Baird had used to defend the lockouts were skewed. The laws were described as "embarrassing" and evidence of a "nanny state". A wave of public action soon followed including 15,000 people marching against the lockout laws in a rally organised by [Keep Sydney Open](#). Instead of listening and trying to understand the views of the people Mr Baird labelled the incident as hysterical. "There has been a growing hysteria this week about night-life in Sydney."<sup>[1]</sup>

In fact not only is Mr Baird actively avoiding the questions of corruptness, but his is actively blocking some 15,000 people on social media who are trying to get these answers from him. Incredibly Mike Baird denies this. I have been blocked by Mike Baird from Facebook, and my many emails to the Premier have been ignored.

Further dubious donations from the Star Casino to the Thomas Kelly Foundation, and to the Liberal Party makes this whole thing reek of corruption.

These proceedings have the power to restore Sydney's faith in the political process but also the rule of law, but equally they have power to destroy it. If the questions of corruption levelled at Mike Baird are not investigated, and if Mike Baird doesn't start acknowledging to the views of the people this review will just be an expensive and fruitless exercise.

Questions that NEED to be answered:

- Clarification and transparency around political donations and policy making i.e. Star Casino, Thomas Kelly Foundation, and funding of St Vincent's hospital.
  - The main source for the justification of the laws was written by Dr Gordian Fulde, using mainly statistics from St Vincent's hospital. If you're not familiar with him, he's the guy who went on Q&A and said "nobody is stopping anyone drinking at 1:30am" because "you can go to the casino".
  - Dr Fulde finds himself in a crosshairs again, as a result of being a founding director of

the Thomas Kelly Youth Foundation, the main political lobby group for the lockout laws. “Stranger still, this foundation’s main financiers are the Crown Casino, the owner of Crown Casino, Macquarie Bank- substantial shareholder & investment bank of Star Casino, the NSW Premier’s office- legislator of the lockout laws and City of Sydney- who helped implement the lockouts”.

- Why the casinos one of the most violent venues in NSW exempt from Lock Out Laws?

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[1] <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/life/nsw-premier-mike-baird-tells-fitzy-nd-wippa-he-is-surprised-by-lockout-backlash/news-story/9954f8f2b037077ab9c525ecbbb510ad>