

Liquor Law Review Submission 4.4.2016

Katherine Goldman [REDACTED]

Thank you for the opportunity to lodge a submission on this very important community matter.

I am a resident of Elizabeth Bay and use public transport daily.

The effects of the 'lock-out' laws have been immediate and profound. I am no longer woken at night by the sirens attending to yet another victim of alcohol fuelled violence, the streets I walk through are no longer covered in human excreta and my friends are now more willing to come and visit.

An additional bonus of the laws is that there are many new stores that have opened. An ice cream shop, a health food store, homewares, lots of new cafes and restaurants all contribute to a better community atmosphere with diversity of offerings.

The 2011 area is principally a residential area. Prior to the lock outs, there could be in excess of 25,000 people every Friday and Saturday nights walking through an area of a just few hundred metres. If there was to be an event in Sydney where a similar number of people would be concentrated, there would be traffic management plans, notifications in the papers, traffic diversions, additional police, ticketing etc. yet none of these measures were ever provided to the residents of the Kings Cross area. The area is simply unable to cope with the explosion of licensed liquor outlets that have dotted the streetscape.

The people who believe that the lockouts have 'killed' the Cross are wrong. This area, like all areas, is undergoing a significant change. There is a gentrification of the area and the economy is in fact booming in response to the change in the residential profile. It would be unrealistic to think that one area of Sydney is immune to change whilst the rest of the city is adapting and responding to market pressure and conditions.

I appreciate that every city needs to have a night time economy but it must not be at the expense of the daytime economy. Even with the 'lock out laws' people can drink until 3am, a fact that is conveniently ignored by those who seek to revert to a time which allowed anti-social behaviour to prevail in our residential streets.

The 'lock out law' is based on harm minimisation. A government has a responsibility to create an environment that balances competing interests yet is underpinned by community interests. Legislation around the mandatory wearing of seat belts is a good example, as is bans on smoking in restaurants. Both of these examples had loud and impassioned voices about that legislation having restrictions on their rights. The lock out laws are much the same, the greater good must be considered above the noisy self-interested voices that are disproportionate to the gravity of the problem of alcohol fuelled violence.

Please keep the lock out laws in place and even consider making them state wide.

Thank you

Katherine Goldman Elizabeth resident