

Robert M. Goot A.M., S.C.
Barrister

1 April 2016

The Honourable Ian Callinan AC QC,
Liquor Law Review
liquorlawreview@justice.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Callinan

I am taking the opportunity of writing to you to express a strongly held view about what really is a collateral and unnecessary impact of the "lock out" laws, introduced by the NSW Government in 1994, the operation of which you are reviewing.

At the outset, I should indicate that I generally support the laws, as a means of curbing alcohol induced violence in the community.

However, I oppose the continuation of the ban on online/telephone home delivery sales of packaged liquor after 10:00pm and believe that, if the laws are to continue, then such activities ought to be exempted from their operation.

I believe that there is nothing inconsistent between on the one hand, supporting the laws and on the other, supporting the exemption for online/telephone home delivery sales.

Whatever can be said in support of the laws, the absence of an exemption for the latter activity, is an unnecessary intrusion into the private activities of law abiding citizens and represents government overreach, in its reaction to the mischief of public violent and anti social behaviour, to which the laws are directed.

Further, granting such an exemption, would not so it seems to me, adversely impact materially or at all, what are considered to be the otherwise desirable effects of the laws.

Shopping for food in supermarkets and elsewhere after 10:00pm and the telephone and online home delivery of food and other consumables at night, is now a well entrenched, if not ubiquitous, feature of life in Sydney. Quite why I cannot have an alcoholic beverage delivered after 10:00pm for my and/or my guests' consumption in the privacy of my home, escapes me.

If it is said that such delivery might lead to some people consuming the home delivered alcohol publicly, or getting intoxicated at home and then misbehaving on the streets, then I would respond that people who were so minded, could do so now quite legally, before 10:00pm.



If there is any cogent evidence of such behaviour, then in all the circumstances, that is a risk that has to be tolerated in and by our society.

There is and must be, a limit to the intrusion by government into the lives of citizens. The ban on online/telephone home delivery sales of packaged liquor after 10:00pm exceeds that limit. It is a collateral and unwanted overreaction by the government, serves no proper or legitimate purpose, prevents or hinders individuals from living normal lives and ought to be the subject of an exemption arising from your review.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert M Goot', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name.

Robert M Goot AM SC