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[REDACTED]
Kings Cross, N.S.W. 2011

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A Submission regarding the Liquor Law Review pertaining in particular to the "lock out" provisions in Kings Cross (Potts Point).

RECEIVED

Addressed to the Honourable Ian Callinan, Author.

4 APR 2016

Mail Room
Castlereagh St
Trade and Investment

Disclaimer.

I am Alexander Delius Haege , [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and I am a Director and Secretary of Sven Pty Ltd and Patty Pans Pty Ltd owners respectively of 13 & 15 and 17 Kellett St ,Kings Cross (the "Paris" end of Kellett St) Nos. 13 – 15 Kellett St are presently leased (since 1994) to Ulysses Flevotomos who operates a Nightclub (formerly the Iguana Bar and now the Dollhouse) in those premises. I therefore have a financial interest in seeing a reduction of the present "lock out " laws , which have more than decimated (ie reduced by at least 10%) Ulysses business and the rent which we are able to charge him (in fact he has received a rent reduction of over 25% so that he can carry on, and his business is down by more than 25%) .

Preamble.

In July 2012 , the inappropriately named , Kieran Loveridge brutally assaulted Thomas Kelly (a fellow Kings School old Boy) resulting in the latter's death. It is a matter of fact that Loveridge had already assaulted 5 other men that night and had "pre loaded " (ie drunk alcohol to excess) before arriving in Kings Cross. I have never read any report regarding the level of drugs – particularly ICE in his blood but I do wonder if he was tested for same . Loveridge's behavior of exaggerated aggressiveness was very similar to an ICE rage .

A hue and cry directed at Kings Cross by the media (particularly the tabloid Daily Telegraph – Sydney's answer to the "Daily Beast") resulted in quick action by the state government "to do something" to revenge Thomas Kelly's innocent young life. And so the "lock out" was created without any consultation with the business or other people of Kings Cross. The Lord moves in mysterious ways , his wonders to perform !

A legislative wall was built around Kings Cross and the drawbridge raised . The figures for bad drunken behavior , serious or otherwise and injuries and assaults dropped dramatically. Success was instant and widely acclaimed. The real story was that no one was coming to Kings Cross anymore and so every figure was down from pedestrian traffic to water usage. Business's were closing at a rapid rate. This was a classic case of throwing the baby out with the bath water.

Solution.

Why don't people come to the Cross ? Because after 1.30 when you have been detected , selected, inspected and not rejected then if you leave your licensed "place of entertainment" , that's it. You can't go anywhere else. You have to go home. So if you live out west, then you

have just wasted your evening. So people decide NOT to come OR to go elsewhere (another suburb where there is no "lock out" or the Casino - curiously exempt).

The ancient Greeks (although they weren't so old then) enjoyed themselves at "symposion" (from which we have the word symposium). "Symposion" means literally "drinking together". The guests in the Kings Cross of Athens (the plaka ?), reclined on couches and drank wine (2 parts) mixed with water (5 parts). Still drunken symposia could result in guests spilling out into the street in a "komos" – a revel, still dressed as symposiasts and still singing and still in search of another establishment were they could prolong the evening. (from Athens – A History by Robin Waterfield)

If Sokrates (as recounted by his drinking friends , Plato and Xenophon (not Nick the Senator from SA) could enjoy a symposion , then is it not beyond the wit and ability of "modern" man 2500 years later to have laws that allow us to have a drink together and even prolong the evening , at another house ?

Conclusion.

I have worked in the Cross since 1975. And lived here also in 2005. The Cross has always been rakish (a very suitable home for Cleever Green) . It is dirty, unkempt, saucy, sexy, disgusting, artistic, tolerant, embracing and challenging but it should never be boring. That is for Mosman and Vacluse.

The demise of Sydney's premier nightspot suburb following the imposition of the "lock out" laws is a retrograde step. It leaves the Pyrmont Casino (and no doubt the new casino at Barangaroo) as institutionalized environments for drinking and the black hole of gambling.

Sydney is not Paris (we have more taxis !) but surely there can be one small part of our city that is not subject to a church like wowsersism . The governments solution is heavy handed and autocratic. Citizens should once again be granted the freedom to meet their friends and enjoy a drink and entertainment.

I hope that you will address this issue by removing the "lock out" altogether and allowing citizens the right to come and go from licensed establishments as they please during normal hours of opening.

Yours sincerely



Alexander Haege

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