

# 20,000 residents live in Kings Cross, do they not count? Current laws work for all.

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To:Liquor Law Review <liquorlawreview@justice.nsw.gov.au>;

As a long term resident of 34 years living on the edge of William Street Kings Cross, like the 20,000 residents here covering Potts Point, Elizabeth Bay, Darlinghurst and East Sydney, we should also have a voice.

The restricted drinking laws were changed for very good reason, the chaos, drunkenness and violence was the result of the Sydney City Council's decision to double, yes double the liquor licenses in Kings Cross in 2007, against resident concern. It was not Mike Baird's decision as the Reclaim the street rally suggest, it was the Sydney City Council under Mayor Clover Moore who wanted to build a " Nighttime Economy" .

The result was that every weekend when 20,000 visitors descended on the two main streets - access routes to the above residential areas too, there was mayhem on Darlinghurst R and Bayswater Rd with a crowd surge between 1am-5am of very young coming in to party hard and bar hop being served double shots from bar to bar with no restrictions!

The eminent Professor of Emergency, Prof. Gordian Fulde, his staff, at St Vincents Hospital, the ambulances and the hard working Kings Cross Police had to face chaotic scenes every weekend of often violent confrontations here.

One highly respect Police Officer was so badly hurt in a king hit at 3am, after a year of treatment she had to resign from the work she loved and been awarded for.

In the Matt Barrie social media campaign, to win the Get Up and university activists a march was organised, at which most of the professional protesters march - 7,000 is the figure we have been given, and key media opinion formers paid by the Liquor Industry to "reclaim the streets"

We had car hoons, loud music until 5am most weekends in-between the sirens of Ambulances getting injured to Emergency given the 24 hour licenses the Council pushed for their Night time economy.

The 20,000 ratepayers were ignored - sadly. They are not a bunch of killjoys, as many are suggesting - and the residential area which stretches to the above suburbs, all need access via Kings Cross. Darlinghurst has a history of residents going back over 100 years, and was not just a night time area for strips clubs and bars as had been promoted - it is one of the oldest suburbs in Australia settled early.!

The authorities are now in the forefront of criticism by young trendies and also the Liquor Industry given their 24 loss of trading on these streets ignoring the problems all faced which did not happen prior to 2007 expansion of many

licenses.

In the last year the visitor numbers have been 1.8 million and many are now visiting no longer fearful of violence on the local streets.

The best remains, and the word lock out is wrong - there is no lock out as such, but "restricted drinking " from 1.30am - 3am... 3am is not an uncivilised hour to go home, as is being suggested - and it is working for all, the residents, the Hospital and the Police.

The reason for loss of business here was the violence that occurred, along with two tragic deaths of young men - it scared locals and residences.

You just have to ask the taxi drivers who did no want to come to the area, why? Many did runners returning out west and south to their homes after a visit here.

Buses were put on to run into the centre, this has been another suggestion of an "issue". Finally after much argument with the Civil Libertarian Mayor Clover Moore, CCTV cameras were provided for the Police and better lighting in adjacent streets.

Residents every week found vomit on the pavements, were worried about walking into the darkened back lanes to their homes, noise.

It is deeply unfair to blame the police for not doing their jobs/  
How many do you need to cope with a crowd of 20,000 in two streets every weekend - they had their horses, dogs and also plain clothes.

Another reason which the liquor Industry use is the loss of business in the nightclub strip. This was the result of establishing The Injecting Room in 2000, attracting drug dealers and addicts every week, sitting opposite the Kings Cross Station. Made "legal" for taking illegal substances, including ice into the rooms, with the Police's hands tied to apprehend them close to the facility.

This resulted in many small business being closed for good, not wanting to face aggressive behaviour - and not because of the lock-out laws.!

The so called lock out laws have given failed business, i.e. liquor an excuse to suggest it is this mild, but carefully written law - what is wrong with 3am closing which is in the UK, and an anti-binge drinking format.

I am happy to be interviewed by you. I have been involved in the community as a Community Service Director and then President of Kings Cross Rotary, with a Paul Harris award for local support and am a former Corporate Public Relations consultant who has lived here 34 years.

We are not wowsers but want as all other ratepayers to have a civilised lifestyle which these wise laws have ensured. No one living locally wants to see a return to the chaos of the past.

Kind regards

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Darlinghurst, Sydney.