

The thoughts of a Sydney citizen, Mark Hardwick

Mark Hardwick [REDACTED]

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

To Ian Callinan,

How do you measure the value of a night club, a bar, a restaurant, a pub or a band/DJ playing music? You can make an economic measurement such and such billion dollars value to the economy, or perhaps even a moral one someone might say "all pubs should be shut down I believe drinking is evil" or to quote my friend [REDACTED] "I met my wife at a late night event, most of my friends I also met out at night, my whole life has been changed for the better by Sydney's night life".

Economic or Moral judgements are interesting and but should mostly be set aside as there is something more important than money or the moral opinions of the Government; FREEDOM.

I personally love going out and meeting my friends at night, it has a value to me. I value my freedom to go where I chose, with whom I choose to go and at what time. I value my Freedom to decide how I live my. That's it. You shouldn't decide where and when I go as you have done (for example saying 'you can go to the casino at 5am but not most other places').

You/the government shouldn't be deciding the value of Freedom, you should be protecting it. If someone wants to have a café open 24hrs a day let them, if they want to teach ballet, let them open a ballet school. If someone wants to go skydiving, let them do that and start a business helping others do that. If a family wants to have their child play Rugby Union, let them. If someone wants to go out with their friends drinking late at night, let them. It doesn't matter how you feel or whether the government officials like these things personally, it's our right as citizens to be Free.

Of course many things are dangerous, it's the government's job to try and make dangerous activities be regulated to avoid unfair business or other practices, and as safe as they can, not to just shut down any dangerous activity. Hundreds of other cities around the world have late night drinking and find other ways to limit violence than shutting down specific parts of their cities late at night. Yes it may be dangerous (I have never felt in any significant danger personally) but that doesn't mean it's a bad thing or should be stopped anymore than you'd stop say someone playing Rugby or going for a swim at the beach. Taking away our freedom is not a solution to violence.

The lockout laws are an infringement on the rights of the citizens of Sydney. Simple. They are unjust and are a hindrance to many small businesses and more importantly they take away the rights and freedoms of law abiding citizens in this city. They are a sad example of

punishing law abiding citizens for the crimes of a small minority, they are a simple, barely effective (if at all) solution to a complex problem.

Thank you,

Mark Hardwick, age 32 years

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