

Formal Submission to the Review

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

Hi,

My submission to the review is that I am extremely against the lockout laws. I have experienced Sydney before and after the laws and I believe it has made Sydney a significantly worse place to inhabit. I have tried to outline my points as best I can.

- I have concern about the information pack for an independent review being written exclusively by the government that implemented the lockout policies. I think this concern is justified by the use of only pro-lockout references in the document. There has been no balanced inclusion of other prominent anti-lockout coverage of the topic in the pack. eg. <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/would-last-person-sydney-please-turn-lights-out-matt-barrie>. The data in the pack makes no reference to the decline of business that have suffered due to the lockout.
- I think the lockout laws represent a worrying descent to a lowest common denominator policy threshold under which everybody is punished for the actions of a few. Similar to outlawing swimming because some people have drowned. I understand that it is a tragedy for people to have lost their lives but death tolls would also reduce if people stopped driving, surfing, scuba diving, playing lawn bowls, crossing roads, working themselves to stressful levels and any number of other activities. Gordian Fulde is decorated doctor and to be respected. However I think it is skewed to ask him if he thinks people she go to bed earlier and drink less. Of course he does! A cardiac doctor would like us to exercise more and eat less but we do not have a mandatory exercise requirement and food consumption constraint.
- There is an element of arbitrary ridiculousness applied to both the times and the locations of the lockout.
 - Who is to say that violent assaults occur more after 1:30am. This is missing from the data provided. I personally know that if I wanted to, I could be extremely drunk by 7:30pm having started drinking at 6pm. The 1:30am thing is just ridiculous and demonstrates a misunderstanding about the nature of intoxication.
 - Arbitrary is a generous way to describe the lockout precincts. A cynical way would be corrupt. Both the Star Casino and the future site of the Crown casino curiously lie outside the lockout zone. One on the edge of the zone and one with the zone literally traced around it. Casinos accommodate potentially drunk problem gamblers at any hour, and problem gambling is directly linked to domestic violence (http://www2.gsu.edu/~psyjige/Fact/trauma_04_10.pdf). I find it hypocritical in the extreme to purport to "improve safety and general amenity" on the one hand by implementing a lockout, and on the other hand condone and funnel patrons into a 24/7 gambling facility. It stinks to high heaven and the government should be red faced with shame for implementing it.
- I think there are better ways to reduce violent behaviour without the punishing everybody
 - Consider: If a person offends while under the influence of alcohol. Whether it be for drink driving, fighting, anti-social behaviour, then their NSW ID has a chip which is switched to "black" status for a period of time depending on the offence.
 - All NSW ID contain these chips, ID is required to be scanned at every alcohol purchase. Licensees are required by law not to serve alcohol to patrons who have this "black" status.

I don't want to live in a place where I have to go to bed when I'm told. I want to be able to hang out late into the evening, meeting new people and chatting to my friends. I want to be able to go and see music at different venues open to all hours. I want to be able to have options to do different things on different weekends at different times. I don't want to tell my interstate and international friends that Sydney is a shit place to party. I don't feel under constant threat of being punched in the back of the head when I'm walking home and I don't feel safer now that the lockout laws have been implemented. I don't want a law that

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blatantly panders to the interest of large profiteering casinos while restricting my freedoms.

I'm happy to talk more on this. Please feel free to contact me

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