

Lockout Laws Review - Submission

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

I moved into the newly converted apartment building, [REDACTED] in November 2011. I lived there until November 2013; just before the introduction of the Lockout Laws in February 2014. I was 55 when I moved in having recently separated from my wife. At that time Bayswater Rd was the epicentre of the KX 'street drinking culture' (my description), with three of the most popular KX bars; Trademark, World Bar & Hugos. Every Thursday, Friday & Saturday night Bayswater Road was virtually safely impassable. The whole street was permanently littered with drunk kids. I made a point of not going out on those nights. My girlfriend who I met soon after I moved in wouldn't visit me on those nights unless she was safely inside by 7pm. We rarely went out on those nights because getting home past 11pm was just too risky. I moved out in November 2013 because I just couldn't put up with the weekend night activity on the street. I moved to the safer end of Potts Point in Macleay St.

Since the introduction of the Lockout Laws and the remarkable improvement in the safety on the streets of KX I have moved back into [REDACTED]. Now I find that the Lockout Laws are being reviewed.

Here is my perspective; the perspective of someone who lived through the height of the street trouble including the two appalling one punch deaths. There is a serious binge drinking problem amongst Australian youth. The Lockout Laws were perhaps not introduced as a direct response to that issue (i.e. they were in response to street violence), but anything that has the effect of reducing binge drinking is a bonus. The laws have clearly been effective; the statistics say it all, and anecdotally I can tell you that the improvement in the safety on the street has been absolutely remarkable. But here's my key point; **the kids that invaded KX every weekend came here to spend time on the street, not in the bars and clubs.** You will recall that Bayswater Rd was so virtually impassable because of the swarm of drunk kids strewn across that roadway that the police actually either cut the street off to traffic or made it one-way (I can't recall exactly). The kids pre-load, they're drunk by the time they get here, they flit in and out of a couple of venues but their primary focus is to spend time with their friends on the street – and I mean the roadway, not the footpath. The kids literally took over Bayswater Rd for three nights a week. Under the current laws they can still drink themselves silly until 3am, but they're not happy with that because that's not their primary aim; their primary aim is to spend their time walking the streets drunk. The laws were introduced to get the kids off the street and they have been remarkably successful. Those people who are agitating for the laws to be relaxed have one motivation; to get the drunks out of the confines of the clubs and back on to the street. KX was seen as the place where there were no boundaries on their behaviour and they are looking to make that the case again. Is having thousands of drunk kids on the street the sort of behaviour that we want to reintroduce?

I say no to relaxing the Lockout Laws.

Thanks for listening

Geoff Jones

Resident, [REDACTED] Potts Point