

Liquor review - public submission

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

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Hi there

I would be in favour of winding back the lock-out laws for loads of reasons, but to summarise my recent experience:

In my early to mid 20s, I went to Kings Cross on Friday and Saturday nights regularly and occasionally on a weeknight after work (about 100 times in total over the years I'd say). I'd go to restaurants, bars, pubs and nightclubs. I thought it was a vibrant melting pot filled with an eclectic mix of towards 100,000 socialites, gangsters, hipsters, jocks, young people and old people, all races of men and women and in between. I was never in an argument or a fight, and I never witnessed a fight. I always had a great time. I'm not saying fights never happened – I'm sure they did (and as they no doubt would in a country tavern). Just not in front of me.

I'm 31 now and two weeks ago on a Friday night after dinner in Potts Point, walked past some closed bars and clubs to have a beer up the top of the Kings Cross Hotel and looked down over empty streets. What I used to enjoy is no longer available to people because of these laws. It made me sad. It's not a matter of "just enjoy yourself prior to 1.30am" or "just stop drinking at 3am". The laws reduce patronage and make the businesses uneconomical.

Sometimes after dinner (wherever in Sydney that may be), I like to invite friends back to mine for a glass of wine/beer or vice versa. I don't stock large amounts of wine, and usually finish dinner after 10pm. So the lockouts are stuffing me with my current lifestyle too.

I'm not against measures which improve safety but I am if they are at the expense of things which I and many hold dear to life in Sydney.

It shouldn't matter whether 60% of NSW voters support the laws if asked the question. It should matter what the people who are impacted by the laws think (ie those who might be out and about after 10pm and whether they appreciate the additional safety or are frustrated by the lack of options). I'm by no means high on the scale of those impacted, but I'm one of thousands who are impacted enough to be really annoyed.

My ideas for winding back the laws are:

- Change the lock-out time to 3am to align with the drinks timing.
- Change the bottle shop closure to midnight.

A good compromise which I think would go a long way to making it worthwhile for clubs to keep their doors open if an average Joe can pay their \$30 cover charge after dinner on a Saturday and know there's at least a couple of hours before the place clears out, and the club also gets the last 1.5 hours' revenue from a packed house rather than one which starts haemorrhaging patrons from 1.30am.

Cheers

Dave

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