

# Submission to the Review of the Liquor Amendment Act 2014 by the Hon. IDF Callinan AC QC

4 April 2016

To: Liquor Law Review, liquorlawreview@justice.nsw.gov.au

From: Marcus King

Firstly thank you for the opportunity to write and express my thoughts and experience in relation to the lock-out law review. The reason for my submission is that I have seen and experienced the laws' negative effects first hand. I have witnessed small businesses close, some owned by close friends of mine, peoples' jobs lost and livelihoods truly harmed. On a personal level, I have felt the cultural down turn of the city, with less and less venues to see live music and socially enjoy time with friends. I also am an avid record collector and am personally effected with less venues to share this passion of mine. My heart breaks when I see this coupled with an ever dwindling creative energy that was once, and still can be so good.

Basing our model solely off Newcastle, as suggested by the Premier, is neither rational or culturally constructive when dealing with an international city such as Sydney. There are multiple examples of models both home and abroad that have successfully embraced a thriving but safe night culture, such as developing best-practice policing strategies, investing in 24/7 public transport, implementing integrated urban planning reform, encouraging diversification of after-dark activities, establishing anti-violence education & intervention campaigns, incentivising well-run venues, and appointing a Night Mayor.

My question is, why the research hadn't been done in the first place with multiple solutions being put forward and assessed, rather than dealing with the aftermath of a broken economy and dwindling culture. The lock-out laws have caused irreparable damage to the economic, social and cultural fabric of Sydney.

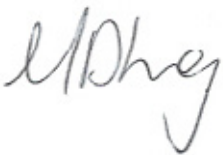
We all agree that safe streets are a priority. It is such a tragedy that two young men lost their lives which is absolutely horrible. Things should be done to adjust the issues with alcohol that a proportion of our society have. But there are better ways to achieve this. Evidence and common sense suggests that a better planned response could have a greater effect on reducing alcohol-related violence without having the unintended consequences that the lockout laws have had.

No-one is saying we want to jeopardise safety. That's just it, and it is so clear to so many; we can have both if only dealt with constructively. Why strip the freedoms of everyone for the actions of so few.

And not only this, there is the whole issue of the casino being exempt from the laws. Violence at the star has almost doubled since 2013. The Star has been exempt from 'three strikes' scheme. Then there's the obvious issue of gambling addiction and the harm that causes to families and the mental health of those who are affected by it. Surely this is so much of a bigger problem.

I love Sydney and I want to continue to love it for many years to come. I want to love it for the reasons I have for so many years. For its rich and diverse culture day and night. To have the freedom to enjoy these aspects as I please, of course in a safe environment, which I believe is achievable, if only give the right attention and open-minded attitude it deserves. Sydney is an international city, that should be treated and viewed abroad as one.

Yours sincerely  
Marcus King



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