

Review

S K [REDACTED]

Wed 30/03/2016 8:29 PM

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

I'll try to keep this as simple as possible.

I'm an international touring musician and music producer who grew up in Sydney. I'm 37 years old and bring in AUD370k, after taxes, a year. Prior to 2011 I was based in Europe from 2006-2010.

Sydney's nightlife is dead. It's that simple. People rush in to get to venues before 01:30 to stay until 03:00. Do you truly know how ridiculous that is? Do you even understand that some peoples' nights start at midnight? Or even later? People that do shift work? People that finish at 18:00 of a Friday? Is this for real?

Let's use an example scenario: An accountant living in Liverpool who works in the CBD and finishes at 18:00 of a Friday.

18:00: Finishes work.

18:20-18:40: Get's on the 18:39 train to Liverpool because the train beforehand only goes to Lidcombe.

19:56: Arrives at Liverpool

19:57: Gets on bus/walks home. Let's be generous and say it only takes 10 minutes.

20:07: Arrives home.

20:12: Takes 10 minute shower.

20:22: Has a bite to eat.

20:32: Begins to get dressed for the huge night out.

20:52: Finished getting dressed (because if it's a woman it only takes 20 minutes to put make up on and clothes, right?)

20:53: Walks to massive 10 minutes to the train station.

21:03: Arrives at Liverpool Station

21:17: Gets on train towards Central

22:21: Arrives at Central.

22:22: Realises it's just taken 6 hours to get home and back into the city to meet up with friends that have already been out for two hours.

22:23: Wants to be responsible and takes the NSW government's advice of one standard drink an hour.

22:24: Realises this means that lockout laws are in 3 hours, so there's time for 3 to responsible drinks before the journey home.

22:25: Meanwhile - Someone working at NSW government realises that giving someone 3 hours to have fun is going to lead to people binge drinking and getting completely wasted because there's a time limit on when they can drink and a location limit of where they can go. Pats self on the back.

Or what about this scenario:

25 year old professional. Can't buy a house in Sydney because they are OVER a million dollars. Can't rent a one bedroom apartment anywhere near the city because they are OVER \$500 a week. So wait, the government expects young people to come out of the suburbs with the money that they've earnt

over the week (being the only generation in how long to earn less than their parents?), only for them to be told to go back home almost immediately because, uh... two people out of a city of nearly 5 million people died before 21:00 and there's literally one train an hour on one of the worst transport systems in the world? I'm lucky enough to not have to worry about the issue of money at the moment, it's just sad that people in the same situation who are in control of the laws don't realise how sad life has become for young people and are doing every thing they can to ruin it.

I'm not even going to mention the casino situation, because frankly, as scummy and corrupt as it is, it doesn't really matter, because whether or not the casinos are there, the lockouts are in place, and the lockouts have killed the vibrancy of the city. Killed the music. Killed the art. Killed the entrepreneurship. Killed the dreams of an entire generation of young people. But hey, when you're in politics and know people in high places, I'm sure you can get a drink with some mates at the casino, right?

Kind of a side note, but it is utterly embarrassing that the man put in charge of this review is a 78 year old conservative - Really, could someone more out of touch been appointed - I get it though, he's "neutral", right? And that he was appointed by the deputy PM, a former policer officer? I ask in all seriousness, but is that meant to be a joke or something? Because I'm sure in the backrooms of an office somewhere, Mike Baird, Troy Grant and Ian Callinan have probably had a laugh about it over a glass of port - Maybe even after 03:00! What an embarrassment this city has become. What an embarrassment these laws are. What an embarrassment that they're not just killed off these laws instead of having to go through a review.

In any case, I really shouldn't be bothering you with my troubles because my flight to Europe is already booked due to this city's ridiculous laws that not only inhibit the personal freedoms of every single person living in the state, including international tourists, but have utterly murdered the nightlife and creativity of the city. I've told from overseas who were planning on a trip to Australia not to come because Sydney, once a great world city, has regressed into the equivalent of a dog in a zoo - utterly nothing stands out and this is nearly entirely down to the night scene being decimated. I'll continue to tell friends, strangers on the internet and customers to not bother with Sydney.

It's a pity Sydney, but my in tax - which I'm entirely happy with paying to support the community - won't be going to support a property bubble and corrupt casino deals while the state government destroys the one thing left that us (obvious plebeians) have to keep us entertained. It's 2016, not 1916. You need to do better to keep young people here, because they're already moving out.

Thanks, but no thanks.

Sincerely, a furious Shane.