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Submission in support of laws

AK Andreas Kouremenos 



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To: Liquor Law Review; 

Sat 2/04

Inbox

To whom it may concern,

I wish to make a submission to the independent liquor law review.

I am in full support of the NSW Government's laws aimed at addressing alcohol-related violence. I have noticed a considerable improvement in the amenity of inner-city areas late at night following the introduction of the laws.

I moved to Australia from Canada eight years ago and am now an Australian citizen. While I have always loved this country, I have for a long time been dismayed by its drinking culture. Nowhere were the problems more evident than in the drinking precincts of George Street, Kings Cross and Oxford Street, Darlinghurst. I have been a regular patron of venues in these areas and have seen first-hand the problems the relaxed licensing and planning laws have created. In my home city of Toronto, bars and clubs close at 2am. The nightlife is vibrant yet also civilised. We do not have drinking precincts like Kings Cross where 24-hour nightclubs sit side by side and it seems like 'anything goes'.

I believe the overly lax licensing laws in NSW and particularly inner-city Sydney have been a major contributor to the problems these areas experienced. Simply by introducing relatively modest alcohol and trading hour restrictions, many of these problems appear to have been substantially reduced. Sydney after dark is no longer an unpleasant place to be.

The claims that the laws have 'shut down' the city are simply false. Walking through the inner-city late at night on weekends it is clear that there are still thousands of people around, enjoying a night out. There has simply been a reduction in the levels of drunkenness and associated bad behaviour.

I recommend retaining the laws, if not expanding them.

Yours Sincerely,

Andreas Kouremenos