

# Lock out law objections

Csaba Kovacs [REDACTED]

Wed 30/03/2016 2:57 PM

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

To whom it may concern,

I am a home owner and rates payer on the border of Darlinghurst and Kings Cross, in the heart of the lock out zone. I oppose the recent changes to the liquor laws and 1:30AM lockout on a number of principles.

The new laws punish all responsible adults for the actions of a few misbehaving violent people. This is not how the justice system works. Car accidents kill a lot more people than violence, but we don't implement blanket prohibitions on driving cars. The solution should not be a blanket prohibition and taking away people's civil liberties, rather harsher punishment of those few violent people. Increased police patrols and locking up the drunk and disorderly would be a more appropriate response to the issue.

As a resident, I have noticed the area is definitely quieter, however it is to be expected when evening/late night foot traffic has dropped by over 60%. The effects on local businesses due to this is detrimental, as many restaurants, pubs and bars and the Taylor Square newsagency on Oxford St that has been open for 83 years, have been forced to close due to these draconian laws.

( <http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/competitions/after-83-years-on-oxford-st-taylor-square-newsagency-has-closed/news-story/653696c1d69ffa485b17eaf14a650254> )

While the statistics show that violence has dropped, it ignores the fact that foot traffic has dropped even more - therefore, statistically the violence in the area has increased.

Another reason for my objection against these laws is fact that casinos are exempt from them. This in its own right begs the question whether there is a different agenda at play. If it was all about the safety of the citizens, then the casinos would need to follow the same rules as other venues in the CBD, especially since statistics has shown that Star City is one of the most violent venues in the CBD.

Sydney, especially around Oxford St and Kings Cross, used to have a thriving late night culture, like a world city. Great restaurants, pubs, clubs, bars. Nowadays it's dead, atmosphere killed by the recent lock-out laws. The news of these lock out laws have spread fast in the overseas media, and on the world stage Sydney is a joke now, a has been. We need our city be thriving once more, to be up there deserving of the title of world city.

Let's not kill our late night culture, rather help make it safe for everyone and crack down on the violence instead of implementing blanket prohibitions for the masses.

Regards,  
Csaba Kovacs  
Darlinghurst home owner