

Voice of a local resident



Jayne Lelliott



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To: Liquor Law Review; v

Fri 1/04

Inbox

Dear Liquor Law Review Committee,

Now 36, I have been a local resident of Potts Point/Kings Cross for the last 13+ years.

I do not support the liquor laws as they currently stand. They are overzealous and reactionary and not well thought through. It makes me deeply sad to see what they have done to my once vibrant and colourful neighbourhood.

I do not believe we should punish a whole sector of our community because of the reckless actions of a few. To draw an analogy, it would be like prohibiting all driving at night because a few irresponsible people choose to drink and drive. Drink driving kills many more people than coward punches and such a law would certainly curb the road toll but it's just not sensible as it punishes the overwhelming majority of citizens who do the right thing. A more even-handed measure such as road side RBTs is much more acceptable.

I travel frequently to Melbourne and the night-time economy there is fantastic, friendly, vibrant, fun and safe. This is what we should be striving for in Sydney.

The 10pm closure of liquor outlets is particularly frustrating as it means you can no longer pick up a bottle of wine on the way home from the theatre or after a late sitting at one of the local bars. It gives you a very sad feeling of being



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While rarely still up at sunrise today, it is certainly something I have cherished about our beautiful, international city over the last 15+ years. In the early days it was all about dancing until dawn, discovering new DJs and meeting new people, in the later days it was all about having long philosophical debates at 3 or 4am over strong martinis in small bars on Kellett

Street. I credit these experiences with creating some of the best memories of my life and consider access to a vibrant night-life one of the central perks of living in an exciting, urban, international city that values freedoms, civil liberties and culture.

Having said all of that, I unequivocally welcome a well-thought out, evidence-based, review of how the local night-time economy can best be managed and absolutely acknowledge there are improvements to be made. City planning is far from my area expertise but I like to offer a few ideas for consideration rather than just complain:

- Free and regular all night public transport in and out of the city on Fri and Sat nights
- Crowd management strategies as per what you see at festivals or where there are large crowds
- Consult with local, national and even international experts in this area for advice (Vivid or Sydney Festival organisers appear to know a thing or two)
- Support efforts to create a vibrant and engaging cultural nightlife eg efforts that attract world class DJs and performance artists to the city to host late night shows, cabaret events, comedy etc
- Offer incentives or rewards to late night operators of clubs and bars who do the right thing and have the best managed venues
- Encourage a rating system for late night activities - we could have the 'Sydney Good Food Guide' but for after dark!
- Relax or redesign some of the licensing laws to make it easier for small bars to stay open and trade late so we have a good mix of nightclubs and small quirky bars that serve food

A final word on the casino exemption, I can't help but feel that this could have been leveraged better to the city's advantage. For example, could the council have proposed certain CSR conditions of staying open 24 hours, such as an expectation that the casino would contribute to an 'after-dark cultural vibrancy fund' to help fund these types of initiatives?

Thanks for the opportunity to make this submission and hear from the local residents. I have no doubt there is a smart solution that can make the city a safe and vibrant place to be at night for all.

Kind regards

Jayne Lelliott

Potts Point resident