

Liquor law review - feedback submission

Roger Lumley [REDACTED]

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

Hello,

As an individual, I believe the lock out laws have negatively impacted the city of Sydney, both economically and culturally. It is also inhibited my personal rights. Finally, these laws have not worked.

Economically, it is very clear that these laws have negatively impacted Sydney. One only has to walk the streets of Kings Cross, Darlinghurst, the CBD and Oxford St to see this. Stores are closed, not just bars and clubs but all the ancillary business such as take-out joints, newsagencies and bottle shops. I have friends who have personally lost hours at their job or their entire job due to the effects of the new liquor laws.

Secondly, the culture of Sydney has been damaged. 4 years ago, the nightlife of Sydney was the most exciting I have ever seen in the history of Sydney. Small bar licences changed the way people went out at night, which opened diversity in the arts, music and food scene. No longer did all types of people have to mingle in the same giant hotels. Diversity flourished. Oxford St maintained a strong queer culture, Kings Cross catered for those out 'for a big night' both culturally, medically and with a strong police presence. Newtown had a nightlife that was more relaxed. The liquor laws have meant that all these cultural hubs have been destroyed and there is no diversity in nighttime locals anymore. Live music has suffered.

As an individual I have had my personal rights inhibited. I have never in my life hit anyone or desired to hit anyone. I am a responsible adult who should be able to purchase a drink at 4am in the morning or a bottle of wine at 10:30 if I desire. My actions are not impinging upon anyone.

Finally, the laws have not worked. The data, which I am sure you have better access to, shows a reduction in violence however this does not account for the reduction in foot traffic. If we took all cars off the road, of course we would see less accidents. However no one is advocating for this because it is stupid. The laws would not have prevented either of the two deaths that triggered the laws being in place. Both assaults took place before 10pm. All 3 measures of these laws would not have impacted on the perpetrators decision to assault the victims.

Please, reassess and repeal these laws. They are damaging a city that I love, individuals economic and personal freedom and simply do not work.

Thanks,
Roger