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# Lockout Law Review Submission

EM Emmy Mack 



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To: Liquor Law Review; 

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To Whom It May Concern,

Since their implementation, the NSW liberal government's alcohol restrictions have had a devastating effect on small businesses, jobs, the economy, civil liberties, tourism, and the social, cultural fabric and reputation of Sydney.

These laws are - at best - regressive and illogical and - at worst - completely corrupt.

It's now no secret that property developers and the casinos are the ones benefitting from these outrageous laws, while late night street activity has plummeted, with foot traffic Kings Cross down [as much as 84%](#) and almost 50 iconic venues across the CBD [shutting down](#) and hundreds of jobs with them.

The 1.30am lockouts and 3am last drinks laws should never have been implemented in the first place. They would have done nothing to prevent the tragic deaths of the two young men whose deaths formed the moral panic & catalyst for their introduction, both of which occurred around 9pm, on the streets, not inside licensed venues.

In fact, the rate of alcohol-related assaults in NSW had been declining since 2008.

The lockout "solution" is fundamentally flawed and has had more catastrophic effects than I have the scope to go into here, so if you'd like more information, I suggest you read every word of businessman Matt Barrie's essay ['Would The Last Person In Sydney Please Turn The Lights Out?'](#) and his follow-up [The Death Of Sydney's Nightlife And The Economic Collapse Of His Nighttime Economy](#).

Finally, I urge you to engage with the forward-thinking strategies of the [Keep Sydney Open](#) movement. Unlike the Murdoch press's frequent media beat-ups would have us believe, safety from violence and freedom to enjoy our city are not binary concepts.

Alcohol-fuelled violence can be reduced while maintaining our civil liberties by doing what other major international cities around the world have done, and tackling the actual problem.

Some basic suggestions:

- \* Improve public transport!!! Have trains and busses running all night so intoxicated people aren't stranded on the streets with nothing to do and no way to get home (I myself have been in this situation way too many times and it's not fun).
- \* Invest more into education initiatives
- \* Enforce a stronger police presence on the streets at night, but
- \* Encourage police to work alongside venues to combat violence, instead of against them.
- \* Increase the legal penalties for perpetrators of drunken assaults
- \* implement a strategy that makes individuals - and not the whole society - accountable for their bad behaviour, such as a "banned from one, banned from all" venue policy.

If these laws are not removed and replaced with smarter, more progressive solutions, the voices of dissent are only going to get louder and their numbers stronger.

Damage has been done, but we can still recover. Please unlock our city before it's too late.

Regards,

Emmy Mack

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**Emmy Mack**

*Journalist/Presenter*

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