

# Submission to the Review of the Liquor Amendment Act 2014

LM Lach Mackay [REDACTED]

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To: Liquor Law Review: 

Mon 8:46 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I am a Sydney resident and a peaceful participant of the vibrant nightlife that once existed, and I am grateful for the opportunity to make this submission. I am writing to you because, as a dedicated DJ and producer, I have personally experienced the impacts that the lockout laws have had on this city. I have seen businesses close (one of which, SOHO, I was a part of at the time that it closed), witnessed the loss of jobs, and mourned the dwindling opportunities to listen to and be inspired by a wide diversity of music which Sydney is so well-known for, and that occurs well into the early hours of the morning.

We both agree that safe streets are a priority. I believe that a better planned response could have a greater effect on reducing alcohol-related violence *without* having the unintended consequences that the lockout laws have had.

Sydney's nighttime economy had an awkward start to life. It grew up and out too quickly and without being properly planned for. Before we knew it, tens of thousands of people were coming into a few precincts every Friday and Saturday night, and yet instead of being managed on the scale this required, Kings Cross was left to its own devices. The police were not willing or able to deal with the belligerent or violently inclined. The venues were packed and the streets were chaotic. When it all got too much or you decided it was time to go home, the busses and trains had stopped and the fight for a cab was a long one.

Then, tragically, two young men lost their lives. The city mourned and rightly decided things had to change. The government's response, however, chose to deflect the blame and rushed through blanket laws without consultation. The lockout laws have been a failure.

The lockout laws have caused irreparable damage to the economic, social and cultural fabric of Sydney. Instead of the 1:30am lockout and 3.00am cease of service, the **7 key actions** below

should be implemented together to curb the violence and keep Sydney open for all to enjoy.

- 1 Developing bestpractice **policing** strategies;
- 2 Investing in 24/7 public **transport** ;
- 3 Implementing integrated urban **planning reform** ;
- 4 Encouraging diversification of **afterdark activities** ;
- 5 Establishing antiviolence **education & intervention** campaigns;
- 6 **Incentivising wellrun venues** ; and
- 7 Appointing a **Night Mayor** .

I hope that you take the time to consider these strategies, which I share with a large number of peaceful participants of Sydney's nightlife like myself. We are proud of the diversity, vibrancy and sense of unity that the Sydney nightlife once brought, and it would be a shame to see it gone forever.

Sincerely,

Signed: Lachlan Mackay 03.04.16