

Re: submission

eoin maher [REDACTED]

Wed 30/03/2016 2:02 PM

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

The lockout laws have impacted my city and my social life in the following ways;

It has led to me choosing to not socialise in my city nearly as often - I enjoying dancing late into the night, not pouring my wages into a poker machine (one of the few nighttime options left)

It has put alcohol front and centre of every night out. Before the lockouts alcohol was an afterthought on my nights out, as it was always available and so we forgot about access to it entirely. Now the entire night is an exercise in clock watching, 1.30, we need to be somewhere...then we can't move somewhere else...then we will be cut off at 3am...it has led to people sprinting to consume as much alcohol as possible before 1.30 and 3am respectively.

I never stay out late anymore. Staying in one venue is boring, I like to see a few acts in a night. If i am out past 1.30, I simply go home, bored and disappointed.

It has led to me stop recommending Sydney as a destination. I moved to this city in 2008 from Europe and found it to be a revelation of tolerance and fun. It no longer feels like this due to it's officious laws particularly in the area of alcohol laws. I can think of no place outside of Islamic countries with a more restrictive alcohol regime than here in NSW. I advise people to visit Melbourne instead.

It has led to an uneasy feeling on city streets. Kings Cross and the CBD used to feel alive with people at all hours, now it is not and feels unsafe because of that. I would not feel comfortable letting my girlfriend walk down Kellett or George street now at 2am, whereas before the lockouts I would have no issue with this.

The government has not initiated the tough sentencing it introduced with the lockout laws...yet had no issue pushing through these harmful unfair laws.

These laws punish well and badly run businesses equally.

These laws are detrimental to live music, well run businesses and only benefit the casino owners. They have not cutdown violence, they have moved it. To be told by a patriarchal group of politicians and doctors that I am being kept from enjoying my city at late hours incase I violently assault someone is galling. It makes me question why I would choose to continue living in this city when I could move to Europe or the United States where I am trusted to enjoy myself responsibly and to be punished if I do not?

Regards

Eoin Maher

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