



Reference: MC/16/43814
Enquiries: L.Martin 9976-1567

The Hon Ian Callinan AC QC
Email: liquorlawreview@justice.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Callinan

**Re: NSW GOVERNMENT LIQUOR LAW REVIEW -
SUBMISSION BY MANLY COUNCIL COMMUNITY SAFETY AND
PLACE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Lockouts and Last Drinks

Manly CBD is a designated late night entertainment precinct and has had a long history of late night alcohol related violence and anti-social behavior. There has been a heavy social, economic and environmental cost to this situation. However many initiatives have been implemented to improve safety outcomes with high degrees of success.

Manly has had a voluntary lock out regime in place since 2002. Closing times and lock out times are negotiated in consultation with Police Commander and the Liquor Accord with oversight by the Council Community Safety and Place Management committee. The latest closing venue (despite holding 24 hour liquor licenses) is 3:00am. The current lock out arrangements range from 12:30am to 2:00am.

In relation to the current lockout laws subject of the review we wish to submit that there has been no obvious displacement of crime impacting from the laws imposed on the City of Sydney and Kings Cross. BOCSAR crime statistics confirm that alcohol related assaults and alcohol related offensive behavior crimes in Manly are stable and lower than previous years. Anecdotally the venues have experienced more patronage since the changes in the city but there has not been a corresponding increase in crime.

Complaints of late night disturbances are in fact less and feelings of safety are at record highs as indicated in Council's annual Community Satisfaction Survey. This is in contrast to 2011 when the community overwhelmingly nominated the issue of 'Binge Drinking and the Culture of Alcohol in Public Spaces' as the top priority social issue in Manly Council's Community Strategic Plan 2011-2021. Additional evidence of improvement is that a Street Pastors team that operated in Manly CBD on Saturday nights for the past five years has recently disbanded due to reduced need in the night environment.

Indicators suggest that there may be a positive shift in the drinking culture, however the current laws should be retained in order to sustain this improvement.

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10.00pm take-away liquor law

It is submitted that this law be retained. We are strongly supportive of this initiative/law. Pre, trans and post loading of take-away alcohol is a key factor in intoxication levels in the night environment. Accessibility to liquor should not be available after 10pm. It increases risks in public space and impacts on public amenity. It also encourages more secondary supply opportunities.

Observations and experience in Manly is that cost motivated young people including backpackers will utilize bottle shops in preference to purchasing more expensive drinks with alcohol limitation rules that exist in licensed venues. If cheaper alcohol options are available outside of the highly regulated and safer, late night licensed venues this will transfer the duty of care and safety for young people from inside controlled venues to unsupervised public spaces particularly areas on the harbour and ocean beachfronts. Surrounding parks and pedestrian spaces will become a space to drink and party. Evidence of this is already emerging in the early evening in East Esplanade park and Shelly Beach. Whilst these areas may already be deemed alcohol prohibited areas the resources required to manage this later at night is simply not available. It will also inevitably affect the amenity of the area where residential is concentrated.

Discarded take away alcohol bottle rubbish is also a byproduct of public drinking in the night environment and one that is both dangerous and incurs cleanup costs for Council. It has been estimated that late night crime and disorder in Manly CBD has directly cost Council at least \$1M per annum with the majority spent on cleansing and waste management.

Manly is supportive of activation of alternative activities in the night time environment and has trialed this concept with very positive outcomes (ref: 'Market Lane Saturdays' pilot 2013). After about 10:00pm the night is dominated by young people. Promotion of activities and events that do not primarily focus on alcohol sales with the aim of attracting a wider range of demographics into the night economy will likely result in less crime problems and should be encouraged in all late night entertainment precincts.

Recommendations

1. That the current lockout and last drinks laws be retained.
2. That the 10.00pm takeaway liquor outlet closing time law be retained.
3. That support be given to a night economy that promotes alternative activities and events that attract a wide demographic.

Yours sincerely



Jean Hay AM

Mayor

Chair, Manly Council Community Safety and Place Management Committee

Date: 31 March 2016

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