

3 April 2016

Liquor Law Review

By email: liquorlawreview@justice.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sirs,

I make this submission in my private capacity, with a view to briefly addressing the way in which the various measures subject to review have had an impact on me. Given their personal focus, I would prefer if they are not published on your website.

Firstly, as a resident of [REDACTED], I have noticed a discernible change in the character of the crowds on King Street on week [REDACTED] change can, I assume, be attributed to a displacement effect, as patrons attend venues along King Street in order to avoid the perceived impact of the measures in place in the CBD. I consider this to be a negative impact on the community in the Newtown area.

Secondly, as someone who occasionally enjoys dining late, I have on a number of occasions been unable to enjoy wine with my meal because of the 10 pm curfew on take-away alcohol sales. Admittedly, this restriction can be avoided with a degree of forward planning, but it is nonetheless frustrating to have such a restriction imposed absent compelling justification. Is there, for example, evidence that suggests that an 11 pm restriction would be ineffective?

Finally, the 1:30 am lock-out rules have stymied social plans in my circle on more than one occasion. Given the difficulties of transport in the city, the lock-out makes it very difficult to head out in the CBD unless the entire evening is devoted to that purpose.

I understand that the review will be closely examining whether these measures have been effective. If they have, then the above inconveniences may be a small price to pay for enhancing community safety. If so, however, then I question the justification for limiting the lock-out restrictions to the CBD. Many notoriously violent trouble spots lie outside the city precinct. If the measures are effective, they should be rolled out State-wide. The continued exclusion of the casino in particular makes it difficult to take the purported justifications for these measures seriously.

Thank you for your time.

BJ May
[REDACTED]