

ATTENTION: Independent review of the impact of

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liquor law reforms.



MM Mr. Hugh McCullum



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To: Liquor Law Review;

12:40 PM

Inbox

Dear Sir/Madam

My family and I are residents of Potts Point. I take an active interest in local affairs. I am a member of the Potts Point Partnership and the residents group Kings Cross+. I also serve as the Chairperson of five Executive Committees of residential buildings comprised of approximately 220 residential apartments in the Kings Cross area.

The small restrictions on trading hours, the "lock-outs" have been wonderful for residents of Kings Cross. My family has lived on Springfield Avenue in Potts Point for five generations and we have witnessed our neighbourhood's decline. I have watched banks become bars and the streets become a venue for those too young, drunk, drugged or aggressive to gain entry. The bars fuelled this mix by not practicing responsible service of alcohol. The bottle shops cashed in on the street party with no constraints.

In any part of the world except Kings Cross, when 25,000 people come to party, it is called a "festival" and appropriate measures for safety, security, amenities and alcohol are planned and enforced. In the Cross it is called "Friday or Saturday night". Kings Cross became a free-for-all. The streets became a toilet.

Since the restrictions on trading hours, a few venues serving the last drinks crowd have closed. Good business like the Sugarmill (ex-westpac bank) have adapted with food and entertainment options. Far more businesses that do more than just serve late night drinks have opened. To suggest the economy has been "devastated" is propaganda from the liquor industry.

It is worth noting that Newtown publicans, wary of becoming the new last drinks destination, voluntarily imposed their own restrictions on trading hours.

It is my hope that the restrictions in trading hours and the closure of bottle shops at 10pm continue. I would also ask that venues that flout responsible service of alcohol regulations have their licences removed.

Yours sincerely

Hugh McCullum

