

# Submission - Liquor Law Review

JM

jain moralee

To: Liquor Law Review; 



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To whom it may concern;

Please accept this email as a response to the Liquor Law Review.

I am a long time resident of Darlinghurst, Sydney where I live with my partner, our dog and cat. We both work in the creative industry - arts and design, and would consider ourselves to be social people, who like to eat, drink, dance out at venues as well as see live music, art, theatre and attend special events throughout the city and state.

We also both have very strong ties to our community and neighbourhood both with the people that live here but also the people that work here and have businesses in the area. It is no secret that rent prices for businesses in the Inner East of Sydney have made it extremely difficult for even the most business savvy to survive - but something that consistently bolstered the area was definately it's late night economy. The lock out laws have had debilitating impact on the late economy and culture of Sydney.



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uced late night culture.

I do not believe these two things are mutually exclusive, nor should they ever be. I believe we can be educating people about drinking and drug taking in a way that allows them to make better, informed decisions. I believe we should have effective public transport that runs all night to get people home safely without costing them huge amounts of money. I think venue staff could all undergo specific training to assist with managing people who are inebriated. I believe we should be investing in our community and our local business by implementing infrastructure across all these areas to reduce the risks of alcohol and drug related violence.

Unfortunately for the inner east of Sydney, the lock out laws do none of this. We may have seen a slight reduction in violence or harmful incidents, but this is actually because there is way less people in the inner east of Sydney. My area used to be vibrant, with people everywhere at night, with businesses open and a strong sense that there was life in the area after midnight. Now, the streets are deserted, many businesses have had to close down and I feel much less safe walking my dog at night, or grabbing a burger or walking a friend home - as there is literally no-one around. The lock out laws are destroying our late night culture and economy. They are closing business and thwarting the livelihood of many. Sydney was once a global destination - now tourists stop me in the street baffled as to what to do late. Friends have been dangerously shut out of venues, with flat mobile phones and not much money - so forced to walk home as they could not get back in to let friends know they missed the lock out. I have been followed by strangers more times since the lock out laws were introduced than ever before. Recently I had to run home at 2am in the rain, as I missed going back into a venue I had been at - and was being scoped by two men who were clearly not at the same venue as me. I did not have my mobile phone and no taxi would drive me as I lived too close. I consequently felt terrified in my own neighbourhood.

I truly believe the lock out laws create a more sinister inner east of Sydney than I have ever experienced in my 12 years of being a resident. They need to be lifted. I believe it is someone's right to drink after 3am should they wish (hospitality staff are a prime example here who may finish work at 2am and want to go to a different venue for a drink after work) and 1.30 lock out is perilous on many levels.

I also believe that there is something more sinister going on with regards to the Star City Casino being exempt from the lock out laws. I know more lives ruined by gambling than I have by alcohol fuelled violence. I believe it is irresponsible to encourage people - locals AND tourists - who want to go out late, to have to go to a casino. I could write about this in much more detail - but I believe others will and my primary concern is the decline of my neighbourhood, business owners, DJ's, performers, musicians, promoters, artists, graphic designers, taxi drivers and the broader industry that interlink late night culture and economy.

I believe that Mike Baird and the NSW government are upholding these laws for reasons other than the safety of the community and the economy, otherwise they would be lifted.

I believe when 15,000 plus people march to #keepsydneyopen, then our leaders need to listen.

I hope for the livelihood of Sydney and my immediate community, that this review assists in putting the lock out laws to bed and reinstating the dynamic global late night city Sydney once used to be, and we don't all have to pack up and live elsewhere. I love Sydney too much to do that.

#keepsydneyopen

Kind regards,

Jain Moralee

