

Lockout Laws Review

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

The lockout laws have done nothing but stifle what was once a vibrant nightlife that tourists and locals alike would come into the city for. Now instead you have dead and empty streets, lined with closing businesses.

Friends of mine from overseas are stupefied by the lockouts (generally takes a few attempts to explain the entire ridiculous idea), expressing desire to instead go to Melbourne for the nightlife.

Aside from destroying both business and tourism, it has helped to harm Sydney's music scene. How can music thrive in a city you're locked out of at 130?

Im glad you're doing a review of the lockout laws, but up to this point the utter disregard of what Sydney sides think of the laws has been appalling. Many prominent Australians, Sydney musicians and venues have argued against the lockout laws in reasonable and factual ways only to be entirely ignored.

And yet somehow the casinos, which promote addiction and violence (The Star is now the most violent venue in Sydney) are exempt to these laws that are archaically designed to protect us. Why not exempt music venues, or cultural hubs?

On top of all of this politicians are skewing statistics to make the laws they implement look successful. Of course an enormous drop in foot traffic will subsequently result in a drop in violent assault, there is simply less people to be involved in violence (either starting or receiving).

Late night culture is unstoppable, and will always shift to a new area, outside of lockout zones (Newtown currently), the fact that the laws wreck business and culture in specific areas, forcing it to migrate is simply not solving an issue.

Thank you - Tully Oleary