

Please read

JO Jon Owen [REDACTED]



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Action Items



Sir,

I have been simmering about this for a while now, I can't keep it in any more.

I'm relatively new to this wonderful city, but I am saddened and angered by what is happening.

There is no denying that the coward punch phenomenon is a terrible thing, but a politically convenient knee-jerk overreaction to this is not only duplicitous to the public, but insulting to the victims and their friends/family.

The lockout laws are very little to do with correcting public behaviour (and in any case, why should the government of a supposed liberal democratic society be forcing such sweeping measures through without a referendum - is that democratic?). It is more to do with big business calling the shots, and driving people to certain venues ([#casinomike](#)), as well as allowing huge developers to sweep up the now devalued properties to build sterile, high-margin properties that most Sydney residents don't want and can't afford.

Killing off vibrant, exciting parts of the city is a short-termist strategy. It will limit the wider appeal of Sydney over the long term and reduce worldwide relevance. Every busy, bustling city in the world has a thriving nightlife (super casinos do not represent a thriving nightlife, merely an exploitative business model where normal rules do not apply). Sydney is losing this thanks to a financial and political elite, who are making long term changes in the name of short term fixes to an issue that (while disturbing) does not warrant such draconian measures.

Political apathy and the taking-over of politics by business is a global phenomenon, Sydney is not an isolated case. But that makes it all the more important to act now, to stop the rot.

I find it hard to believe that the people doing this have no moral reservations to their actions. Sure, their cronies and families get rich and win power, but at what cost? Is it really more important to serve the needs of the few than those of society? Your fellow man? The planet? Please readjust your perspective and see that we all win when the greedy stop grabbing.

The world is a marvellous place because of its diversity...celebrate this, don't kill it. Decision-

makers, you have one of the best cities in the world, but your vision for it will change it for the worse, maybe forever. Your legacy may be a large inheritance for your children, but it will almost certainly be a sadder, poorer, less equal and less important city. Do you really want to kill a city? Your kids will be well enough off already, they don't need more and more and more...standing on a pile of money, surrounded by squalor doesn't sound that great to me. Please change tack.

Someone once said something like 'bad things happen when good people do nothing'.

Regards

J Owen