

Review of alcohol restriction zones (Oxford st)

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AP

Arjan Paauw 



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To: Liquor Law Review; 

2:44 PM


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Action Items



Please remove Oxford street and surroundings from the lockout zone.

As a resident of the area  and frequent of visitor of the gay nightlife along Oxford Street and Taylor Square I ask the 1.30AM lockout restrictions to be removed for the following reasons:

- 1 Gay residents of Sydney and visitors are being punished for acts committed by no one in our community.
- 2 Gay residents have no other places to go; there are no gay clubs or bars in Sydney outside the lockout zone since the Imperial closed. These draconian laws affect the gay community more than any other; straight people can just go elsewhere. We cannot.
- 3 The gay nightlife was already struggling. Since the lockout came in effect bars have closed and the entertainment at the remaining venues has scaled down significantly. Our gay nightlife is no longer the bustling, creative hub it once was. Sydney as a gay destination? Forget it. Gay tourism has certainly suffered. I just want to protect what remains.
- 4 I hardly dare inviting overseas friends anymore. There is just no explaining the point of the 1:30AM lockout.
I have had to run along oxford street with overseas friends to make it in time to get into the only place to be after 1:30.
How utterly embarrassing (I am 44).
There is no alternative either after 1:30. Mostly on Friday night everything dies in the bars by 1AM because most people must have made the choice to go to a club. Who stays behind in a half empty venue?
- 5 The vibrant nightlife was one of the reasons I moved to Sydney. Now that seems to have no future I am considering moving to Melbourne which has no policies aiming to destroy the gay nightlife.

I am convinced these exceptions can be made without an escalation in violence. It is not like gay people have any tendency towards the violence that started all this. The area has nearly died anyway with the number of patrons way down and we seem to be able to make these exceptions for casinos? Surely 1 street is not that hard.

Thanks. Please bring my community back.

Regards,

