



Submission to the lock out law review

KP

Kieran P [REDACTED]

To: Liquor Law Review; [REDACTED]



Reply all | [REDACTED]

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Inbox



Action Items



Dear Sir

Thank you for taking the time to read this and for conducting this review. The implementation of this legislation a few years ago has seen the virtual destruction of a once diverse, vibrant city and its night time economy. What is most distressing about these laws is how flagrantly corrupt their implementation and continued support appears to be, from the perspective of an everyday citizen.

I am a resident of Potts Point, so I have seen first hand how these laws have destroyed a once bustling area. Unfortunately, by implementing these laws, the people that have really suffered are all of the small business operators. The small venues and restaurants, run by hard working people that are not only passionate about the environment they create in their space but are also adding to the character and vibrance of our community. Small bars and restaurants do not breed a culture of violence, if anything they are creating a more sophisticated drinking culture by educating their customers of a different way to appreciate alcohol other than just to get drunk.

These laws are affront to our civil liberties as NSW and Australia more generally spirals out of controls with its never ending nanny state laws. Why can't I go out to a beautiful dinner at 1:31am like I could at Jimmy Liks, a high end restaurant that is now closed because of the lock out laws. Why can't I buy a bottle of wine at midnight to have with my dinner? Why do I have to drink out of a plastic cup like a baby? Star City Casino has the highest number of "Glassings" in the state yet they are still allowed to serve their drinks in glass. Why cant I finish work at 2am and go and have a drink before I go home. It is simply outrageous that the vast majority of people, tens of thousands of people, that used to go out on weekends in Sydney who have never committed a crime, never assaulted anyone and are completely responsible, law abiding citizens cannot be trusted in the greater community if they are intoxicated.

As someone who follows all levels of politics, I consider myself to be fairly well informed on topics that are of interest to me. I cannot see how any average citizen can look at the implementation of these laws and not think it was an absolute travesty to our democracy. The fact the the Star City Casino and the soon to be completed Crown Casino are completely excluded from from any of the lockout laws, despite being (In the instance of the Star) THE

MOST VIOLENT VENUE IN NSW, and in the heart of CBD, surrounded by lockout Zones, it simply defies logic on by any measure other than the misuse of power by social and political elites. How is it that the Casino is continually exempt from new laws of this nature. You can still smoke inside a casino. You can still enter the Casino whenever you want, despite it being the most violent venue in NSW. You can still by a drink at anytime there and have it served to you in a glass, despite it having the highest number of glassings in NSW.

If the lockout laws are about public health, then where is the considerations that through these laws, the government is effectively funnelling people into an areas that exposes them to addictive behaviours such as gambling. In 2014 there were just under 800 suicides in NSW. The national council on problem gambling in the US have stated that 1 in 5 suicides are a result of problem gambling. Granted this was an american study, but even if in Australia it was half this number, that is still 80 people that committed suicide in 2014 from gambling addiction and now the NSW government has shut down the city because two boys died in tragic circumstances over a two year period, yet has not only chosen to exclude the most violent venue in the state from all of the laws but is now funnelling more people into not one, but two casinos. How is this at all justified? Below is a screen shot of the Star Casinos share price. Notice the steady increase in share price since the introduction of the lockouts in 2014.



By shutting down the city in this manner you are robbing the community of its ability to engage in more productive, creative and innovative forms of entertainment. Sydney will never become a great city on the international stage when all we have to offer is as entertainment after dark is Casinos.

Apologies for the general lack of structure to this submission, it was obviously last minute, but thank you for taking my concerns into consideration.

Kind Regards

Kieran