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RE: Lockout Laws Should Be Abolished

MP Matt Plant 

To: Liquor Law Review; 



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Sat 2/04

Inbox

Hi The Hon Ian Callinan QC,

I hope this email finds you well as it does not find me or many of my statesmen.

I am emailing you as you are enlisted to decide the fate and future of our beautiful Sydney as an international city. We are at a crossroads in which our Sydney can go several different directions. One road leads to a baron cultural wasteland which is left to be a property developers playground and gambling mecca. The other leads to renewing our status as an international icon and to being on of the best cities to live in across the globe. Your decision will charter our course your Honour. All I can do is hope and trust that your judgement and decision making process is not tainted or skewed by the same evils and of hidden agendas and misinformation as those currently running our state.

Facts to consider when making your decision:

1. Mike Baird aka 'Casino Mike' and Barry O'Farrell aka 'Barry O' Fail' have a conflict of interests when it comes to the lockout laws. Their parties and political cause receive a large level of financial 'support' from Casinos, Casino Lobby Groups and Property Developers. The point here is that they have abused their positions of power and been corrupted by greed and personal gain at the expense of an entire State and City. There are plenty of articles linking the direct benefit these 'politicians' derive from these slimey relationships. Lets not forget so quickly that Mike Baird was not elected by the people, but instead appointed as a replacement for Barry O' Farrell due to corruption.
2. The statistics used to support the so called 'success' of the lockout laws have been an exercise in forgery, cherry picking of data and the general aim of misleading the public to support their own agenda. This is not something that is a claim but is instead supported by the people who themselves conducted and put together the research that they twist in their favour. Again there are many articles that go into depth to show how we are being fed a smorgasbord of lies as propaganda for their agenda.
3. The implementation and planning of the lockout laws was done in such haste that common sense, community involvement, industry involvement and insightful research was canned in favour of a rushed and heavily flawed policy with no real chance to solve any of the problems it was supposed to. Violence and violent behaviour are statistically not linked to alcohol. There are studies that prove this which have been buried as they do not suit the corrupt agenda of those in power. We all agree that violence must be reduced and will welcome changes that can minimise this without sacrificing civil liberties in favour of political corruption.

4. The Kelly family who have been the poster victims for One Punch attacks have been investigated and found to have used the death of their own son to manipulate the public and others around them into a situation again based on personal fulfillments and greed. The Kelly Foundation has not done anything credible to stop violence and is simply a front backed by the casino for the government to use as a heart tugging sob story whenever they are called into question. Recently a One Punch attack victim has spoken out against the lockouts, explaining that none of this legislation prevented his attack nor did he believe would it prevent future incidents. If only the dead could speak, they would surely be against the lockout laws. I can only imagine the Anzacs turning in their valiant graves at the thought of our liberties being sacrificed so swiftly in the name of greed.

5. Melbourne is what Sydney could be if we didn't have lockout laws and a government obsessed with micro over regulation, corrupt agendas and hyper-religious motives. Melbourne is hands down the best city in Australia. It constantly wins awards and tops lists for liveability. On these same lists, Sydney is dropping rapidly and will cease to even appear in a year or so. Honestly I know many people who have, are in the process of or are exiling themselves from Sydney because it is no longer honestly a 'liveable' place. Many of these are talented people with much to offer our economy and culture (They call this the brain drain). They are moving overseas or to Melbourne and they are all stating the same reason, Sydney is decaying around them. Sydney has, I believe, the potential to be the best city in the world. At the moment this potential is being smothered and drained for reasons that are not based on logic and fact but instead greed, corruption and power. I am considering this move also personally. If things don't change, I feel I have no other choice. Sydney siders are not welcome in Sydney anymore.

6. Gambling is being actively promoted and advocated for by our State government. This is a sickening reality. Gambling causes problems at so many levels. People fall into debt, it ruins their lives, relationships and even drives some to kill others or themselves. The current government is facilitating the spread of this horrid disease by creating a whole different set of rules that encourage people to seek gambling over other entertainment. E.g. If I want to have a beer and see an international musician after 1.30am I cannot. But I can enter a venue and continue to gamble and drink for as long as I please. Why is there a double standard? This is backwards. It is disgusting. People are being sucked into gambling as there is no other safe productive, positive or cultural late night alternatives. Some of these people are then affected so bad they feel they have no other option but to end their own lives. This is Blood on the hands of the current government. But yet the deaths of 2 teenagers seem to outweigh the hundreds of gambling related deaths. Why?

7. 8.... 9.. 999999. There are so many reasons why this situation benefits nobody apart from the Government, The casinos, gambling lobbyists and property developers. You are a smart and educated man and I don't feel I need to go into more detail about the harm these laws are causing (should be blatantly obvious by now). I am not the sort or person to even bother writing these types of letters but I feel I cannot let this situation stay as it is.

I am also not just a useless complaining twat. Below are some solutions/recommendations to the violence problem we are facing that I believe could be used as a direct Replacement to the lockout laws (scrap them) with the aim of reducing violence and not increasing government revenue from gambling and development.

- Increased Late night transport options

The main problem with Sydney is that after Midnight, it is actually near impossible to get home. This leaves people stranded and frustrated with their situation, causing tension in the streets as people have to literally battle each other to get home. Taxis refuse to take people (Hence the rise and success of Uber). Sydney's transport infrastructure is second rate even when it is in operation, but it simply doesn't at night. Melbourne

has 24hr transport. Think of the jobs this creates and ability for people to disperse as they please across the duration of the night. You would think increasing government spending on infrastructure, creating more jobs and making our city more accessible and safer would be a no brainer? Obviously this was 'overlooked' as it had no direct financial benefit to those in power.

- Increased Police presence with reduced Police interference

In Manhattan, New York City, there are Police every few blocks. They patrol the street, are respected and admired by the people and can respond to any occurrence or crime nearby within a matter of minutes in metropolitan areas. Why the in Sydney do people generally fear and resent the Police? This is partly to do with their revenue raising goals. Police are now salesmen with KPI's to hit. For them it is easier to search a few teens and find a Joint in their possession and call it a night than to actually allow society to go about its natural course and only interview when and where necessary. I believe however for this system to work, the Government and Police force must be investigated heavily by ICAC to rid corruption and ensure that the Police are there to protect and serve the interests of the people, not just please those who pay their wages.

- Tougher sentencing for violent assaults and domestic abuse

Simply put, judges and the system need to come down hard on violence and make a stern point. People will be less inclined to throw a Coward Punch if they know that the penalty will be more than just a fine in some cases and a minor charge. Make examples of these people, let society know this behaviour is outrageous and unwarranted. Let these violent thugs be dealt with in prison by their own kind. This will spread a message to people about how NSW and Australia view violence in our society, it must be unacceptable at any level.

- Violence and Gambling Rehab Programs

People go to Rehab to seek help with problems with drugs, alcohol and other issues. Why is it that violence and gambling are not included? Offenders or sufferers of these issues should have the proper support networks that take an unbiased and medical/psychological approach to the issue. Gambling is physically and mentally addictive. Violence is often caused by psychological trauma. These issues can be addressed and these people can turn themselves around but only if they have the opportunity to do so. Give this to them and allow them to find salvation through their own efforts and hence develop as people.

- Venues with ID scanners

This has already been trailed and, although it is an invasion of privacy, I would happily forego this freedom to know that the venue I enter is free of violent offenders. This keeps the violent people away from venues and will hopefully teach them that if they cannot act like an adult then they will not be treated with the same rights as other adults. Police can be notified when violent offenders have been refused entry so they can be aware of the need to respond if they repeat the offence.

- Alcohol related violence to be better understood

For example, if I have a beer at my local pub, then go home, drink 2 bottles of spirits, then later go out and attack someone, the venue where I had a single beer many hours ago is punished and linked to my crime. This is absurd. Currently individuals are not responsible at all for their actions. Instead venues are blamed for actions of people who happen to pass through them at some point. The shift must then come to penalise the individual for his/her cognitive decisions no matter how bad they maybe. If we do not follow this then we are not targeting the violent at all and will not solve this problem.

- Better training and working conditions for Security Guards

Often these men and women are the first line of defence against violent people. They are not trained as well on how to handle violent people as the Police are. This causes a problem because often the Police take so

long to arrive that the incident has already occurred. If we increase the requirements for training and assisting our security personnel, they can better deal with these problems. Their lives are at risk also and we need to respect and appreciate that they have to deal with society at its worst.

- Increased education

About Violence, its causes and the detrimental effects it has. This can be done at all levels, from Primary school, High school, tertiary education and Further education/Workplace education. We must build into our society that problems must be solved in other ways. Violence is not a last resort, it is not even an option to consider. This is sometimes hard to perceive when the Police force who are meant to serve and protect us use excessive violence in unnecessary situations and further et the precedence that this is ok.

There are surely more solutions that could be implemented to more success that I cannot at this time think of. To ensure the best and most appropriate solution is indeed chosen, I can suggest that an open forum be opened to the public to come up with solutions to our own problem and then vote (we are in a democracy last I checked) as to the best combination that we can commence trailing. The fact that the lockout laws were passed without a vote of the people is itself a testament to the lack of democratic process that the current state government follows.

Thus is not an easy time for myself, our city, our state or even the world for that mater. You good Sir have the unique opportunity to change our city for the better! Please make the right decision and abolish these backwards draconian laws and do away those who seek to take advantage of the good people of NSW!

I will leave you with a videoclip that may provide some inspiration for you. It is more relevant in our world and current situation.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WibmcsEGLKo>

If you wish for any further comment of mine on this issue please do not hesitate to reply as I feel this is something well worth our time. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

With Regards,

Matthew Plant

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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