

# Opinions

RD Richard Dobransky [REDACTED]

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To: Liquor Law Review; 

12:41 PM

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My comments are based on:

- Being a licensee of countless liquor licenses throughout my career
- Financial impacts on business and tourism.
- The difference between reforms and reaction.
- Living in the CBD Entertainment District.

In my opinion, the February 2014 “reforms” were not reforms but a political reaction to our inability to reduce alcohol related violence and harm. The anti-social behaviour reasoning is nothing but governmental overstepping its bounds and not admitting it couldn’t police itself or the industry better. Of course, I wasn’t living in Australia at the time; however I have lived in other countries and the liquor licensing and monitoring in New South Wales seems extremely excessive.

We simply have too many licensee types. Easy solutions would be:

1. **Pub License:** which are businesses where the primary source of income is selling on premise beverages.
2. **On Premise Incidental License:** where the income source of alcohol is secondary such as hotels and restaurants.
3. **Packaged Goods License:** licensee whose primary business is selling packaged and sealed liquor. (Bottle Shop)


All other licenses should be secondary and fees should be based on the use. This would be clubs, wholesalers, caterers, and one-time event licenses. Get rid of all exemptions. You follow the rules of your type of license and ability to afford a liquor license is not a valid reason for reduction in pricing.

Licenses should be for two years and base fees should be raised and risk based loading fees should be eliminated and incorporated into the base fee. Make the establishments have “skin in the game”

There should be zones (precincts) based not on geographic borders but on what the zones (precincts) is when charging license fees. Simply five or six different precincts with entertainment and casino precincts being the highest priced and neighbourhoods being the lowest priced.

The Sydney CBD Entertainment Precincts is the entire CBD and beyond. It is absurd for too many reasons to list and essentially chokes the city residents and tourists alike. Take for example Darlinghurst, Surrey Hills and Woollahooloo. All are primarily residential areas and the residents are the least likely to be

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 to prevent drink  
s drinking in Newtown.

1:30AM Lock Out and 3:00AM should be eliminated. It should be extremely simple. Best I ever saw was

simply this:

**Pub and On Premise Incidental Licenses:**

Closing Hour is 2AM Monday through Saturday; Last call is 1:30AM

Closing Hour is 3AM on Sunday; Last call is 2:30AM

Opening Hour is 7AM Monday through Saturday

Opening Hour is 11AM on Sunday.

**Packaged Goods:**

All packaged goods 7AM to Midnight Monday through Saturday and 11AM to 10:00PM on Sunday.

No spirit sales after 10PM Monday through Saturday and before Noon on Sunday.

Only presenting data from St. Vincent’s Hospital is extremely misleading and statistically flawed due to proximity to Kings Cross precinct. Clearly, the data would show a decrease with the new laws in effect.

Kings Cross as an entertainment precinct has already been decimated. I am sure that we will see plenty of strata units, apartments, gourmet food shops and Pottery Barn stores developed as the area has experienced it’s gentrification already. What’s the point with further laws?

Finally, the only “candid” sentence in the entire report is on page 14 section 5.3.2 which notes that there has been some debate around the methodology underpinning these findings. Really?

Richard Dobransky  
Group Director of Food & Beverage



# EVENT

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