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Sydney Lockout Laws

MS Marc Scarborough Reply all | To: Liquor Law Review; 

7:11 AM

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To whom it may concern

I have actively worked in the Australian music industry the last 10 years. This work has taken me throughout Australia and across the globe. Having previously worked at HQ Complex in Adelaide as Entertainment and Marketing Manager and currently I Tour Manage one of Australia's most popular musicians Will Sparks.

I have been witness to lockout laws being rolled out in to Adelaide, then in Sydney and now in to Brisbane.

It is the quite wide opinion that these laws have decimated the Sydney nightlife and nighttime economy. There are people with far more local knowledge on the exact statistics than myself but I can confirm what once was a bustling city of activity and culture is no more. SYDNEY IS DEAD! Not just the nightclubs, the kebab shops and restaurants but the soul of what once was a global city, a city to marvel at.

As I write this to you from London I can't express more firmly that what these laws have done has damaged Sydney's reputation severely. With my work I meet folks from all over the globe, who always ask 'where in Australia are you from, Sydney'? To which I reply 'No Melbourne, thank goodness'. The power of the internet and social media has allowed a local issue to become global knowledge. Wherever I go people are aware that the heart has been taken out of Australia's once golden tourism ticket.

However it is not only tourism that will be effected by this or the loss of jobs to university students who are just trying to make ends meet. Students that without the flexible hospitality hours will go on to become great doctors, teachers, engineers and leaders. If these laws continue to spread it will decimate the Australian music industry. There are artists performing in small venues right across Australia that will no longer have this opportunity, opportunity to grow and develop their talent.

I am very fortunate that 10 years ago these laws did not exist and it has allowed me to pursue a career that has taken me all over the world, doing work that I am truly passionate about. With the closing of each venue is the closing of a door for someone like me, an opportunity lost. I implore you to amend these laws and make Sydney great again.

Marc Scarborough


