

# Liquor Law Review Submission

TS

Tim Sleath [REDACTED]

To: Liquor Law Review; [REDACTED]



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To whom it may concern,

I wish to firmly voice my disapproval of the way in which the NSW State Government has imposed unreasonable restrictions on venues in Sydney. I would also like to strongly protest against the fact that I can't purchase alcohol after 10pm.

I have worked in the entertainment industry for over twenty years, and I am very aware of the issues of health and safety. I am concerned that young people will find entertainment however they can, and that these restrictions merely drive the various social scenes underground – into unsafe environments where there is no regulation.

Kings Cross is now a ghost town. Whilst it was only sometimes my first choice as an entertainment destination, one knew what one was getting oneself into. It was also so populated that despite the crazy carnival atmosphere, you felt safe – the good people always outnumbered the bad people. It feels less safe now than ever.

The problems won't go away, they'll just be dispersed elsewhere – to areas that aren't as well-equipped to cope as the Cross was.

Ironically, what the media describes as 'alcohol-fuelled violence' is rarely that. The violence is far more likely to be fuelled by growing steroid abuse, recreational ice use, or from taking something some suburban dealer sells purporting to be cocaine.

Not only do the measures not solve any problems, they create a suite of their own.

The restrictions on venues in the affected areas negatively impact small business and threaten cultural diversity. It negatively affects a number of communities. It discourages innovation.

People come together in clubs, pubs, music venues and bars to connect, to celebrate and to participate. Communities are forged this way. Art is created, ideas are formed, alliances are forged.

These impacts will not be just short term. It's turning Sydney into a very boring city, and I have been seriously considering moving to Melbourne as they seem to be encouraging a safe and vibrant night life culture, similar to European cities such as Barcelona and Rome.

Please consider a more flexible response and a more forward thinking approach including more late night transport options, staggered venue closing, exemptions for

safe music focussed bars and clubs, and harsher penalties for venues that don't enforce the RSA.

Yours faithfully,

Tim Sleath

