

Lock Out Review Submission

DS Daniel Smaller [REDACTED]

  Reply all | 

To: Liquor Law Review; 

3:11 PM

Inbox

 | Action Items 

 Reply all |   Delete Junk |  ... 

I thank you for the opportunity to submit some thoughts about the current lock out laws and 10pm restriction on bottle shop sales.

I have been working in the nightclub industry on Oxford St since 2006, since somewhat serendipitously I started talking to the owner of a weekly event held at (the now closed down) Q Bar late one Thursday night. Over the years I've witnessed, and been forced to adapt to, many different attempts by Government to restrict the thriving nightlife that put Sydney on the list of truly global cities.

It would be hard to describe Sydney as a global city now. Oxford St and Kings Cross used to be locations that were recognised world wide as places to congregate and have a good time. I see the current laws as nothing more than a moral panic stirred up by an obliging media and a reactionary Government. My evidence is anecdotal but it comes from years of actually being a part of this community.

It is hard to judge what the desired outcome of these laws are. Stopping the violence is cited but if no one is on the street then of course violence will decrease. However, if it is stopping the violence then why is The Star, the most violent venue in NSW, allowed to keep operating without restriction? The hypocrisy is terrifying.

I am at an age now where I am not out till all hours of the morning but I do not wish the younger citizens of NSW to be painted as deviants for wanting to enjoy a night out. If violence on the street is an issue, put more police on the street. No one I have spoken to has a problem with this. Public transport in Sydney, particularly at night, is notoriously inept. Have 24hr public transport so people can go home when they want. The most confrontations I ever see out are people arguing over taxis. This is not a new problem but the NSW Government has never tried to fix it and it is something **they are directly responsible for**.

It is plain to see that the only winners from these laws are the casino/s and property developers.

In regards to bottle shops closing at 10pm, I honestly do not even know what the intention

behind this law is. Did anyone stop to think that most people who are purchasing alcohol after 10pm are likely to be going to their homes to consume these drinks? Isn't that what the Government wants? Further, by getting worried about a group of 20 years olds buying a case of beer the actual result has been that my parents, for example, aged in their 60s are unable to buy a bottle of wine after dinner. Isn't this ludicrous?

Back to my personal experience of promoting nights. Since the lock outs have come in the number of people coming through the doors as dropped off dramatically. The number of people I employ has decreased, the number of people employed by the venues I use has decreased. The shops around the clubs have closed down. The reality is that the night time economy is dying.

I am against violence and anti-social behaviour on the streets, and I think anyone who assaults another person should be punished, but I don't think blanket lock outs are the way forward. Further, blanket lock outs without any consultation or mature discussion is definitely not the way forward - especially when there are rather conspicuous exceptions to these rules.

Thank you for your consideration.

Daniel Smaller