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Please keep Sydney a vibrant and mature international city

DS



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To: Liquor Law Review; 

Fri 1/04

Inbox



Action Items



** Please note: I ask that my name remains confidential. My position requires anonymity. Thank you. **

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE SYDNEY LOCKOUT LAWS

Please allow me to share just a few thoughts on these ridiculous laws.

- I believe in "The same for all" (we live in a Democracy after, do we not?). No venue should have favour over another, especially when the rationale is not absolutely transparent. Or perhaps too clear (by way of favouritism or something even more heinous).
- Hospitality businesses, workers and performing artists suffer the most. After serving what this government deems "respectable" citizens - who've had their dinner at 7pm or seen a show and are home by 11pm - where do those workers and their friends go to unwind and socialise when their shifts end at 11pm or 1am? What about their rights to leisure and entertainment?
- I despise the fact that I am "lumped in" to one group thanks to a few mindless, irresponsible thugs: deemed untrustworthy and unable to behave "properly" in society. I am a intelligent, mature, tax-paying, licence-carrying, vote-polling citizen who likes the liberty to go out and meet up with friends and enjoy all that this beautiful city has to offer at any time I care to, just as I am able to do in so many other capital cities around the world. And used to enjoy here, more's the frustration!
- I despise the media beat-up - blowing the violence way out of proportion - and the clear avoidance of the plain fact that, every night of the year, tens of thousands of people go out at night across Sydney - to bars, pubs, clubs, restaurants and events - and absolutely nothing bad happens! No violence, no misconduct, no law-breaking of any kind. Mostly everyone is just acting like decent human beings, sharing the city and having a good time. (You never see the leading story of the 6-o'Clock News: "Thousands of Sydneysiders went out last night and nothing really bad happened. A good time was had by most....")
- Bad things happen to good people. Always have. Always will. And it's tragic, there's no doubt. Alcohol has always been a part of human society. Just as "bad people" and violence has always been a part of society. But alcohol and violence do not always go hand-in-hand as this government would want

everyone to believe and fear.

- The key is looking into who we are as humans - and humans in a fast-changing world (unfortunately of our own design) - how we behave and finding the best ways to curb - if not cure - wayward and anti-social behaviour. We must look deeper. To the many-headed Hydra we ourselves have created: parental control (or lack thereof); peer pressure; media/social media influences and pressures, real-world disconnection and generations growing up with no moral compass nor accountability for their actions.
- If Sydney is to remain a truly international city, it must cater to many tastes in leisure and entertainment and be a metropolis its own citizens gladly inhabit and enjoy. I reluctantly ask you to recall an old joke-postcard (in the 80s it poked fun at Auckland!). Now that completely blank postcard, I'm embarrassed to say, could well feature the mocking copy-line: SYDNEY AFTER DARK...
- Please don't let the Wowers turn our beloved city into a joke.

Thank you.