



Lock out laws

MS

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To: Liquor Law Review; ▾



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Mon 11:24 PM

Inbox

To whom this may concern,

I'm writing as a concerned Sydneysider disheartened with the present lock-out arrangements affecting our night time economy.

I think we can all acknowledge the dire situation that key areas of our city faced before the lockouts were introduced. There was a high concentration of violence and the deaths of victims as a result of random acts of violence which spurred a significant call for a change in government policy in this area.

However the changes brought in exempted the most violent venue in the state being the Star casino as well as the yet to be developed Crown casino, were blanket measures that treated every venue the same despite many not having any reputation for violence. Importantly the government did not address or even bother to ask why violence is occurring in our city despite celebrating just months before how safe Sydney's nightlife had become citing the BOSCAR statistics showing decreasing levels of violence.

The City of Sydney local council has acknowledged some major issues in the current policy. I believe that the speed in which these laws were introduced meant that they pandered to the shrill tones of the media and were not a considered response in making our nightlife economy safer.

The introduction of a Night-Mayor as led by Amsterdam has had recent success in growing their night time economy, protecting jobs and the vitality of our global city as well as balancing this with the interests of residents who live in these areas of night time activity and making sure these areas remain safe for all which should be considered by the review.

Instituting 24 hour public transport, mirroring the policy the Andrews government in Melbourne would fix many issues affecting precincts. It would reduce the concentration of people forced out of clubs/unable to enter venues at 1:30am and 3:00am as well as reducing the burden on the taxi and uber industries as these times unfortunately are affected by the taxi changeovers.

Giving venues, small bars and live music venues without a history of violence an extension to their licence as well as awarding licences in 5 year periods would give greater incentive for premises to control suspected violence in their venue.

Greater police presence on the streets rather than in venues along with upgrades to CCTV cameras and the like would help ensure overall safety of our night time precincts.

Without action, the night time economy will further suffer costing more jobs, businesses and tarnish Sydney's reputation as a vibrant global city. For further examples of policy successes see Melbourne's night time policies and Amsterdam's who have reduced violence whilst growing a key segment of their economies.