

Review of Lock-out Laws

ST Shannon Tsiantopoulos [REDACTED]



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Dear Liquor Law Review Team,

As a resident of Sydney over the last seven years and a person who has experienced life in several other cities around the world, I feel compelled to share my views on the subject blanket laws that have impacted this great city of Sydney so negatively. I do this with respect, acknowledging the challenges that come with managing the balance between safety of the community and the privilege of living in what is claimed to be a free society.

I have witnessed both positive and negative aspects of nightlife in this city, both before and since the lock-out laws were put in place and although it is clear that main stream media and many politicians have been able to promote the positive results of these laws using statistics that support their views, it is clear that they are not representative of the whole picture.

A world class city is one that is able to support the diversity of its residents and visitors and promote creativity and productivity and yes, safety. I feel that these laws are designed to placate the community that has been so affected by reports of violence by the media at the expense of so many important aspects that make a city worth visiting, worth moving to, worth staying in, worth studying in.

The short term effects of closed businesses, loss of jobs, poor night time economy and the shift of the problem to adjacent suburbs is already apparent but I emlore you to truly analyse the long term issues that will occur should these laws continue in their current form.

I moved here because I knew it was a place where after a hard week working, I had a range of diverse recreational options at my disposal and the freedom to choose, then change my mind throughout an evening. Now I see empty streets, bars that are closing early because they are less likely to be busy enough to stay open as people leave prematurely, fearful of being locked out and the diversity of options has dwindled. I am not going to even discuss the conflict of interest between governments exemptions on venues that contribute to persistent serious social issues such as gambling and even higher levels of violence in their precincts as those issues shoud be so obvious anyway.

How will we entice educated youth to choose our city and contribute to its development as a major city of the world. If we lose freedom to make choices, and lose diversity of venues, we lose creativity, the city loses what makes it worth living here.

Good luck with your analysis of this complex situation, but please dont just choose what is currently popular, choose what is in the best long term interests of what should be a culturally rich, creative and diverse Sydney, respecting the need of humans to be able to make choices and express freedom. There are better ways to manage risk than reactionary blanket rules.

Thank you for your time.

Yours Sincerely
Shannon Tsiantopoluos



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