

Lifeless Sydney

Belle [REDACTED]

Wed 30/03/2016 2:04 PM

To: Liquor Law Review <liquorlawreview@justice.nsw.gov.au>;

Hi,

I am a resident of Redfern and I have made the conscious and deliberate choice of moving here from inner city Melbourne more than 3 years ago because I love cities, and to me, Sydney provided a better, bigger, more vibrant version of the city than Melbourne did.

Walking down one of the busiest streets of Surry Hills, Crown Street, on ANY given evening, that is not the case, and has not been for a while due to the various laws preventing people from eating/drinking in outdoor areas. That is absurd, for Sydney to claim to be one of the most liveable cities in the world and for there to be minimal street life after 10pm.

Even given the multitude of people who regularly go up and down Crown St with mental issues, the regular homeless community etc, the city has never felt as unsafe, yet it has managed to be more alienating now due to the pitiful amount of foot traffic in the evenings. It's a ghost city where one has to move inside after 10pm, when one is merely having a drink at the small local down the street at Black Penny bar, especially frustrating when Sydney has the ideal weather for being outside. on the contrary Melbourne does all it can to defend its people against the weather and their right to sit outside, with blankets a regular feature in venues.

I rarely hear residents here complaining that the city has gotten too loud, too violent or too pissed, but rather, where is everybody and where can I grab a bite to eat after 9pm. Thankfully there is a constant trail of people huddled around Messina ice-cream, giving us hope that after all people want to be here, they just don't know where they might go.

I really do hope some life is going to be brought back in, why else live in one of the highest cost suburbs in Australia.

Regards,
Belle Wang