

# Submission against Sydney Lock-Out Laws



Vaughan [REDACTED]

To: Liquor Law Review; [REDACTED]



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To whom it may concern.

My name is Vaughan Warry, I am a 28 year old Town Planner living in [REDACTED] and am writing today to express my absolute opposition to the NSW Lock-Out Laws. These laws have had a detrimental impact to Sydney, even worse than I ever could have imagined prior to their implementation by the O'Farrell Government.

It can not be expressed in statistics the tragic effect these laws have had on the culture of this city, the vibrancy it was once home to, and the ability for one to enjoy it as a city of freedom and choice. I have seen so many venues, which were previously successful and did not have a problem with violence or otherwise, shut down for no reason other than being collateral damage due to blanketing laws that did not even attempt to deal with the true issues at the heart of the apparent violence problem "plaguing" the city. I have had so many friends lose their employment and have even left the city for the same reason.

I have been frequenting the entertainment precincts of Kings Cross, Sydney CBD and Oxford Street for 10 years. In that time I have never been subjected to violence, nor have I ever been involved in an incident where I have been violent towards others. The stories of "violence-ridden zombies drunkenly trying to kill people and vomiting everywhere" which have been circulated in an attempt to defend the lock-outs are a complete fabrication and exaggeration, often espoused by those of the older generation who have not had any involvement in the nighttime economy for many years and simply wish to moralise the actions of Sydney's Youth.

The argument for the apparent need for lockouts due to curbing violence also completely falls apart when considering the fact that the casino precinct is exempt, and which is now the most violent area in Sydney to go out at night over the weekend trading period. I also question the "moral" validity of encouraging those who wish to drink all night to attend the casino. I myself refuse to attend this venue because of the blatant attempt to funnel people to this area of the city and the disregard for the correlation between alcohol abuse and problem gambling apparently undertaken by our "moralising" premier.

I do not understand this attack on "night-time" hours in the city where it is apparently the view of the NSW Government that people are not allowed to enjoy themselves after dark. Sydney is (or was) an international city, renowned for its energy, the freedom enjoyed by its residents, the vast array of options for night time activities and the genuine welcoming nature of the people. However, with empty streets, closing venues, disgruntled youth who are being pushed further and further outside the city in order to enjoy themselves without ridiculous and overbearing restrictions, increased police dog presence everywhere one looks, and the blatant benefits being given to large political donors - it appears that unless something changes soon; we will lose the

great city we once had.

Yours sincerely

Vaughan Warry

Sent from Windows Mail