

# An outside perspective - Review of NSW liquor laws

Wawn, Jeremy [REDACTED]

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

Dear Sir,

I write to you in reference to the Independent review being conducted into the impact of the government implemented liquor law reforms.

I myself am an ex-pat from Bondi beach now residing in Manhattan, New York City – watching from afar as the situation continues to unfold back home.

My experiences in this city have been second-to-none, I feel like I've seen it all yet every week I find myself eating my words.

I would like to share with you below, a comment I posted on Facebook regarding my view on the issues and how Sydney compares to thriving Manhattan.

“On rough estimates, the small island of Manhattan has 4.8x the population density of Sydney's entire CBD & Eastern Suburbs combined. Despite this overwhelming comparison, Manhattan still has a thriving nightlife with alcohol service & delivery available till 4am (resumes at 8am) 7 days a week with a plethora of late night restaurants, bars and clubs scattered across the island....Furthermore, standard drinks and measured pours are an unknown term to bartenders who openly fill your glass with a generous pour and a smile.

Despite the open availability of alcohol and the massive population density, I have witnessed only 2 minor brawls whilst living here and just recently, the city council acted to eradicate the previously arrest-able offence of consuming alcohol in public places. A liberal and welcomed stance by the community.

How is it at all conceivable that Sydney's misinformed and arbitrary restrictions on alcohol are going to solve an inherent problem of violence within Sydney's society. The bullshit statistics of reduced violence from the government legislation are obviously a function of reduced foot traffic and are misleading and clearly not a positive outcome.

Manhattan also has a 24 hour expansive subway network with ample taxi/uber services. Taxis do not changeover at critical late-night junctures and subways are cheap, reliable and easy to use.

Its blatantly obvious that Sydney's public transport system requires serious attention and legitimate investment to bring us back on par with other major developed cities. Combine this with some well-informed, progressive thinking along with limits on over-saturated nightlife hot-spots (kings cross/star city) and we may find ourselves with a more optimal outcome.

Another critical difference between the two vastly different but incredibly similar societies is the legal age of drinking. A 21 year-old adult is a cut above an 18 year-old child and in my view contributes significantly to the attitude towards not only alcohol consumption but also behavior and violence.

It is incredibly embarrassing and deeply upsetting to see my once vibrant and culturally diverse home-town

being run into the ground despite the staggering social backlash and well-informed rebuttal of these oppressive laws.”

I appreciate your time and consideration and look forward to your review of these backwards laws.

Best regards,

Jeremy Wawn

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