

Submission to the Review of the *Liquor Amendment Act 2014* by the Hon. IDF Callinan AC QC

4 April 2016

To: Liquor Law Review, liquorlawreview@justice.nsw.gov.au

From: _____ Harry White _____

I am writing as a 23-year-old passionate about the cultural potential of our city and offering some input and first hand experiences as a resident of Surry Hills for 4.5 years (living at [REDACTED] St Surry Hills – on the perimeter of the lockout zone) and a DJ at a number of venues affected. I am keen to specifically comment below section of the report - *the business, social & financial impacts, and the impacts on patrons and residents (including whether venues continue to trade after 3am when alcohol service ceases)*.

I work in the music industry for an independent record label, volunteer at community radio station FBi Radio and DJ on weekends in music venues such as Oxford Art Factory and Kings Cross Hotel. Both safety and culture matter to me.

Culturally, I feel the lockout laws are severely detrimental to a number of key cultural instigators that make our city great:

+ Those who contribute to the vibrancy of our city the most are being held back and affected. Those who take financial risks on live music, art, and fostering a culture that moves beyond drinking are being punished for the actions of a few. For specific examples, I look to GoodGod Small Club and Oxford Art Factory – both integral live music venues with a remit to support emerging bands are suffering financially for a kneejerk reaction and blanket solution.

+ As an individual who relies on DJ'ing as a source of income to supplement a full time role in the music industry and university studies, I can attest to the sentiments of musicians, venues and promoters with significant income lost as a result of venues closing and lesser opening hours. Many of the venues I DJ'd at previously have now closed (GoodGod as a specific example) and others can no longer afford financially support music and have cut back their budgets for bands, sound techs, DJs and artists due to the lesser opening hours.

The city also feels less safe when all patrons are released onto the streets at 3am, with no late night public transport and taxis changing over.

+ I personally feel that being inside a licensed venue with proper RSA being enforced and a venue management plan is significantly more safe than being on the street.

+ Some of the most vibrant, 24 hour cities such as New York, London and Berlin are safest as they have after dark activities and well thought out management plans and

policing to accommodate a vibrant nightlife. Sydney prides itself on the culture it creates through events like Vivid, Sydney Festival and New Years Eve, it follows suit that the safety plans around this should support sufficient policing, safe streets and well thought out management plans to work with the cultural instigators.

I implore you to listen to the venue operators who support live music, to the licensees with strong track records to come to a solution that improves this situation for those involved.

Sydney has enormous cultural potential and a thriving nightlife which has seen our music industry showcased to the world stage. I hope you can look to those overseas who have done this so successfully and take note and assist our city in resurrecting the vibrant culture we once had, and celebrate the potential it holds by making policy changes that support this.

Suggestions for change:

I support the Keep Sydney Open movement and the below suggestions of their 7 key actions. The lock-out laws have caused irreparable damage to the economic, social and cultural fabric of Sydney. Instead of the 1:30am lockout and 3.00am cease of service, the **7 key actions** below should be implemented together to curb the violence and keep Sydney open for all to enjoy.

- 1 Developing best-practice **policing** strategies;
- 2 Investing in 24/7 public **transport**;
- 3 Implementing integrated urban **planning reform**;
- 4 Encouraging diversification of **after-dark activities**;
- 5 Establishing anti-violence **education & intervention** campaigns;
- 6 **Incentivising well-run venues**; and
- 7 Appointing a **Night Mayor**.

SIGNED  _____, 4 APRIL 2016