



# Lockout Law Review Submission

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Sydney is often hailed as an international city, and while that may have been true at one stage, it definitely isn't anymore. Regardless of the laws in place surrounding alcohol consumption - and I agree that there is definitely a cultural attitude towards alcohol that should change - the cultural scene of Sydney is suffering a painful death at the hands of the lockout laws. More and more other international cities around the world are shifting towards a more 24-hour focus. Amsterdam has even gone to such lengths as to implement a 'Night Mayor' in order to ensure that the cultural potential of the city after-hours isn't lost, or misinterpreted as unsafe. The decrease in foot traffic across Sydney as a result of the lockout laws has resulted in a decreased sense of visibility. The quieter, emptier and darker streets - as businesses shut their doors one by one - do not feel safer.

I was at the Pyrmont Bridge Hotel on a Saturday night the other week and left with a friend at midnight, deciding to catch light rail home. I was told after getting on that we would have to get off at the Star Casino or else end up further away from home. We caught an Uber home from the casino, a longer distance than it would have been from outside the pub. While anecdotal, I feel that it demonstrates much of what is wrong with Sydney's current situation. Public transport should not stop as early as it does, especially on weekends, and I should not feel that the state government is pandering to casinos instead of properly representing the people that had them elected. The exclusion of the Star casino and proposed Barangaroo development from the lockout zones highlight this even further, and with cessation of transport services not applying to the same areas in question, apparently the state government is fine with citizens being funnelled into the casino system to give more money to Echo Entertainment and James Packer.

Sydney has the climate and its citizens are capable of having the laid-back demeanour to make for a fantastic night life, where it isn't a crime to sit on the curb with a glass of wine. The system as it stands prevents that from happening, and it prevents Sydney from truly living up to its potential as an international city.