

**Submission
No 631**

SYDNEY'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

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I live in Pyrmont and work in the CBD during the week and operate a tourism business in the CBD on my weekends.

These laws have done nothing to make my neighborhood safer. I now find the streets of Pyrmont to be a dangerous place to be outside of lockout times due to the influx of the intoxicated who have been shut out of establishments within the lockout area.

I have witnessed an increase in violence, of noise disturbances and of petty damage to property since the lockout laws have begun.

But all of that is trivial when compared to the impact these laws have had on the hospitality and tourism sector.

When i take my clients on walking tours of Sydney and people ask 'where is a good place to go out', i sadly respond with the answer 'Melbourne'. I then back that up with all of the venue closures, restrictions on entry, nanny state policing within the venues and the overall decline in punters who make these venues buzz.

I recently spent time in Canberra and found that at 3am, Canberra had more life and more activity than parts of Sydney do.

These laws were a knee jerk and populist reaction to the tragic death of Thomas Kelly. Their result has reached far more people - business owners have lost their livelihoods, musicians no longer have venues to play their music, tourists no longer have somewhere to party, locals have lost vibrancy and character within their neighborhoods.

One wonders how many lives have been lost, families broke down etc indirectly through the impacts of these laws?

I submit that these laws should be repealed in the interests of a vibrant, creative and fun city that should be a global destination for people to have fun. Until then, i'll keep telling people that the best night out is 800km South in Melbourne.