

8 December 2015

The Hon. Troy Grant, MP  
Minister for Racing  
GPO Box 5341  
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Minister

### **Review of Lockouts and Cessation of Liquor Sales**

I write to request that the review of the 1.30 am lockout and 3.00 am cessation of liquor service in the CBD Entertainment Precinct and the Kings Cross Precinct consider cultural impacts and that it provide an opportunity for public submissions. I understand the review will commence in February.

Kings Cross and the CBD got out of control because previous governments allowed 24-hour trading to proliferate, making them magnets for violence and conflict. While action was needed, we need to fine-tune the laws to ensure Sydney remains an attractive place to live and visit, and to ensure a vibrant live music and entertainment culture.

Since the introduction of the blanket 'lockouts', a large number of venues have closed in these precincts and I have heard from many constituents, particularly young people, concerned that cultural life is suffering and that Sydney no longer has a vibrant night time economy. I share their concern that venues that don't contribute to violence and anti-social behaviour, that help civilise our night culture, must remain viable. There is evidence to show that people watching shows or drinking in smaller venues drink less.

I understand there are calls from the medical community to retain and expand the 'lockouts' following drops in emergency hospitalisations on Fridays and Saturday nights.

Release of the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research assessments on restrictions will clarify what parts of the 2014 laws are working so that they can be improved. The government's aim must be to ensure that liquor licensing laws support a vibrant night economy, while protecting patron safety. This can only be achieved if the review of the laws looks at impacts on cultural life and engages with people who are affected, including young people who go out in these precincts.

***Could you please ensure the review of the liquor restrictions introduced in February 2014 in the CBD Entertainment Precinct and the Kings Cross Precinct assesses cultural impacts of the laws and provides opportunity for public submissions, and inform me what action you will take?***

Yours sincerely



Alex Greenwich  
**Member for Sydney**

