

ITEM 3.1. CALLINAN REVIEW**FILE NO: S051491****MINUTE BY THE LORD MAYOR**To Council:

In 2011, the City began a two-year program of extensive consultation and detailed research to develop OPEN Sydney, our strategy to boost Sydney's night time economy.

We looked at the way people move around the city, using heat mapping to identify hot spots in Kings Cross and the city centre, consulted with residents, venues, and emergency services to build a deep understanding of the way people use our city at night.

The final strategy laid out more than 250 actions, including late night transport, providing basic facilities like toilets and public space lighting, issuing periodic, renewable liquor licences as occurs in New York and Vancouver to encourage responsible venue management, and increasing late night options like small bars and live music venues.

Our extensive research and consultation detailed a nuanced response to alcohol associated violence and anti-social behaviour. Our approach encourages good venue management, live music, and cultural sectors while protecting residential amenity and safety.

Sydney has one of the largest night time economies in Australia. In 2014, it employed over 31,800 people and generated over \$3.5 billion in revenue.

Rather than addressing the real problems, the NSW government's response - a blanket lockout - was a sledgehammer.

The lockout restrictions hurt Sydney's cultural life, our reputation as a global city and had negative impacts on businesses and tourism - something I hear often from business.

So we welcomed the announcement of a review, but the proposals in the Callinan Review won't help turn things around.

We believe that Mr Callinan's suggestions are unlikely to do much to enrich our nighttime economy or to increase opportunities for live entertainment. Very few, if any, venues would be willing or able to comply with the caveats he has proposed.

If they want a real outcome, the Government must look beyond an extra 30 minutes.

The City strongly supports a rich night time culture that works for people of all ages and for all interests. Our submission to the Callinan Review noted that a safe and sustainable night time economy can be achieved with a range of robust measures.

We do not believe the future of Sydney's night life should be determined as an 'either/or' choice between safety and vibrancy. We can achieve both.

For real change to occur, it is incredibly important that the Government offers a solution that includes all the agencies involved in the night time economy - transport, planning, policing, safety, arts and culture and liquor regulation and administration.

This approach was endorsed in an Action Plan released by the Government in August 2016, created after a series of roundtables initiated by Troy Grant, Deputy Premier and Minister for Justice and Police, to develop plans for a safe and vibrant night-time Sydney.

The City's submission to the Callinan Review includes a 'whole of Government' response. A summary of a range of short/ medium term actions includes:

- **Transport** – Run train services 24 hours on Friday and Saturday nights;
- **Small Bars** – Change the liquor licence definition to 120 to support viable patron capacity and align the local controls to licence conditions;
- **Live Music** – Trial exemption from the 1.30am lockout for live music and live performance venues;
- **Saturation Zones** – Replace the existing liquor freeze (excluding the Kings Cross precinct) with laws that prevent growth of too many licensed venues in particular areas; and
- **Liquor Licences** – Continue the periodic liquor licence fee scheme and reduce or remove the loading fee for small bars and live music and performance venues. Establish provision within the Liquor Act for automatic revocation of a liquor licence in a saturation zone on cessation of a business and non-renewal of liquor licences for ongoing non-compliance or representation on the violent venues list.

If, however, the Government is not prepared to implement these recommendations, the City proposes a more effective trial; an exemption from the 1.30am lockout within the Sydney CBD Entertainment area including Oxford Street, while leaving the measures in place for the Kings Cross precinct.

The exemption could apply to the following venues:

- Small bars;
- Restaurants with primary service authorisations;
- Venues providing live entertainment; and
- Venues with a history of good management.

Venues could be required to provide a plan of management to prevent adverse impacts and demonstrate how they would meet relevant criteria such as live entertainment. They would also need to participate in any assessment and evaluation of the trial. Breaches of trial conditions would be grounds for removing a venue's exemption.

Transport

The Callinan Review suggests that the cost to run late night public transport is \$2 million a year.

The City has advocated for the provision and management of safe late-night transport into, and, most importantly, out of night-time trading areas for many years. Transport is critical to a functional, accessible and safe night time economy for both visitors and workers.

I strongly urge the Government to fund a trial of 24 hour public transport on Friday and Saturday nights, similar to the trial currently underway in Melbourne which involves an extra 300 train services, 250 tram services and 485 bus services each weekend.

The trial led to an 11 per cent increase in train use and 9 per cent increase in tram use soon after the trial began.

It is proposed that the NSW Government undertake a trial of extended late night weekend transport services, in particular, the extension of weekend train services.

A trial, as endorsed by the Deputy Premier's Sydney Night Time Economy Round Table, should be conducted in conjunction with a comprehensive feasibility study that considers demand, awareness, financial viability, potential impacts on service levels across a 24 hour network and intermodal connections for extended weekend services across all modes of transport – trains, buses, ferries and light rail – and across metropolitan Sydney. Such a feasibility study will inform and ensure integrated, long term night time transport planning for both visitors and workers in Sydney.

RECOMMENDATION

It is resolved that Council:

- (A) call on the NSW Government to implement the City's recommendations to the Callinan Review and end the 1.30am lockout by adopting a more nuanced response with better venue management, more Police and transport, changes to the Planning system, the promotion of live music and cultural sectors and the protection of residential amenity and safety;
- (B) call on the NSW Government to trial an exemption from the 1.30am lockout within the Sydney CBD Entertainment area, which includes Oxford Street, while leaving the measures in place for the Kings Cross precinct if they are not prepared to adopt the full suite of recommendations proposed by the City; and
- (C) call on the NSW Government to undertake a trial of extended late night weekend transport services during this upcoming summer, in particular, the extension of weekend train services with a comprehensive feasibility study conducted that considers demand, awareness, financial viability, potential impacts on service levels across a 24 hour network and intermodal connections for extended weekend services across all modes of transport – trains, buses, ferries and light rail – and across metropolitan Sydney.

COUNCILLOR CLOVER MOORE

Lord Mayor