

# **Report of the Citizens' Policy Jury**

## **Vibrant and Safe Sydney Nightlife**



Jurors' Night Tour, outside the Grasshopper Bar

Recommendations to the  
Lord Mayor of Sydney & Premier of New South Wales

April 2014

# CITIZENS' POLICY JURY

## ON A VIBRANT AND SAFE SYDNEY NIGHTLIFE

Members of the Sydney Citizens' Jury wish to express our thanks to the City of Sydney Council and the NSW Government for the opportunity to present our recommendations for your consideration and evaluation. We would also like to acknowledge the Thomas Kelly Youth Foundation and The newDemocracy Foundation for their role in this process.

### The remit

The City of Sydney, in conjunction with the NSW Government, tasked the Sydney Citizens' Jury with the following remit:

*How can we ensure we have a vibrant and safe Sydney nightlife?*

### The Jury

Invitations to participate in the Jury were extended to a randomly-selected sample of 20,000 citizens from across metropolitan Sydney in addition to a random draw from university populations to maximise the response rate in the 18 – 24 year-old category.

Forty-three individuals were then randomly selected following responses to make up a Citizens' Policy Jury of people not representing any political party, lobbyists or interest groups, ensuring a mix (matched to the census data) of age and gender.



Jurors consider their remit

### The Recommendations

Careful consideration of the Remit was undertaken by the Sydney Citizens' Jury. The research and evaluation process undertaken by the Jury included presentations and submissions from the public, professionals from various fields of expertise and industry and a night-time tour of Sydney. The submissions, presentations and the itinerary from the night-time tour are listed in Appendix A.

The Sydney Citizens' Jury unanimously agrees that the safety and vibrancy of Sydney's nightlife would be further enhanced by the adoption of the recommendations detailed in this report. The recommendations cover the following areas of diversity, transport, police and safety, education and media, lockouts and licensing.

The Sydney Citizens' Jury sincerely appreciates the commitment of the NSW Government to table these recommendations in Parliament and the City of Sydney to report the recommendations to Council. We hope the NSW Government and the City of Sydney will adopt these recommendations, as we are confident they will enhance and strengthen a safe and vibrant Sydney nightlife.

The Jury's recommendations fall under five broad themes:

- 1. Diversity**
- 2. Transport**
- 3. Policing and safety**
- 4. Education and media**
- 5. Lockouts and licensing**



Jurors' consider expert evidence

# Diversity

## OUTCOME

*Sydney will have exciting, diverse entertainment options that will optimise utility of space and location.*

1. The Jury supports the City of Sydney night-time city unit to oversee the implementation of varied night-time entertainment options that are suitable for a range of age groups and cultures.

This unit will streamline and assist organisers to provide night-time events such as

- art installations / exhibitions
- food markets
- 'pop ups' e.g. retail, food, music
- night-time libraries
- utilisation of shop fronts for out-of-hours events e.g. markets, buskers
- incentives to encourage innovation.

2. The Jury recommends the prioritisation of new public toilets, creative and functional lighting, better way-finding, improved pedestrian experience and street art.
3. The Jury recommends that the City of Sydney commit budget to support night-time innovation and diversity.
4. The Jury recommends that the NSW Government collaborate with the City of Sydney and provide financial and regulatory support for night-time activities: small and major.
5. The Jury unanimously supports that the Department of Planning and Infrastructure is streamlining approval processes and reducing red tape in the assessment and development approvals for events, festivals etc.

To further strengthen and fasten the approval process and encourage diverse events, in the evening, the Jury recommends that the NSW Government establish a 'Night time events co-ordination' department specifically aimed at encouraging and rewarding existing outlets to extend their trading hours and inviting more diverse night-time vendors/ buskers/ entertainers to Sydney streets at night.

6. The Jury recommends that the City of Sydney install more water refill stations/bubblers in the public domain to allow people to hydrate.

# Transport

## OUTCOMES

*The people of Sydney will have access to varied, extensive, and frequent transport options into, out of and around the Sydney LGA.*

*The public transport improvements will focus on safer hub management, plus quickly and efficiently dispersing the city nightlife patrons safely.*

7. The Jury supports the recent increase and availability of night-ride services, during the hours of midnight and 4am. The Jury further and unanimously recommends state government:
  - continue to run all Sydney inner city suburban bus services along their usual routes from 11pm to 5am in conjunction with more frequent night-ride buses for patrons needing to get home to the outer Sydney suburbs on Friday and Saturday nights
  - establish a further two night-ride bus collection points/ hubs in high density licensed areas of the entertainment precincts
  - introduce new sprint (limited stops) services to run from new hubs to get people home more quickly to population hubs outside of the LGA
  - better promote the amendment of the Passenger Transport Act to encourage private operators to run shuttle services from late night hubs
  - establish taxi ranks/ mini bus/ shuttle services/connecting transport hubs for patrons when they get off the night-ride bus in the outer city suburbs, to take them home to their door safely.
8. The Jury recommends that the NSW Government research patron numbers between midnight and 5am and investigate the opportunity to increase late night trains i.e. train services to start one hour earlier than they currently do.
9. The Jury recommends that the NSW Government increase coverage of night time bus services to meet demand during the week in active night-time areas e.g. theatres.
10. The Jury recommends that additional services (bus and train) should be partly funded through the revenue from licensed premises' Risk Based Licensing fee and/or find other sources of revenue to fund these services.
11. The Jury recommends that the NSW Government make information about availability of all services clearly visible throughout the transport system and on mobile devices, including extra well-trained transport marshals at the hubs to provide information about transport services.
12. The Jury recommends implementation of the RMIT (Melbourne University) transport app 'UrNav' for Sydney.

## Police and safety

### OUTCOME

***There will be an increased sense of community security embodied by an increased visible presence of capable guardians.***

13. The Jury endorses the direction of NSW Police to increase visibility and coverage in the night-time precincts and surrounding areas by:
  - encouraging patrolling in pairs or threes, when appropriate
  - establishing pop-up Police shop fronts (booths, stands, caravans etc.) in high-risk areas.
14. The Jury supports the current City of Sydney Precinct ambassadors program and recommends an extension to a year-round service.
15. The Jury acknowledges the City of Sydney and NSW Government efforts in the use of CCTV to prevent and detect crime and recommend that they continue to increase CCTV cameras and staff monitoring of cameras based on NSW Police recommendations and community needs.
16. The Jury recommends that the City of Sydney and other agencies install new signage to increase awareness of CCTV cameras.



Jurors' night tour, listening to Dr Fulde

## **Education and Media**

### **OUTCOMES**

***There will be a reduction in:***

- ***alcohol abuse via increased community awareness of short and long term alcohol damage***
- ***binge drinking through shift in community perceptions about drinking***
- ***alcohol abuse via a cultural shift that stigmatises the misuse of alcohol.***

17. The Jury endorses the planned NSW Government multi-million dollar community awareness campaign to address the culture of binge drinking and the associated drug and alcohol-fueled violence. The Jury recommends that the campaign be actively promoted:

- throughout all licensed venues, take-away liquor outlets
- through all social media, television, newspapers, magazines, radio, billboards, drink coasters
- at sporting events and be a statewide initiative.

The Jury recommends that the campaign also address the damaging effects, both short and long term, that alcohol abuse can have on a person's health. The Jury recommends that the campaign be rolled out as a high-profile campaign for an initial 12 months, then be ongoing, and regularly evaluated for effectiveness. The funding for this ongoing campaign should be a dedicated high-priority annual budget item.

18. The Jury recommends an increase in the prominence of health messaging on alcohol packaging to raise awareness of health risks of alcohol consumption.

19. The Jury recommends the full restoration of funding to the NSW Education Department Drug and Alcohol Unit to improve and mandate drug and alcohol education programs across all NSW primary and secondary schools. The program will include:

- external experts to educate students on the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol
- helping students to develop life skills and resilience (based on the World Health Organisation recommendations) to reduce the propensity to abuse alcohol and drugs.

The Jury recommends that the NSW Mental Health Drug and Alcohol Unit should collaborate with NSW Education to develop this program.

20. The Jury recommends that the NSW Government advocate to the Federal Government to remove alcohol advertising on TV networks, cable and radio prior to 10pm to reduce exposure to young people, and that a prominent health message be inserted at the end of any alcohol advertisement.

## **Lockouts and Licensing**

21. The Jury supports the independent statutory review of the effectiveness of the lockout and trading controls in terms of the social, economic, health and crime impacts and recommends that it be conducted in 12 months rather than the proposed 24 months. The outcomes of this review are to be publicly available.
22. The Jury recommends that exemptions be available for venues to the "lock-out" and other trading restrictions, based on good behaviour, no incidents, and proven lower risk to public safety. This makes it financially favourable for the venue to police itself.
23. The Jury supports the NSW Government increasing the number of Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing (OLGR) inspectors to enforce RSA regulations in high-risk licensed premises in Sydney on Friday and Saturday nights and recommends that enforcement continues.
24. The Jury supports the introduction of an annual periodic risk-based licensing fee for licensed premises and recommends that NSW Government follow best practice from ACT and Victorian models for risk-based licensing fees, as outlined in NAAPA's submission to the review of the NSW Liquor Act.
25. The Jury recommends that revenue raised from the risk-based licensing fee should be used to contribute to funding the recommendations requiring funding outlined in this report.



Jurors deliberate

## List of Submissions received by the Jury

1. C. Hiller
2. S. Thomson
3. B. Adams, Surry Hills Business Alliance
4. N. Glenn
5. J Fletcher
6. R. Bain
7. S. Thavaratnam
8. R. Hoffman
9. Associate Professor Brian Owler, Australian Medical Association
10. L. Fairbrother
11. M. Ossner
12. B. James
13. O. Hamidi
14. S. Jarnason
15. P. Young
16. Office of the Premier
17. City of Sydney Council (Suzie Matthews)
18. Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education
19. Councillor Linda Scott
20. NSW Taxi Council
21. NSW / ACT Alcohol Policy Alliance
22. P. McGrath
23. S. O'Riordan
24. S. Mahmood
25. J. Marks
26. Councillor Jenny Green
27. Thomas Kelly Youth Foundation
28. NSW Police, Central Metropolitan Region Commander
29. Australian Hotels Association
30. National Live Music Office
31. R. Wright

## **List of Submissions received by the Jury, continued**

32. S. Lifschitz
33. D. Gallard
34. Lord Mayoral Minute
35. D. Matsuo, Corrective Services
36. Premier of NSW
37. M. Walton, NSW Police
38. C. Koon
39. City of Sydney Council

## **List of people who presented to the Jury**

Dr Peter Aquilina, Australian Medical Association

Nicholas Cowdrey, QC (previous Director of Public Prosecutions)

Jackie Fitzgerald, Deputy Director, Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research

Caterina Georgi, Director of Policy and Research, Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education

Dr Garry Glazebrook, Transport Economist and Urban Planner, UTS

Dr Gordian Fulde, Head of the Emergency Department, St Vincents Hospital in

John Green, Director Policing and Regulations, Australian Hotels Association

A/Superintendent Kelly Kortlepel, Acting Commander of the Drug and Alcohol Command

Danielle Matsuo, Director Sex and Violent Offender Therapeutic Programs,

Corrective Services NSW

Suzie Matthews, Manager of City Business and Safety, City of Sydney Council

Paul Newson, Executive Director, Office of Liquor Gaming and Racing

Brian Smyth King, Executive Director, Learning and Engagement NSW Education

Fran O'Brien, Manager Economic Strategy, City of Sydney

Tim Reardon, Deputy Director General, Policy and Strategy, Transport NSW

John Wall, Director, Fuzzy (events promoter)

Mark Walton, Local Area Commander, George Street, NSW Police

Rodger Watson, Deputy Director of Designing Out Crime Research Centre, UTS

Mandy Young, Department of Premier and Cabinet

# Night Tour Itinerary

## Citizens' Jury –

### How do we ensure we have a vibrant and safe Sydney nightlife?

#### Late Night City Study Tour Itinerary

Welcome... tonight provides an opportunity for you to explore a number of locations and get first hand insight into some of the issues that impact vibrancy and safety in the City at night.

We want the tour to be fun, but also enlightening, which means you need to put your critical thinking hat on! This means you need to maintain an open mind, suspend judgement, look at things from a variety of viewpoints and be conscious of how your own values, beliefs and assumptions influence your views.

Ask lots of questions – both internally and in discussion with others.



#### Think about... What makes each place seem safe and vibrant – or not?

Other questions....

Who is out and about? What are they doing? What sort of groups are they in? Who are they interacting with? How are they interacting?

What is the mix of activities going on? Is the activity mix different during the day and night? What age groups does the activity mix cater for? What kind of businesses are open and closed?

Does the activity mix encourage social interaction – how?

What makes the location interesting and engaging?

Are people enjoying themselves and having fun?

What is your sense of security like in this place? How do you feel? What is contributing to you feeling safe or unsafe?

How are people coming and going? What transport options are there to move people around?

Is it a place you want to visit and experience? Why? Is it a place you want to live in? Why?

## Itinerary

10:30pm	Meet at Town Hall House for briefing (456 Kent Street) Meet in foyer		
10:45pm	Split into 2 groups and get onto buses		
10:45pm – 11:05pm	Travel from Town Hall to King Street		
Group 1		Group 2	
11:05pm	Arrive King Street, Newtown – from Missenden Road to junction with Enmore Road Disembark from bus		As per group 1
11:30pm – 11:50pm	Travel from King Street to Crown Street		
11:50pm	Drive via Crown Street – Surry Hills between Foveaux Street and Devonshire Street Stay on bus		As per group 1
12:00am	Drive via Haymarket – Dixon Street, Kimber Lane  Stay on bus		As per group 1
12:10am	George Street – visit Grasshopper small bar		George Street – visit small bar
12:50am	Drive down George Street past Ivy		
1:05am	Arrive Oxford Street, Between Whitlam Square and Bourke Street Disembark from bus		As per group 1
1:30am - 1:40am	Travel from Oxford Street to St Vincents A&E	1:30am - 1:40am	Travel from Oxford Street to Kings Cross
1:40am	Arrive St Vincents A&E  Disembark from bus	1:40am	Arrive Kings Cross – Darlinghurst Road and Bayswater Road Disembark from bus
2:10am – 2:20am	Travel from St Vincents A&E to Kings Cross	2:10am – 2:20am	Travel from Kings Cross to St Vincents A&E
2:20am	Arrive Kings Cross – Darlinghurst Road and Bayswater Road Disembark from bus	2:20am	Arrive St Vincents A&E  Disembark from bus
2:50am – 3:00am	Travel from Kings Cross to Town Hall	2:50am – 3:00am	Travel from Kings Cross to Town Hall
3.00am	Finish		