



The Hon Niall Blair MLC
Parliamentary Secretary for Police and Emergency Services

MIN15/000297-02

Mr Andrew Woodhouse
heritageandconservation@hotmail.com

5 MAR 2015

Dear Mr Woodhouse

Thank you for your email to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, the Hon Stuart Ayres MP regarding New Year's Eve lockout exemptions. The Minister has asked me to reply on his behalf.

I have noted your concerns in relation to lockout exemptions in the City of Sydney Local Government Area for 31 December 2014.

As you are aware, the 1:30 am lockout on licensed venues across the Sydney CBD and Kings Cross precincts on 31 December 2014 did not apply due to the unique circumstances of New Year's Eve; however, the 3:00 am cease alcohol service requirement remained in place.

I note your request for access to government information under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*. However, the Minister does not hold the information which you seek.

You may be able to access NSW Police Force operational information under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* by sending an application to the Coordinator, Information Access Unit, Locked Bag 5102, Parramatta NSW 2124.

As the issues of liquor legislation fall within the portfolio responsibilities of the Deputy Premier and Minister for Hospitality, Gaming and Racing, the Hon Troy Grant MP, I have forwarded a copy of your correspondence to the Minister for his consideration and reply.

The Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing has retained information on New Year's Eve 2014 on its website at: http://www.olgr.nsw.gov.au/liquor_kingscross_precinct.asp#newyear.

On 21 January 2014, the Government announced a comprehensive package of measures to address alcohol-related violence and target problem drinking.

A new CBD precinct was also prescribed on 24 February 2014 and venues within this precinct and Kings Cross were made subject to certain restrictions including 1:30 am lockouts and 3:00 am last drinks.

A freeze on liquor licences within the CBD precinct for new pubs and clubs was also put in place, and bottle shops and liquor stores across the State were required to close at 10:00 pm.

The Alcohol Reform Package has now been in place for twelve months and the Kings Cross Plan of Management for slightly longer than that.

Work is commencing to collate the data necessary to effectively evaluate these initiatives.

Whilst anecdotally there have been a number of positive reports of the changes brought about through these reforms, we are committed to a full and thorough evaluation to determine as accurately as possible what the impact has been and whether any adjustments are required.

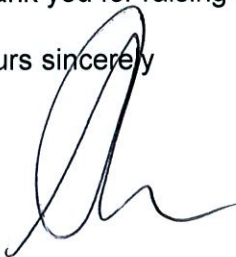
The evaluation will consider input from a range of stakeholders including the NSW Police Force, the Ambulance Service of NSW, and the City of Sydney.

As provided for in the legislation, lockouts, last drinks and other changes will be reviewed separately once it has been in operation for two years and a report made to the Premier.

The Government remains committed to delivering a sustained downward trend in alcohol-related violence and I look forward to reading the evaluation of the Alcohol Reform Package and the laws that underpin it.

Thank you for raising this matter with the Minister.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Niall Blair', written in a cursive style.

Hon Niall Blair MLC

Parliamentary Secretary for Police and Emergency Services