



Restaurant
& Catering

MEDIA RELEASE
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R&CA SUPPORTS SCRAPPING OF LOCKOUT LAWS

Restaurant & Catering Australia (R&CA) has today welcomed statements from NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian seeking to significantly relax the state's lockout laws. R&CA is the peak industry association representing 17,000 restaurants, cafes and caterers in New South Wales and thousands in the CBD and Kings Cross areas, serving millions of meals every day

Mr Lambert said today that these changes are a win for restaurants, cafes and caterers operating across the Sydney CBD, and re-established Sydney as Australia's premier global city.

"The lockout laws turned Sydney's night life into a laughing stock with businesses closing across the CBD – the lockout laws were a one-size fits all solution that ended acting as a sledgehammer to Sydney's once famous nightlife", Mr Lambert said.

"When R&CA appeared before the Joint Select Committee established to review these laws, we recommended the lockouts and area restrictions on the Sydney CBD and Kings Cross be removed. We implored the government to act as the international reputation of Sydney as a modern, in-touch, vibrant city has faded and must be restored before it is too late".

Mr Lambert said that while R&CA was also pushing for trading restrictions to be removed across the precinct, the announcement from the Premier that laws will be introduced to state parliament to lift the 1.30am lockouts in the CBD entertainment district were very welcome to the hospitality industry broadly.

"I congratulate the Premier for taking a strong stance that says to Australia and the world 'Sydney is once again a 24hr city and we are open for night-time business'.

"We look forward to working with the government on the detail of these new laws and for the Joint Select Committee's final report to be released", Mr Lambert said.

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