



Restaurant  
& Catering

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**30 September 2019**

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## **R&CA WELCOMES LOCKOUT REPORT THAT GETS THE BALANCE RIGHT**

Restaurant & Catering Australia (R&CA) CEO Wes Lambert has today welcomed the release of the Final Report of the NSW Parliament's Joint Select Committee into Sydney's Night Time Economy which recommends a substantial repeal of the state's lockout laws.

R&CA is the peak industry association representing 17,000 restaurants, cafes and caterers in New South Wales as well as thousands of small businesses in Sydney's CBD and Kings Cross areas, serving millions of meals every day.

Mr Lambert said today that the report's recommendations are welcome news for Sydney's Night Time Economy and CBD hospitality industry that have suffered for 5 years under the strain of draconian lockouts.

A Deloitte Access Economics Report released earlier this year highlighted the true Sydney's undeveloped night time economy, showing it is now worth \$27 billion a year and supports more than 230,000 jobs. However, it highlighted how Sydney is missing out on up to \$16 billion in economic activity due primarily to our lockout laws.

"The committee's final report gets the balance right between community safety and re-establishing Sydney as Australia's premier global city", Mr Lambert said.

"There can be no doubt that these changes are a win for the thousands of restaurants, cafes and caterers operating across the Sydney CBD thanks in part to R&CA's strong presentation to the committee.

"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.

"The inclusion of innovative recommendations relating to a new co-ordinator and strategy to oversee Sydney's nightlife, licencing incentives, better notifications for breaches and removing duplication relating to the inspection of venues is welcome.

Mr Lambert has now appealed to the NSW Government to move swiftly to implement the committee's recommendations to turbocharge Sydney's night-time economy.

"We stand ready to work with the NSW Government on behalf of the Restaurants, Cafes and Caterers across the CBD to help get these changes passed quickly.



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“There is no reason that we can’t have the lockouts repealed by January 1 2020. The eyes of the world are on Sydney for you Sydney’s world-famous New Year’s Celebration. We can make it even more special this year by showing the world that Sydney’s Night-life is back.

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