

## SHHC Report – Baird in Free-fall 2 Oct 2016

Since December, Baird's net satisfaction rating has fallen from positive 39 points to negative seven points, the biggest fall in net satisfaction rating of any mainland state premier in the history of Newspoll.

His satisfaction rating has fallen from 61 per cent in December to 39 per cent, with his disapproval rating more than doubling from 22 to 46 per cent.

The Premier's popularity is now in free-fall as detailed in [The Australian](#) and [SMH](#) and on Ten [TV News](#) 29 Sept 2016.



Increasingly, conservative media and commentators have been critical of Baird over forced council amalgamations – as with [Alan Jones](#) and in this [interview](#).

This significant fall in Baird's and his Government's popularity commenced in late December when Baird announced for the first time that he was going ahead with his forced council amalgamations across the State.

It was in early January 2016 that he detailed his merger proposals under a flawed process with little transparency. It was in May that he destroyed over 40 local councils against the wishes of their communities. He has forced others to challenge the process in court.

He has caused incredible angst and anger across the State, which was born out in the massive swings against the Liberals and Nationals in the recent local government elections.

It has frankly been a nightmare for many. It has been this direct attack upon local communities and their elected councils that has been a major factor in this incredible loss in public support for an arrogant and undemocratic Premier and Government.

The proposed destruction of the greyhound industry has also been a recent important contributing factor, including in the country.

There are many other factors, as identified in numerous comments to the recent article in [The Guardian](#). These issues include coal seam gas mining on agricultural lands, gross over development, WestConnex, destruction of heritage trees and homes, moving the Powerhouse Museum, Barangaroo, lockout laws – the list goes on.

What is at the heart of all this is a failure to listen, an unbelievable arrogance and an attitude to the public that is both dismissive and undemocratic.

The Premier would do well to reflect on whether his autocratic style has anything really to do with being a liberal, as explained in this article in '[The Conversation](#)'.

Phil Jenkyn OAM and Ross Williams Emeritus Mayor

Co-convenors,

Save Hunters Hill Municipality Coalition (SHHMC)

Web: [www.savehuntershill.org](http://www.savehuntershill.org) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/savehuntershill](http://www.facebook.com/savehuntershill)