

Mike Baird dined with Alan Jones night before greyhound ban backflip

ABC News 11 October 2016
Andy Park



PHOTO: [Mr Jones said Mr Baird was interested in what people were saying.](#) (ABC News)

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The night before announcing his massive backflip on banning greyhound racing, NSW Premier Mike Baird invited himself over for dinner and a chat at the harbourside apartment of one of his most vocal critics, broadcaster Alan Jones.

"I've been arguing the Premier ought to consult, so he rang and asked if he could talk to me," Jones told 7.30.

The pair were joined by the state's Family and Services Minister, Brad Hazzard.

It's safe to say the conversation was more memorable than the food, with Jones struggling to recall what was on the menu less than 24 hours earlier.

"I can't remember. Most probably a bit of fish and salad, I think," he said.

But there seems no doubt the message got through.

"I think the premise was that he understands that I get a lot of correspondence and I answer every day, and he basically wanted to know what the people were saying," Jones said.

"Well, I had to tell him I'd just been to Coonamble at the weekend on a fundraiser there ... and, you know, the mood out there is very angry.

"I told him what I thought and it was up to him to determine what he was going to do about what I thought."

'You can't walk over people and ignore people'



PHOTO: [NSW Premier, Mike Baird, announces his backflip on banning greyhound racing.](#)

Jones said that it was apparent Mr Baird knew he had made the wrong call on greyhounds.

"I think he's very aware. He is aware of the hole into which he'd dug himself, and I think this raises very significant questions about the kind of advice he was getting," he said.

"You can overplay this animal welfare thing. At the end of the day there are people here who are being driven to penury and to suicide, and when I explained that to him he understood.

"He just kept saying, I was wrong."

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Jones has been firing shots at Mr Baird on his morning radio program over a number of decisions, particularly the greyhound ban, but also lockout laws and council amalgamations.

And he has criticised Mr Baird's management style, variously comparing him to Russian President Vladimir Putin, describing him as Kim Jong Baird, and being pig-headed and a political bully.

"As you are probably aware, I haven't had a lot of conversation with Mr Baird because, though we go back a long way and I've known him a long time and I think we would regard one another as friends, I felt on this and one or two other issues he was way offside with what the public were about and I have to be responsible to my listeners and the general public out there," Jones said.

He denies trying to broker some sort of deal between the media and Mr Baird to reconcile the pro- and anti-greyhound factions.

"I wasn't brokering anything," he said.

"You'd have to be a mug if you hadn't read the polls ... you can't walk over people and ignore people."

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