

# 'I got it wrong': Mike Baird gives greyhound industry another chance

SMH 11 October 2016  
Sean Nicholls

The NSW greyhound industry will be given "one final chance" by the Baird government under a new regime being touted as "the strictest regulations that exist anywhere in the country".

Premier Mike Baird declared "I got it wrong" while confirming he would back down on his original promise to close down the industry from July next year.



Premier backflips on greyhound racing ban

*Premier Mike Baird has announced today that his government will not ban greyhound racing in NSW. Vision courtesy ABC News 24.*

Instead, Mr Baird said former Labor Premier Morris Iemma will chair a Greyhound Industry Reform Panel to advise government on the shape of a new regime.

The regime will include mandatory life bans and increased jail terms for live baiting and registering greyhounds for their entire lives.

## RELATED CONTENT

- [Alan Jones' dinner with Baird on eve of greyhound backflip](#)
- [Greyhound trainer charged with live baiting](#)



There will be an independent regulator and more resources for enforcement and prosecution and animal welfare.

The reform panel will report back to the government by the end of the year, with legislation expected to be introduced in early 2017 to repeal existing laws introducing the ban and deliver the new regime.

"I got it wrong, we got it wrong, the cabinet got it wrong and the government got it wrong," Mr Baird said.

Mr Baird said he knew a lot of people will be disappointed by the back-down but said "we are listening".



*'I got it wrong': Premier Mike Baird with Deputy Premier Troy Grant on Tuesday. Photo: Nine News*

Cabinet revisited the decision to ban greyhound racing on Tuesday morning.

The move followed a sustained media and industry campaign since it was announced in July and amid expectations of a large swing against the government at the November 12 by-election in Orange.



*Premier Mike Baird at Tuesday's media conference announcing the reversal. Photo: Wolter Peeters*

The decision to ban the industry from July 1 next year followed the report of a special commission of inquiry headed by retired judge Michael McHugh.

It found up to 68,000 greyhounds had been euthanised in the past 12 years because they were too slow or unable to race.

The inquiry was prompted by revelations aired by the ABC's *Four Corners* program about live baiting in the greyhound industry.

The back-down comes despite Mr Baird having argued for months that closing the industry is "the right thing to do".

#### RELATED CONTENT

- [Baird faces backlash over greyhound ban](#)

<http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/i-got-it-wrong-mike-baird-gives-greyhound-industry-another-chance-20161010-grzcz3.html>