

NSW premier Mike Baird's popularity plummets in poll after greyhound ban

The Guardian 29 September 2016

Baird's approval rating has fallen from 61% to 39% and his dissatisfaction rate has more than doubled, according to Newspoll.



NSW premier Mike Baird's popularity has slumped after announcing a ban on greyhound racing in the state. Photograph: Joel Carrett/AAP

New South Wales premier Mike Baird's popularity has plummeted with his approval rating falling 22 percentage points after [the ban on greyhound racing](#).

The Newspoll, [published in the Australian on Thursday](#), showed Baird's approval rating had fallen from 61% to 39% and his dissatisfaction rate has more than doubled.

Two party preferred support for his government dropped from 56% to 51% while Labor had a five points gain to 49%.

Baird has suffered the biggest fall in his net satisfaction rating of any state premier in the history of Newspoll, going from positive 39 points in December to negative seven points.

His satisfaction rating has fallen from 61% per cent in December to 39% and his disapproval rating is 46%. The premiers of Queensland, Victoria and South Australia are all now more popular than Baird in satisfaction ratings.

The ban on greyhound racing is being blamed for the fall with 51% of those polled believing the government should have given the industry a chance to reform itself and 41% thinking the ban was fair.

Baird has faced [fierce criticism from the greyhound industry and sections of the National party](#) for his decision to ban racing after a damning review into the industry.

Comments

Marilyn Riedy

To the "thinking" public there is much more to Baird's fall from grace than the Greyhound Ban. Hmm, let's see! There's changes to laws to favour big miners, potential changes to our environmental protections act, tree clearing, huge privatisation agenda (including hospitals and Land Titles Office), underfunding of schools and hospitals, changing hours for NSW Service, sending jobs off shore, failing to support Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, overpopulating Sydney and ignoring regions, council amalgamations, not consulting on new trains for inter city commuters and awarding contact to Korea. Building more toll roads instead of public transport and ignoring the investigative report on air quality in Western Sydney from 2006 which outlines areas of hot spots affected by air pollution and which advocated reducing the number of vehicles and roads and investing in Public Transport. Somehow I think that Greyhound racing is just the tip of the iceberg!

bedlambay Marilyn Riedy

Selling the Power House Museum site is one of his worst and most arrogant decisions. Also his gerrymander of Sydney City Council backfired spectacularly. This included SMSF company directors got two votes, cynicism writ large.

MrRiddleyWalker

The dogs ban probably has something to do with it. Council forced amalgamations probably a lot more. And also the fact the he is a nasty vicious little fascist. Just watch him in Parliament sometime.

mandrake51

This is just a latest in a long line of hasty and ill-prepared decisions by Baird. Just look at the fiasco of forced council mergers. No one wanted them, there was no consultation, decisions that affect hundreds of thousands of people were made on the cuff, the reports were not made public and the government has yet to show us one piece of research that supported the case for mega-councils. Not good enough!

3leggedcroc

Forget greyhound racing, that is just hype from a small but noisy industry trying to take credit for the LNP fail. The greyhound industry had a long long go at self regulation and blew it. The real reason the State Govt is on the nose is council mergers, asset selloffs and dodgy money bags of cash from developers funnelling into LNP coffers.

Lauren Mack

This has nothing to do with greyhounds and everything to do with the dissolution of 3 major councils, and steamrolling of his useless infrastructure agendas that waste money and will have severe negative impacts on traffic, real estate, noise and pollution.

David Carson

Why are we hanging this all on greyhounds? Don't forget how many people in New South Wales (hundreds of thousands?) just watched local council elections come and go without being allowed to vote, because the Baird junta had dissolved their local councils and appointed hand-picked henchmen to run the area in their place.

nonliebabel

"Baird has suffered the biggest fall in his net satisfaction rating of any state premier in the history of Newspoll, going from positive 39 points in December to negative seven points".

And we all thought Campbell Newman was the most obnoxious and untrustworthy failed premier Australia has ever produced, he was even worse than the massively corrupt Bjelke Peterson. Just go's to show what revolting leaders the LNP can produce and how stupid voters are repeatedly electing these LNP born liars.

margeofwarringah

Baird hasn't suffered a fall in popularity because of the greyhound racing ban what a load of utter shit. 73% of people in NSW agreed with the ban and Foley looked sick not supporting it. His popularity has dropped because of his fascist takeover and amalgamation of Councils and his refusal to outlaw non conventional gas in NSW.

TheDumpster barry Bathurst

I thought what Baird and his happy-clappy ilk prayed for on Sunday mornings was for their god to make them rich.

ajThony

I give my two votes worth to the attempted overthrowing of councils with two votes for the very greedy business types, this drove us back to the days when only titled gentleman (with property), military officer ranks and the clergy could vote, it unraveled several centuries of democracy. You have a dark and sinister heart poster boy.

TheDumpster Frederick786

He's another sanctimonious god-botherer.

reinhardpolley actane1

It was not Labor Party policy to push for Coal Seam Gas extraction in Western Sydney, use AWH to rip-off Sydney Water and its customers, accept illegal donations from property developers, or force council amalgamations and the privatisation of our electricity networks and Hospitals.

GoTeamAustralia

Tony Abbott, yes, Tony Abbott, has stated on T.V. that the Liberal Party of NSW has been corrupted by Lobbyists.

aussiewarren

It is a Newspoll poll - a company paid millions by the racing industry to publish the form guide. Any racing ban will have a negative impact on income and the company trolls are brought out shovelling the bullshit. Casino Mike is hated for many reasons with the doggies being the least of them.

Peanutta

How does that poll about greyhound racing correlate with his drop in satisfaction ratings when it basically says people are mostly in favour of ending this ludicrous sport? No the good people of

NSW are finally waking up to the fact their premier is a smarmy, God bothering, neo-con. That is the reason for his fall from grace

HindsightMe

I reckon it was the knee jerk reaction that started the rot. He came across as an elite authoritarian who was punishing not only the 'bad apples' but the old farmers who love their animals and have their livelihoods tied to the greyhound racing. It also seems like a double standards when you look at horse racing.

Clive Manson

Fact is, he is no longer governing for the people. His arrogance built on initial success, has given him the attitude, "stuff you. I am the Premier. We will do what I want!"

thufir112

This article is so far off the mark, and is borderline offensive to NSW people that something addressing cruelty to animals is viewed as the cause of a poll dip. Get with the program Guardian, this is contemptuous rubbish journalism - take that crap to the Murdoch press, thanks. Real reasons he is slipping down a slope? (1) Privitisation of critical assets (2) Council mergers to appease development interests (3) Selective lockout laws that benefit casino operators (4) Westconnex fiasco (5) Failure to address home ownership issues (6) Having association with the woeful Federal LNP (7) Policing powers (8) Inept judgement on Power Grid sell-off to state-owned foreign company... Greyhounds ban barely registers amongst the cacophony of f*k-ups listed above.

grapegrower1946 thufir112

yes, the greyhounds are well down the list of reasons

VikingHiking

Silence, peasants. Just await further (big end of town) developments.

10000Won

Westconnex, selling off assets, cuddling up to the CCP, abusing democracy (councils), casinos, over development. On and on it goes. Greyhounds? Not so much

TheDumpster

Baird's attempt at gerrymandering the Sydney Council Elections puts him in the Joh Bjelke Petersen class of politicians and we all know what Joh stood for - policy via plain brown envelopes.

Quiche78

Absolute crap. The dogs industry is tiny and been hated for years by many. His Casino Mike tag, the Council amalgamations and the push towards American style schools, hospitals and prisons is the reason.

Please. The might of the greyhound industry! Haha. The Wentworth Park crowd ready to depose a Premier! Classic stuff thank you.

GeelongOldF

I think the Premier thought the Greyhound industry would make a lot of initial noise but disappear quickly. They aren't.

Bet he wouldn't try it on with the Racing Industry even though they have much of the same issues. Royal Randwick el al would be in up in arms and there wouldn't be the free invites to the marquees.

zoomaloid

"The ban on greyhound racing is being blamed for the fall". By whom? So the fact that he has given developers carte blanche to build on the entire state by dissolving all the councils who

oppose over-development has nothing to do with it? Nor has the increased police powers, lockout laws, stop and search, anti-protest laws, privatisation of hospitals, destruction of heritage trees , Westconnex demolition of houses- do I need to go on?

smudge10 zoomaloid

No, you made your point brilliantly :) and I agree! Baird is a tosser, a high-handed unthinking idiot.

zoomaloid smudge10

I forgot the Clover Moore gerrymander. So much corruption in so little time...

backseatbandit

Trying to gerrymander Clover Moore out of her seat, lockout laws, casinos AND the heavy emphasis on property development with no policies on the provision of affordable housing or subsidies in one of the most expensive housing markets in the world. The liberals are so out of line.

IPAlackey

Can we talk about Councils?

Red_Herring

best three word slogan....Bye Bye Baird

AshBird

How about the fact that he has made it illegal to practice free speech and peaceful protest in NSW.

He has passed laws to effectively counter democratic process and the rights of individuals to have a say about whats happening to our environment. Along with pulling out democratically elected counselors he has enacted complete control and manipulation over the entire system so he can usher through all the changes he and his big business friends and developers want! (Casinos, Kings Cross property development and the WestConnex)

Pretty much it gives coal seam gas company's a green light to do whatever they want.

Protesting is now punishable by 7 years jail. Police have also been granted new laws. Anyone can be stopped and have their vehicles searched without a warrant just on police suspicion. Its a complete erosion of our rights and the main stream media (Murdough) have ignored it.

C5Av4gEtJ8w5zj4iH61r

Bring back the greyhounds and live bait them with Baird's arse

TechnologyAnalyst

It's a big jump to blame greyhounds.

Other factors would have enraged city folk more:

1. Forced council mergers
2. Gerrymander in City of Sydney
3. Westconnex disaster
4. Chopping of Anzac memorial fig trees

Don't forget polls prove most people in NSW are in favour of the greyhound ban. It's the other nasty things that Baird has done that have got more people upset. Follow the poll results!

antipepp

I think to say this is about the greyhound ban really overstates the Telegraphs influence.

There are a number of issues that have been bubbling away for some time coming to a head - council amalgamations and the Clover Moore gerrymander attempt especially.

Also states outcomes are very much influenced by Federal outcomes. The shitshow at federal level would be starting to take its toll.

Plemons BaldwinP

The problem with council amalgamations is that it will make it easier for the major parties - both of them - to control local government.

I support the greyhound ban and the lockout laws, but just about everything else - the Powerhouse Museum, the Tibby Cotter Bridge, the Northern Beaches Hospital enrages me. I couldn't vote for either party in New South Wales.

ntipepp BaldwinP

As Plemons said, the council amalgamations are about consolidating power and making it harder for independent voices to truly represent local issues. It's not that dissimilar from the attacks on Moore.

Now even if you think the economies of scale make it worthwhile, the decision-making process has become ridiculously politicised.

Examples

- a bunch of Labor councils are forced to merge, placed in administrators hands, right as West Connex is about to roll through, with elections not to be held for another 12 months.
- it was proposed Shellharbour and Kiama merge, the Liberals get nervous about retaining power on the south coast, and suddenly Wollongong and Shellharbour (combined pop ~300,000) merge while Kiama (pop 20,000) stands alone.
- all the safe Liberal councils in the north west bible belt of Sydney have had mergers put on indefinite hold too to protect votes. Barnaby also blocked one up his way.

Personally my council is the best managed of three put together. We have more libraries, better parks and playgrounds, free council pickups for rubbish, no parking meters, lots of community services and events for kids etc. I'm pretty sure over time, instead of being used as a benchmark, my service level will drop as it averages (or bottoms) out across the larger council area.

xena500

did well early because Labor was so putrid for many years

we hoped for more but you are as bad as Carr et al

hands off the dishlickers, the councils and the National Art School you preppy little barbarian

wedloik

Gone to the dogs, sleazy Casino Mike not so teflon coated anymore...

NambuccaBarry

Selling off public assets, amalgamating councils without local support, changing laws to favour mining, making mine protests a severe criminal offence, building more toll roads, making a rail tunnel smaller so it will not take any double decker trains, continuing to allow Kerry Packer to expand his new Casino site, making deals with the devil (Fred Nile) and those who wish to kill (Shooters and Fishers).

Lastly, Baird ensured that religious nutters would continue to have first go at public school students, while ethics is something his government continues to avoid.

algonquintable

Obviously Barid has never heard of Campbell Newman, who was also a self-centred idiot.

Schlomo

The Tories are in disarray everywhere, with even their jewel in the crown now under threat, the gloss wearing very thin on Baird, the smiling dictator.

Lynlylo

There is more to the unpopularity of Baird and the LNP than banning the greyhound industry.

The privatise everything is on the nose, Westconnect, health and hospital scandals, education and the council amalgamations despite voter concern.

With all the LNP, contempt and arrogance is on display. The people are forgotten and they are not happy.

IanCPurdie

Not just Baird, the whole LNP state government.

I think it is overstating the fall by attributing it solely to the greyhound issue. Beyond doubt Baird's imperious approach from his autocratic LNP government has provided much fuel for public discontent.

Just singling out two other prominent issues:

a) Forced Council amalgamations, without any public consultation and say. Then quite amazingly, many interim administrators magically - almost immediately - waved through whole rafts of development applications for property developers. Applications former Councillors, along with Council staff had previously refused to approve.

b) Again the imperious demand to privatise our public hospitals. Only the extremely seriously deluded could think that is for the public benefit.

Not only the Baird government, the whole LNP Delcon junta right across our Australia are hell bent on privatising, selling off all our public assets and utilities.

They have clearly declared an ideological war upon our Australia.

I believe Baird knows full well his tribe are shot ducks come the next election, so their primary goal in the interim now - is to impose as many almost irreversible changes - across our state as they find possible.

Philly_Slim peppep12

Mate - stop kidding yourself. The Tele is against the ban for financial reasons. They take the \$\$\$s from the racing industry for the form guide and then deliver the press accordingly. Does anyone remember the campaign to LOWER racing taxes. Incredulous! Another gift from the Tele to their paymasters in the gambling industry.

maxymeko

The only reason Baird became the leader of that party was because 11 ministers stepped down in one year . He was the only one left and I saw the NSW election coverage they road blocked it the media completely ignored the concept that there was actually an opposition candidate , The media put this guy in like they always do, then they pick over the scraps where the guy is on his way out. NSW corrupt home of the Liberal party

missyme62

I think forced amalgamation of NSW councils has had a negative impact as well. People do not like Mr Baird's dictatorial attitude. Not enough discussion/debate, if any, with the voters. He just steamrolls ahead.

Plemons missyme62

Indeed. Forty years ago the dogs used to get decent crowds at places like Dapto and Bulli, but it was always pretty bargain-basement stuff. Great steak sandwiches at Dapto, but the beer was bloody awful, the prizemoney peanuts and the betting pools small. Nowadays?

Forced council amalgamations, Packer's Pecker at Barangaroo, chopped down trees, all delivered with the self-righteous arrogance of a bible-bashing merchant banker . . . no wonder he's unpopular.

Blooroo missyme62

Agree, the amalgamation of councils in QLD under the LNP saw small towns and communities starved of vital infrastructure and devastated employment opportunities. In all cases, without exception, rates were substantially increased and continue to rise. This was all about saving a buck for the National/Liberal Party and nothing else.

Giles Stratton

It's not the dogs...it's the forced council amalgamations, the hospital privatisations, the complete failure to consult with stakeholders in rail timetable changes and motorway construction, the disastrous handling of the Lindt Cafe siege and the seeming lack of accountability around that...as has been seen in the federal sphere there is a major lack of talent in modern

conservative politics in this country. Another compelling argument for removing state governments.

shellbee

This isn't just about the greyhound industry. That is only the tip of the dissatisfaction iceberg. The Jackboot Johnny mentality with council amalgamations, westconnex, greyhounds, lockout laws, Newcastle rail truncation and constant threats to privatise everything are only a few of the reasons for the loss of trust.

DSteel

Baird has had this coming way before the greyhound issue. Fracking, Coal Mines, Council Amalgamations, Opal fare tampering... The list goes on but blaming greyhounds for his unpopularity is cosmetic at best.

Revenant13

Yet another god-bothering neo-liberal exposed for what he really is: a despot with born to rule mentality. It strikes me that the greyhound issue pales into insignificance when the NSW electors see the unholy mess Baird and his minions have made of the State and that there's little sign of improvement until he's unceremoniously ejected from his throne.

CCoasty

So the poor old dogs are gonna be his scape goats are they? Not likely going on the comments here, Baird's sins run far deeper than that and certainly are not being forgotten. Such lazy reporting to lay the blame on this one issue.

grumpyom

I'm not sure that the dogs ban is of widespread concern. The real concern is that Baird has lost the trust of voters. The endless sale of property assets to developers, the arbitrary council amalgamations, the transport development without obvious cost benefit analysis. Barangaroo, the Maritime Museum, the inner city public housing are shameful examples. Government in the commercial interest, without concern for the public interest.

PetasTalkbackMonkey grumpyom

But the dogs ban epitomises every decision he makes, arbitrary, short sighted, extreme and favouring conservative money making interests over community culture. It's just that the Greyhound Industry is something that the ordinary person has some clear concept of and has little hate for so the complaints from all the other victims of Baird's rape and pillage of the state are at last being given their weight as well. The number of constituencies and communities that Baird is alienating is extraordinary.

yeoldcynic

And it's not only due to the ban on greyhound racing. Add the hospitals fiasco (chronic under funding, moves to privatise), forced council amalgamations and a vicious campaign to defeat Clover Moore and the "smiling assassin's" ratings will go through the floor pretty quickly. Ex-bankers do not make good Premiers or PMs.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2016/sep/29/nsw-premier-mike-bairds-popularity-plummets-in-poll-after-greyhound-ban>