

Mike Baird gets a spinal tap from poor polls

SMH LETTERS
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It's no wonder Mike Baird has seen his popularity slip ("Baird crashes back to Earth", August 27-28). Since he won the election he has ridden roughshod over not only the voters of NSW but his own party. He thinks he has the solution to everything and those that do not agree must be wrong.

I think the answer to why he is so autocratic is twofold. First, he has been reading about Charles the First, who believed in the Divine right of Kings, that he was born to rule. Or second, he has been watching *The Blues Brothers* and like them he's on a Mission from God.

Whichever it is, we need to bring him back to reality.

Robert Pallister Punchbowl

The *Herald* criticises Mr Baird's selling of his "difficult reforms": "Tree clearing for the much-needed light rail ... was handled poorly"; "Land grabs for WestConnex have created an impression of poor process", "On council mergers ... the government failed to sell the reforms efficiently". I suggest that in each case there are problems that go well beyond "handling", "impressions" and "selling". A focus on these marketing elements distracts attention from the substance of the issues.

Mark Horn Lane Cove

I feel like crying. The Baird government is slowly killing NSW. Gone are our majestic fig trees, retrenched are the trained educators employed to help prisoners in our gaols, demolished are heritage buildings in both the CBD and Sydney's suburbs, ruined are inner-city businesses because of lockout laws, devastated are citizens affected by the ban on greyhound racing, upset and angered are our paramedics with their cuts in death and disability cover. And the people affected ...? Excuse me. Where are those tissues?

Christine Perrott Armidale

Behind the amiable good-bloke persona Mike Baird is an aggressively neoliberal politician who has quietly privatised dozens of state entities. At Barangaroo and Darling Harbour he has allowed gross development which has ruined the ambience of both iconic sites. The government agency Urban Growth is working hand in glove with rapacious developers against the public interest. The TAFE system has been gutted and National Parks staffing decimated.

Tony Simons Balmain

One factor in the change of fortune for Mike Baird is the light rail project to Randwick and Kensington. The destruction of memorial trees in Anzac Parade is unforgivable when other options would have seen them saved. There is doubt as to whether the project will offer better travel times and capacities, and the main beneficiaries appear to be high-rise developers. Local people used the recent federal election to express their displeasure, with the swing against the Coalition being almost twice the state average.

Charles Gerrard Randwick

Mike Baird's popularity may be waning but at least he has stuck to his guns and has shut down the NSW greyhound racing industry.

Carolyn Wills Cremorne

The X-ray of Baird's vertebrae looks remarkably like Darth Vader with a fractured helmet. A result of the erstwhile star warrior crashing back to earth perhaps?

George Manojlovic Mangerton

Is Luke Foley "The Invisible Man"? We hear from him only on matters pertaining to forms of gambling. We have no "Opposition" in NSW, just when we really need one. Anyone who calls himself Leader of the Opposition should be walloping Mike Baird in the polls by now. Just do the job and oppose Baird's program of wrecking our state.

Carolyn Richard Enmore

Our "Mr Smooth" Premier Baird was only ever a creation of the Liberal Party PR machine: stalwart political family background, fine Christian gentleman who takes his kids to church every Sunday, outstanding business career, etc. Was he not a merchant banker? Says it all, really.

David James Chippendale

Why is Donald Trump looking so good all of a sudden? Because he's standing next to Mike Baird. At least, that's the running joke in our house at the moment.

So Mike is going to rip the qualified correctional teachers out of our jails and replace them with "trainers furnished by a yet-unnamed provider" ("Jailhouse Blues: This decision will rock many lives," August 27-28.) Why? Because an accountancy firm, KPMG, wearing their consultancy hat, reckons it's a good idea.

When did accountants become experts on prisoner rehabilitation? I deadset can't believe this!

Owen Ravenscroft Avalon Beach