

# Newspoll: Dogs ban sends Mike Baird ratings into freefall

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*NSW Premier Mike Baird. Picture: Renee Nowytarger*

Premier Mike Baird has suffered a record fall in satisfaction ratings as a majority of voters judge the NSW greyhound racing ban unfair and deliver a dramatic political rebuke to his government.

The poll identifies deep disenchantment with the greyhound ban in country areas, a finding that will pile pressure on Deputy Premier and Nationals leader Troy Grant, who took the ban to cabinet.

After ranking as the most popular political leader in the country in December, Mr Baird has seen his approval ratings collapse into negative territory and the Coalition's election-winning, two-party-preferred lead of 56 per cent to 44 shrink to a 51-49 lead over Labor.

**Since December, Mr 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.**

## **BIGGEST FALLS FOR A PREMIER IN NET SATISFACTION IN NEWSPOLL HISTORY**

46	NSW	Mike Baird	Liberal	Aug-Sep 2016
41	Qld	Anna Bligh	Labor	Jul-Sep 2010
40	WA	Richard Court *	Liberal	Mar-May 1993
39	NSW	Morris Iemma **	Labor	Sep-Oct 1995
39	SA	John Bannon	Labor	May-Jul 1992
35	WA	Colin Barnett	Liberal	Oct-Dec 2013
33	Qld	Mike Ahern	Nationals	Apr-Jul 1998
24	SA	Mike Rann	Labor	Feb 25-Mar 6, 2011
23	NSW	Bob Carr	Labor	Jan-Feb 2004
23	Vic	Jeff Kennett	Liberal	Nov-Dec 1997
23	WA	Brian Burke	Labor	May-Jul 1986

\* Compared with Carmen Lawrence's last poll \*\* Compared with Bob Carr's last poll

**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, exceeding his approval rating for the first time.**

Mr Baird now ranks behind Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk, Victoria's Daniel Andrews and South Australia's Jay Weatherill in terms of satisfaction rating.

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The Coalition's primary vote has slumped six points since December to 42 per cent while Labor's has risen three points to 36 per cent.

The Newspoll, conducted exclusively for *The Australian*, finds that most people believe the greyhound racing industry should have been given a chance to reform itself. Only 41 per cent of people in NSW believe the ban is fair, while 51 per cent believe the government should have given the industry a second chance after a damning report confirmed the practice of live baiting and large wastage of animals that prove too slow to race.

The poll question mirrors the choice faced by the government following the report of former judge Michael McHugh, which recommended that parliament consider whether greyhound racing should be banned. If not, it set out 80 recommendations for change.

The poll finds that the ban is deeply unpopular in country areas, a result that will fuel instability inside the Nationals and threaten to destabilise Mr Grant's leadership.

Outside Sydney, opposition to the ban was overwhelming, confirming anecdotal reports from Nationals MPs.

Sixty-one per cent of people in country areas believed the industry should have been given a chance to reform itself, while only 35 per cent thought the ban, to be implemented from July 1 next year, was fair. Even among Coalition supporters, the ban was not supported, albeit by a narrow margin — 48 per cent to 47 per cent. Among Labor voters, it was massively unpopular, by a margin of 60 per cent to 34 per cent.

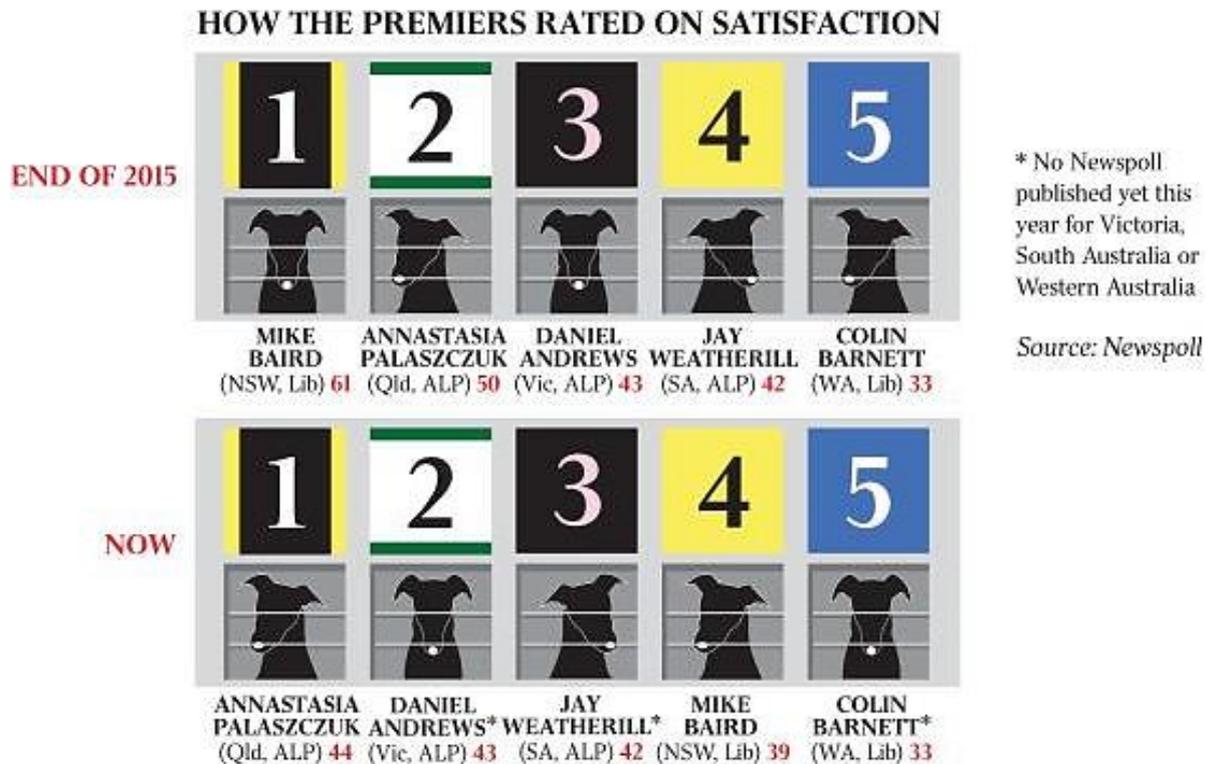


The poll found support for the greyhound ban was evenly split in Sydney, with 45 per cent in favour and 45 per cent again.

**The Nationals face a tight contest to retain the seat of Orange at a by-election in November. Some Nationals MPs believe the ban should be reversed before the by-election to save the seat.**

There is a feeling inside the party that Mr Grant’s leadership rests on the by-election, with John Barilaro, the Minister for Skills, Regional Development and Small Business, waiting in the wings.

Despite Mr Baird’s falling popularity, he still easily beats Opposition Leader Luke Foley as preferred premier by a margin of 42 to 24 per cent.



## COMMENTS

Bill

The Greyhound banning is only one part of many peoples dissatisfaction with Baird. The other big issue is council amalgamation. Some councils could vote on the matter and others were amalgamated.

Chris @Bill

and certainly OVERDEVELOPMENT.

Gary

Pride cometh before the fall.

Michael

Mike "Campbell Newman" Baird.

Graham

Baird can grandstand all he likes, what these politicians have to realise is that ultimately they represent the people, not themselves.

Roy

Mike Baird is completely out of his depth. He runs the State from one crisis to another. He's got to go.

Peter

Baird's Forced NSW Council Amalgamations, which broke the 2010 Liberal Party Election Policy, Pledge, Promise and Commitment, Not to Force Council Amalgamations, forms part of this result. No one likes being tricked.

Anna

Fantastic news!! Worst NSW premier in a long time. Can we have another election NOW?

Bert

Baird is just another politician who is only interested in himself and does not give a damn about the rest of the population.

Philip

Baird began to think of himself as infallible, simple as that, and stopped listening to advice. Time he went with that attitude to government of NSW.

Elizabeth

Sorry to say this Mr Baird because there was a time when I admired you, but you have earned this fall in respect and approval all by yourself. Dictators will not prosper in Australia no matter what the colour of their politics.

Blair @DOUGLAS

Grant has to go. Absolutely condemned for his choices and actions. Doesn't deserve any modicum of support for his actions to date. Will be a good riddance when it comes.

Robert

Many mistakes but worst is stealing our councils in a property development play. Typical Banker?? Just wants more stamp duty.. nothing to do with efficiency for rate payers!!

Liam

Hardly surprising. A Premier with the life experience of a choirboy and a Messiah complex.

Brian @Joanne

Baird did his best (worst?) to gerrymander Sydney City Council elections and that backfired on him BIGTIME! Now his dogs have come to bite him. Just another polliie and not a very good one at that.

Maureen @Julian

The Orange bi-election is going to be interesting.

AKA Peter

Baird needs to have a good look at other political leaders who made decisions on the run without consulting their party and see where they are now.

Michael

He crossed the line between being positive and became arrogant. He's on his way to having a Campbell Newman experience.

John

He is a dictator and deserves to be sacked!

Hadyn

Nothing surprising in this. Mr Baird and his team simply do not listen; not to their constituents, not to their supporters, not anyone.

Katherine

I guess this is what happens when you govern for your own pet interests instead of governing for all. The selective deafness of politicians will be their undoing.

Walter

Baird deserves to lose office. The Libs could show some spine and sack him.

Colin

Hubris brings you down every time!!

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/newspoll/newspoll-dogs-ban-sends-mike-baird-ratings-into-freefall/news-story/91294495701cb40234d342cabd8c103b>