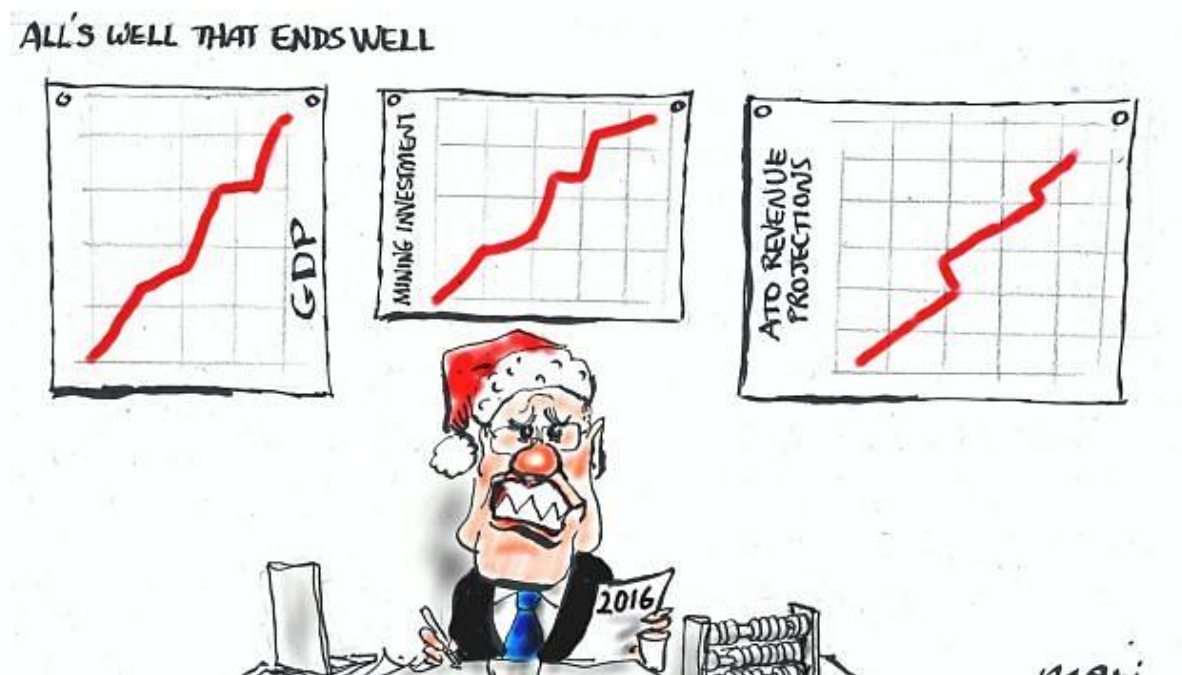


## Bullying Mike Baird faces voter wrath in 2019

The latest court decision, conveniently announced three days before Christmas, will not save the Baird government in the long run ("Love thy neighbour: (just not in Woollahra)", December 23).

As evident from the Orange by-election, many constituents in electorates that used to reliably vote for the Coalition are fed up with Mike Baird's bullying ways.



*Illustration: Alan Moir*

With his determination to force councils to amalgamate, Baird is ignoring the strong community spirit in councils such as Woollahra, Mosman and Hunters Hill. Voters want their independence, and the Coalition will pay in the 2019 state election.

There are 26 Coalition MPs with a majority of less than 15 per cent who will be particularly vulnerable at the next election.

The Nationals in the Coalition seem to be more aware of the risks to their MPs, and many Nationals are now opposed to further amalgamations. When will Baird start listening to public opinion?

**Brian Watters** Mosman