

Greyhound ban: Troy Grant could face a spill if he doesn't reverse it, National colleagues say

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Andrew Clennell, State Political Editor
EXCLUSIVE

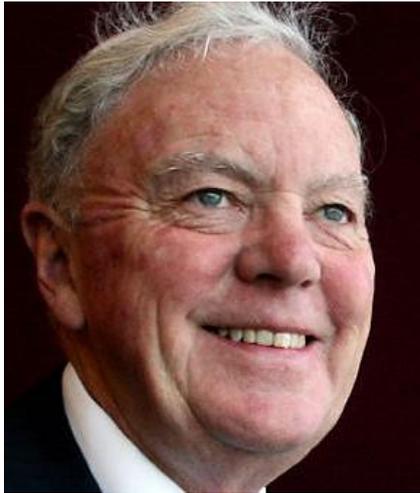


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DEPUTY Premier Troy Grant will be under pressure to resign or face a spill if he does not come forward with a reversal of the greyhound racing ban to the Nationals party room on Monday night, his Nats colleagues say.

As Mr Grant prepares to present the Keniry report, which is supposed to outline a proposed compensation package if the industry is shut next year as scheduled, senior Nationals said last night there would be a move on the party's state leader if he presented anything less than a "full reversal" of the ban.

"The reversal has to be clean. It can't be any less than a reversal," a senior MP said.



Taskforce chief John Keniry



NSW Deputy Premier Troy Grant

“If it’s not a reversal, then rumours of spills are floating around and that’s possible for Tuesday morning.

“If Troy does not present a reversal on Monday night, it will be open season.”

The MP speculated that some kind of reversal of the ban may be in the wings.

Another Nationals MP confirmed there could be trouble, saying: “he (Mr Grant) hasn’t done us any favours”.

The MP said: “I think the Orange by-election’s going to be (more of) a catalyst (on leadership).”

Monday night’s Nationals party room meeting will be followed on Tuesday by a cabinet meeting to discuss the Keniry report and a Coalition party room meeting.

A majority of Nationals in the 23-member party room are now understood to oppose the ban, including ministers who helped pass it in July in cabinet.

Mr Grant declined to comment on the leadership speculation last night. “I am proud to serve as leader of the NSW Nationals and remain focused on delivering for the people of regional NSW,” he said.

The Baird government has meanwhile conceded it may have to provide a mechanism for the TAB and bookies to earn millions of dollars more because of the greyhound racing ban, were it to go ahead.

Asked by the Opposition whether bookies will be compensated, Mr Grant answered to Parliament: “The government is considering the implications for Tabcorp and other betting firms as part of the transition plan.”



Warren Brown's cartoon.

Yesterday, a spokesman for Mr Grant said: “There will be no financial compensation for betting companies as a result of the greyhound racing ban. There are other implications for betting companies being considered, including the inter-code agreement.”

The changes could include more horse and harness races being put on in a bid to take revenue that was to go to greyhounds.

Senior Nationals said last night there would be a move on the party's state leader if Mr Grant presented anything less than a “full reversal” of the ban.

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/greyhound-ban-troy-grant-could-face-a-spill-if-he-doesnt-reverse-it-national-colleagues-say/news-story/502b330060aa3c2e213f4f25f0a67304>