

# Greyhound racing: Nationals Katrina Hodgkinson, Chris Gulaptis dumped after voting against ban

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PHOTO: [Nationals MP Katrina Hodgkinson has been a vocal opponent of the ban.](#) (ABC News)

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**Two New South Wales Nationals MPs have been dumped as parliamentary secretaries after they crossed the floor to vote against the State Government's greyhound racing ban.**

The member for Cootamundra, Katrina Hodgkinson, and member for Clarence, Chris Gulaptis, have been vocal opponents of the ban and voted against the legislation during a marathon parliamentary debate earlier this week.

The following day, [Nationals leader Troy Grant said he was "proud" of the MPs who crossed the floor](#) for standing up for what they believed in.

But today he announced they would be replaced as parliamentary secretaries.

Ms Hodgkinson said she found out about the dumping via a media release.

"I've just found out by media release that I've been replaced as parliamentary secretary, but that doesn't matter to me one dot," she told the ABC.

"What's important is to me is the future livelihood of those thousands of regional jobs."

She said it was "disappointing" Mr Grant had not called her, despite being with him all week.

Ms Hodgkinson said the ending of the greyhound industry in her electorate was dramatic and there was a lot of concern about the loss of jobs.

"They are really hurting right now," she said.

Mr Gulaptis said he offered his resignation prior to voting against the ban.

"Before I crossed the floor, I made a commitment to Mr Deputy Premier that I was prepared to tender my resignation," he said.

"This all about the people of the greyhound industry who have lost their jobs ... this is not about me."

Several Nationals MPs broke ranks with the NSW Government to vote against the controversial legislation, but.



PHOTO: [Troy Grant replaced the MPs despite initially say he was proud of their decision to cross the floor.](#) (AAP: Lukas Coch)

Labor claimed the dissent showed the Liberal-Nationals Coalition's leadership was weak, but Mr Grant said at the time it was a positive thing everyone had their say.

Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall and Upper House MP Bronnie Taylor are set to take Ms Hodgkinson and Mr Gulaptis' places.

The bill to ban the industry was drafted in [response to a special commission on inquiry report released earlier this year, which found systemic animal cruelty in greyhound racing.](#)

Greyhound trainers have [spoken out about the ban, describing it as "like the end of the world"](#) and saying the Government was punishing many for the crimes of a few.

The member for Coffs Harbour, Andrew Fraser, who spoke against the greyhound bill and abstained from voting, said he was disappointed his two colleagues had been dumped.

"I am extremely disappointed in the decision by the leadership of the party to dump two people who Troy Grant said, on the ABC on Wednesday, that he was extremely proud of and understood how hard the decision that they took to cross the floor was," he said.

From other news sites:

- [News.com.au: MPs dumped after greyhound vote](#)
- [Sky News: Two MPs demoted over greyhound ban vote](#)
- [SBS: NSW MPs demoted after greyhound vote](#)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-08-26/nationals-mps-dumped-after-voting-against-greyhound-racing-ban/7789402>