

"Super tax" threat to Rudd's political future

Australia's Labor Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, is struggling to regain voter support amid challenges that he is out of his depth over a controversial tax, and speculation of a challenge from his female deputy, Julia Gillard



■ **Kevin Rudd, 52.**
Handling of **Resource Super Profits Tax** on Australia's mining industry has become lightning rod for all of Labor's perceived failings

■ **Approval plummeted** after shelving landmark emissions trade plan

■ Plan for country-wide super-fast broadband network is bogged down, and rise in mortgage rates to around 7% has angered voters in marginal mortgage belt electorates

■ **Has alienated many** of his cabinet by relying too much on advice from young staffers who are seen as novices

**AXE
THE
MINING
TAX**

Rudd's falling approval rating



■ **Julia Gillard, 48.**
Deputy Prime Minister and Rudd's heir apparent. **Gillard has sought to rule out speculation of leadership challenge** ahead of elections which could come as early as August

■ Born in Wales, her family migrated to Australia when she was four. Gillard practised law before entering politics

■ Has close ties to trade union movement and enjoys backing of Murdoch's News Corp.

■ **Gillard is considered more responsive to advice from cabinet colleagues than Rudd**