

Response from Marc Dodd, Editor, Nine.com.au:

“The 9News.com.au reader poll had no indication of any manipulation while featured on the homepages. After it was removed from the homepages it still featured in a few related articles - a few days later a major swing in results came to our attention. The poll was unpublished as our dev team investigated and then quickly confirmed tens of thousands of votes had been cast over a short period of time from the same IP address, which indicated bot activity.”

Response from Mathew Dunckley, Digital Editor, The Age:

“We had an unfortunate experience on Monday where a Twitter poll of ours experienced highly irregular voting. In light of what appeared to be a clear manipulation of the poll by someone, who may have been using a bot to change the result of the poll, we made the decision to delete the poll. We are also working with Twitter to understand what they can do to support us in preventing such attacks.”