

Save Albert Park Inc. www.save-albert-park.org.au
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Save Albert Park's FOI Officer, Joan Logan, sent this letter to Premier Andrews on 6 March, 2017:

Grand Prix accountability urgently required

Dear Premier Andrews,

It appears you have been poorly advised about Melbourne's grand prix; not only about the TV viewing numbers for this event but also its attendance claims.

Save Albert Park (SAP) has independent evidence that the Australian Grand Prix Corporation (AGPC) – and government – has misled the public on many counts (as per the [SAP Fact Sheet](#)).

I'm sure you would agree it is in the public interest to have grand prix honesty, transparency and accountability.

As a government agency the AGPC needs to be held to account and, as Premier, you can order it.

The GP's 'success' is largely based on its attendance numbers.

The AGPC is supplied with bar code scanners by its ticketing agency yet refuses to connect them, even when ordered to by Parliament. This means it cannot substantiate its claims but worse, this is an abrogation of responsibility to protect its patrons in any civil emergency at the venue.

The AGPC will argue that VCAT has said its methodology is ok but the judge made that decision because the AGPC had said (under oath) that it had costed turnstiles and/or bar code scanners and they are cost prohibitive. There is no evidence that it did but they have admitted the scanners are supplied for free by the ticketing agency. In the 21st century, it is very cheap to connect scanners to count patrons. All other major events do this. The only conclusion is that your agency is deliberately hiding the truth because, as The Age revealed in 2008, "The truth would hurt us, admits GP chief". Your agency has been dishonest then and it is dishonest now. You have been dishonest too, as the AGPC reported you as saying "hundreds of millions watch the grand prix." The truth is "hundreds of millions" do not watch the GP and they never have, therefore you lied to Victorians in order to support the hundreds of millions of dollars sunk into this event.

Here are two facts that we can estimate far more accurately than the AGPC or your advisers:

- The average global viewing audience for a grand prix is 19 million, based on Formula One's most recent reporting of the total cumulative audience of 400 million watching an entire season of races. Bernie Ecclestone has long claimed our race is poorly supported, therefore the audience is well below average.
- The audited tickets sales of the AGPC, divided by the number of seats and ticket prices, with the balance apportioned to general admission reveals fewer than 70,000 tickets sold for your event. The near empty grandstands for the first two days reveals the claimed attendance is a total fiction.

The conclusion is you and your government, as have previous governments, been dishonest with the main sponsors of this event, the Victorian public. You are passing off demonstrably untrue claims as if they were "facts". This is very disappointing to us and to Victorians who want you to be honest with them. You must act now to force your agency to be honest and actually connect their scanners to a network. You must also honestly report all the facts regarding the grand prix. Victorians will forgive you if you expose 'alternative facts' as lies. They will never forgive you for lying to them.

Contact Save Albert Park: Peter Logan 0412697074 or President Peter Goad 96997932