

SAVE ALBERT PARK MEDIA RELEASE 17 March 2013

“You only need primary school mathematics to prove they’re wrong”

That’s what mathematicians told us: the grand prix attendance figures are grossly overestimated - it’s the same as the emperor’s new clothes – any child could work it out.

From past experience the Australian Grand Prix Corporation will claim more than 300,000 – they are predictable but can’t tell us how they make up these figures. The deputy CEO said in 2007 the truth on crowd numbers would hurt us.

Save Albert Park’s estimate for the total number of spectators over the four days of the 2013 Australian Grand Prix was 175,011.

The totals for each day:	Thursday	17,760
	Friday	40,420
	Saturday	54,015
	Sunday	69,986
	TOTAL	182,181

Here’s how you work it out: grandstand seats total 27,016, corporate places total 7,300 and maximum capacity in general admission is 28,500, giving a total viewing capacity of 62,816. Beyond this, SAP also allows extra for ‘back of house’, ie bars, etc, to take in those not in view. To achieve the maximum capacity every area must be full: grandstands full, corporate areas full and in the general admission area the five major viewing mounds have to be full (one spectator per sq m) and spectators at least four deep stretched around the rest of the circuit.

Save Albert Park President Peter Goad asks, “With taxpayers expected to pay hundreds of millions to continue this event on a temporary circuit, when will the government give us some honest figures?”

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In 2011 and 2012 adjudications by the Press Council of specific reports in The Age and the Herald Sun showed that GP attendance and other claims of the grand prix corporation are “strongly contested in detailed analyses from other sources” and the GP’s figures are of “doubtful accuracy.”