

Media Release 10 March 2015

“I will not be lied to, and I will not accept incompetence”

Premier Daniel Andrews (2 March 2015)

Save Albert Park president, Peter Goad said, “That’s a good start Mr Andrews. You should now address all the unsubstantiated claims about Melbourne’s grand prix made by government ministers and grand prix chiefs.” www.save-albert-park.org.au

1. World viewing audience claims have been quoted between 350m to 500m (and 55 billion for F1 globally).

Fact: The global viewing audience for the Melbourne event could now be as low as 10m. According to Formula 1, the *average* audience for each grand prix last year was just 22m.

2. So called economic benefit claims have ranged from \$95.6m in 1996 to \$130.7m in 2003. GP chairman Ron Walker pumped them up to \$160m on 25 January 2011, then \$180m on 3 March 2011, whilst the AGPC’s Andrew Westacott quoted “\$75m plus” in the same year and again in 2014.

Fact: These claims relate to ‘impact’ studies that always show a plus, similar to a natural disaster having an ‘impact’. A ‘benefit’ is only achieved after deducting the costs to Victoria. The Auditor-General’s cost-benefit analysis (CBA) of the 2005 GP found it to be a net loser for Victoria (-\$6.7m). Subsequent updates by independent economists now show the event costs the Victorian economy \$54m to \$60m per year. Ernst & Young admitted only a CBA – and not its 2011 economic ‘impact’ study – would determine the event’s real worth.

3. Tourism claims are unsubstantiated.

Fact: Hotel rooms are already more than 75% occupied during March. Wotif.com shows there are many unoccupied rooms over the GP weekend. The Auditor-General found no *extra* tourists come because a GP is held in Victoria.

Ansett Airlines said in 1999: *“There doesn’t seem to be any increase in the number of passengers travelling on the Labour Day weekend when the Grand Prix is on compared to Labour Day when the Grand Prix was not held there.”*

4. Attendance claims:

The AGPC boast ‘MORE THAN 300,000 ATTENDEES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD’ to their venue that has fewer than 27,000 grandstand seats.

Fact: The AGPC have admitted: *“There was no way we could determine exactly how many people were actually in the venue”*. They refuse to use bar code scanners – supplied free by its ticketing agent - or disclose how it ‘makes up’ its attendance numbers.

Be very wary on any grand prix claim. SAP’s fact sheet has independent evidence:

<http://www.save-albert-park.org.au/>

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