

Save Albert Park Inc. No. A0040971
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**Is the Grand Prix our biggest charity
or most expensive job creation project?**

The Grand Prix would have to be Victoria's biggest taxpayer- funded charity, with no return for the needy. Victorians have contributed \$750 million in cash since Jeff Kennett 'won' the event. In December 1993 Kennett said: **"The Victorian taxpayers would not be asked to meet the cost of the event, with the State Government only prepared to act as guarantor for loans required to establish the race."** It appears Jeff and subsequent premiers were conned by major events mathematics.

Despite the massive public subsidies the Grand Prix has never generated the interest and passion of our real major events. It doesn't generate enough visitors and Victorians to the event to off-set its staging costs. The Australian Grand Prix Corporation admitted that the cost of installing and removing the race amenities at Albert Park "would keep the Formula One race in the red." It appears F1 CEO, Bernie Ecclestone makes the decisions in Victoria; the government just provides the park and the money to pay for his event.

Was this \$750m sunk cost a 'major' job creation exercise, rather than a charity gift? Ernst & Young was hired to estimate the jobs 'created' by the GP and reached the figure of 351 jobs, using crowd numbers supplied by those masters of spin, the grand prix corporation, who admitted it never counts its attendees despite having ticket scanners supplied free by the ticketing agency. 351 jobs works out at \$2.137 million for each job 'created': an Australian record price by any measure!

Both major parties have irresponsibly ignored the Victorian Auditor-General and independent economists' findings that the Grand Prix is an economic loser for Victoria. With extra hidden subsidies taking the sunk cost to more than one billion, when will our politicians call enough?

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

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