

Media Release 14 March 2019

Lying, cheating and deception are endemic to Australian motor racing

Victorians would be mistaken if they believed the grand prix is the only event that uses misleading and deceptive claims to gain government subsidies, a park and special legislation to hide the facts.

While the grand prix has taken a fact free billion dollars from the taxpayers with the blessing of the government, its Aussie colleague, Supercars Australia has quietly and methodically copied the grand prix. Supercars' deceptive business plan has been revealed in a new book ["Wrong Track: what drove Supercars to Newcastle"](#) .

The book shows Supercars and the Melbourne grand prix were established in the same deceptive manner, including:

- a state-imposed 'major event',
- a secret deal between the race promoter and the state government,
- inner city public space/parkland converted into a car race track,
- no prior public consultation,
- promises that the event would bring forward much-needed 'upgrading' of community amenities.
- promises of so called economic benefit to local businesses and increased tourism.

The book then shows how motorsport major events 'manufacture' success. Quite simply, instead of a fact-based business plan they use the same misleading and deceptive methodology for gullible state and local governments:

1. **Secrecy is a key factor:** Establish a business partnership between the government and the race promoter that requires secrecy and commercial-in-confidence provisions in the race contract.
2. **No public consultation** to be undertaken before the race contract is announced.
3. **No business case** to be carried out, as the finding is likely to be unfavourable.
4. **Keep repeating the statement that the event will put the city/state on the world stage,** hundreds of millions will watch the race on TV, and spending by race visitors will create an economic bonanza, knowing none of this is true.
5. **'Upgrading':** the government to state that the event will mean the bringing forward much needed 'upgrading' of community amenities.
6. **The government to pass legislation** which exempts the event from any existing planning, public health, environmental or heritage laws, and provides legal protection against death/injury/damage claims.
7. **Instead of commissioning a business case** (including a cost benefit analysis) the government to carry out 'economic impact' assessments which estimate the 'new money' brought in by race visitors but ignore costs and conceal the underlying economic loss.
8. **No attempt to be made to count the actual spectators** using turnstiles or ticket scanners; instead, report estimates of 'attendees' that are greater than the numbers visible at the event.
9. **Accept sponsorships from any quarter:** Big Tobacco, alcohol, coal mining, high priced luxury gas guzzling cars, gambling, all OK.
10. **Financial reports:** Be careful about what is said in audited annual reports; eg., report operating losses as 'government investment'
11. **Offer free tickets to school kids** and provide 'educational experiences' for them; they are the race fans of the future, as long as they never question the dubious 'major events mathematics'.
12. **Glamour and partying:** watching cars go round and round is boring, so emphasise that the event is really all about glamour, parties and mixing with pretty people.

The solution?

Governments, at both state and local level, must honestly and openly tell us the real truth on all these misleading and deceptive claims and how much they have actually spent on these events, establish a business case, including a full cost benefit analysis and then decide if the events are actually worth all the cost and public distrust. Politics in Australia is suffering from a disappointing lack of public confidence and trust. This change may help improve that situation as well as saving billions of dollars.

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

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

With special thanks to the authors of *[Wrong Track: what drove Supercars to Newcastle](#)*, Dr Christine Everingham and Theresa Doyle as most of this media release is straight from their book.

<https://wrongtracknsw.com/>