MEDIA RELEASE: March 2024

**Questioning grand prix dodgy claims**

**One question for the media**

**Q. T**heAustralian Grand Prix Corporation is [misleading and deceiving](https://michaelwest.com.au/melbourne-formula-one-grand-prix-beyond-the-spin-the-numbers-dont-stack-up/) Victorians, its major funders, so what could be worse than this?

**A.** Successive Victorian governments and weak oppositions. They have ignored decades of independent evidence, including from the[Auditor General](https://appliedeconomics.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/2006-cost-benefit-analysis-of-formula-one-grand-prix-victoria.pdf).

**There has been no political grand prix transparency, no accountability and no fact checking.**

Note:

[Economic ‘impact’ studies](https://djsir.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0017/2230244/7200b5f401c30cb20b9904792efdb99a927f0962.pdf) by EY consultancy have been commissioned by government. These studies are [“utterly discredited”](https://johnquigginblog.substack.com/p/what-is-the-actual-economic-benefit) by economists because costs are not included. EY itself admits its GP modelling has a long list of [“limitations”](https://djsir.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/2179174/d847c5312b1785dabfc98db41eaeafc6592b9eb2.pdf) and does not recommend it be used for “investment advice” or “future course”. By the government’s logic a natural disaster could have an ‘economic benefit’ because a lot of money was spent on it but, like the GP, it doesn’t deliver a ‘benefit’.

**Suggested questions to government to help expose dodgy grand prix claims**

**Q 1.**   Government’s economic ‘impact’ studies by EY are “utterly discredited”. EY itself admits its modelling has “limitations”, so why does government continue these sham studies when cost benefit analyses are recommended by the Auditor General to determine if this event is a good return for taxpayer dollars? EY told government this is required but delivered what they were paid to do.

**Q 2.**  This year the AGPC says it will be “monitoring foot traffic”. Why bother and why continue to ‘estimate’ attendances when free handheld scanners it does have can do the job?

**Q 3.**Can you name any other event that would add, for example, 67,500 staff and event participants and their crews and anyone working in the bowels of the event to its attendance tally?

**Q 4.**Can you name any other major event that would issue around 40,000 free tickets (mostly schoolchildren) and then adds them as presumed used to its attendance tally?

**Q 5.** The AGPC first trialled scanners in 2012. The GP Minister confirmed late last year that “scanning technology is continuing to be trialled at the circuit”*.* Can you explain why 12 years of scanner ‘trialling’ is necessary?

**Q 6.**  Can you explain why revealing scanner data and at what gates they are used would constitute a[“national security risk”?](https://www.theage.com.au/sport/motorsport/australian-f1-grand-prix-goes-to-vcat-to-fight-order-to-release-crowd-figures-20230914-p5e4sd.html)

**Q 7.** Why are you are taking Save Albert Park to VCAT – at great cost to the taxpayer - to have the [Information Commissioner](https://ovic.vic.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/%E2%80%98Save-Albert-Park-Inc-and-Australian-Grand-Prix-Corporation-Freedom-of-Information-2023-VICmr-84-14-August-2023.pdf)’s ’in the public interest’ decision for you to release your estimated attendance methodology overturned? What’s to hide?

**Q 8.**Can you name any other event that estimates their numbers? (The MotoGP).

**Q 9.** What are the true global viewing audience figures for this event? The AGPC and government have for decades claimed an entire F1 season’s viewing for the Melbourne event.

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**Articles of Journalists who won awards through exposing GP claims are worth reading:** <https://www.theage.com.au/sport/motorsport/truth-on-crowds-would-hurt-us-admits-gp-chief-20080226-ge6rth.html>

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/motorsport/plucking-figures-from-thin-choking-air/2008/03/14/1205472087186.html?page=fullpage#contentSwap1>