

12 February 2009

Victorian Environmental Assessment Council  
Level 6  
8 Nicholson Street  
East Melbourne 3002

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Yarra Park

East Melbourne residents have been made aware that your Council will be considering the issue of the fate of Yarra Park and its status as a car park for use on occasions when sporting events occur in the vicinity.

As a long-time resident of the area I should like to argue that Yarra Park should not be used for car parking.

1. The park is not owned by the Melbourne Cricket Club or any other sporting organisation and its use should not be subject to their benefit to the detriment of the residents and the environment generally.
2. The resident organisation, the East Melbourne Group has been in discussion over the years about reducing the amount of available parking but these discussions have been stymied.
3. The amount of parking has not only not been reduced, but the usage of the park for car parking has been vastly extended as other sporting fixtures and venues, such as the Tennis Centre and others, now use the park as a car park. As more and more sporting centres are in the offing, this extension of car parking will grow exponentially.
4. The park itself is not being maintained by the MCC in a manner which will allow it to survive the dry conditions and this lack of maintenance is greatly exacerbated by the constant use of the park as a car park. Most of the area is now arid and grass-less and the trees are suffering not only from the drought but from the constant weight of vehicles around their root systems.
5. There have been occasions – even at the great football matches – when the car park was closed and people were forced to use public transport. When this happened everything worked smoothly as the tram and train system coped splendidly with transporting the fans. There is therefore no perceived reason why the park needs to be used as a car park by the general public.

Yarra Park is a PARK – like other parks on the periphery of the City and should be maintained to keep up Melbourne's unique design as a city surrounded by parkland. This aim is incompatible with the use of a park as a car park.

Yours truly,

Dr Lotte Mulligan.

