

# Metropolitan Melbourne

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12 February 2009

Victorian Environmental Assessment Council  
(VEAC)  
Level 6, 8 Nicholson Street  
East Melbourne Vic 3002

## To whom it may concern

As a deeply concerned citizen, I am writing to you about the vastly diminished Yarra Park which is straining to stay alive.

Over the years the state of Yarra Park has deteriorated to such a point that it is now openly discussed by all who use it recreationally. There are efforts with watering and maintenance and these efforts are visible and appreciated. I write more about the use of these parklands as a car park.

The grass has receded over the years (I have been a resident of the area for 16 years), overtaken by dust, patches of which are constantly joining each other to make larger dustbowls. There is no opportunity for the grass to regenerate because of no rain and also because of event car parking. The cars are compacting the soil more and more, as well as breaking down the already dry grass.

It is nonsense with public transport servicing this area (two train stations; two tram lines) that these parklands are handed over to cars and even more damage. This area is now in deep distress and something must be done.

I truly hope that common sense prevails in preserving the parks around the MCG. If not, people who park there should be charged far more than the cost of public transport – perhaps a restoration tax to make them aware that the park is in trouble. Six dollars is not enough for the privilege of parking. Awareness about this should start as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Katie Fowles

