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Dear [REDACTED]

For too long we've put up with the inconvenience and the distraction that is the Melbourne Grand Prix. Thank heavens we can access Lakeside Drive, the Aquatic Centre and the Park again. Every year, like other local parliamentarians and councillors, I am flooded with complaints from residents about the traffic congestion and noise generated during the race, with their resulting impacts on seniors, children, and pets – everyone who lives in the area.

Like many people, I tried to see the upside of Formula One racing at Albert Park. However, in the later years of the Brumby Government, my opposition to the Grand Prix being held at Albert Park increased. The area is simply not suited to holding a Formula One race. But what's really shaped my view is its burden on Victorian taxpayers. Grand Prix Boss Bernie Ecclestone now receives more than \$50 million a year for this Melbourne extravaganza. That's over \$800 per person attending. And that's just not worth it.

The so-called economic or promotional benefits of the Grand Prix are impossible to measure: attendances are steadily falling and, as the Herald Sun points out (enclosed), international TV audiences are grossly inflated.

The Victorian Government is now being threatened to cough up more money for the right to stage the race by the controversial Mr Ecclestone. Ted Baillieu, like John Brumby before him, needs to seriously rethink his commitment to the Albert Park Grand Prix. This annual \$50 million expenditure would be far better invested in our public transport system, the employment of more nurses, teachers and police, increased funding for our schools system and securing long term jobs throughout Victoria.

If you feel as frustrated and fed up as I am, please fill out the enclosed petition, return it and lend your support to my campaign to rid our area of the expensive, polluting inconvenience that is the Albert Park Formula One Grand Prix.

Let's say "Auf Wiedersehen Mr Ecclestone!"

Yours sincerely

Michael Danby MP  
Federal Member for Melbourne Ports



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