Dear xxx,

**Comments on Grand Prix amendment Bill**

The Albert Sailing Club (ASC) is one of several clubs along Aquatic Drive at Albert Park. We have a focus on enabling enjoyable and safe sailing for all on Albert Park Lake. Our mission is to encourage and support enjoyable all year round recreational and competitive dinghy sailing and training for people of all ages in an inclusive social environment at Albert Park Lake.

To maximise the value to the local community we propose the following considerations regarding the proposed Grand Prix amendment Bill

**Extending the Race Period**

Extending the race period to a maximum of 21 days is of concern. The current 7 day period has proved challenging enough for the club to manage and any extension could negatively impact our membership, particularly since this is in the peak time of our sailing. Families have returned from their summer break and want to get back into sailing before the colder weather arrives. During this period we offer the general community the opportunity to try sailing as a sport.  As such we would need a firm commitment that the club can be accessed at all times outside the current 7-day period, including access to the lake.

The *Grand Prix Amendment Bill Summary* states that it will still be the AGPC that will decide on the measures to help manage issues with tenants. This makes it more important that there is a clear statement that the clubs in the ’Sailing Precinct’ will have full access outside the current 7-day period, as the AGPC will be too focussed on the racing preparations. Specifically, the clubs in Aquatic Drive should be provided as much access as possible during the extended period of closure.  Specifically:

* Our clubs are not located directly on the track area or near the pit area.  Consequently, works required directly in the vicinity of these clubs should be fairly minimal and hence our access should be able to be maintained.
* Note that Albert Sailing Club has the educational organisation SEDA leasing our premises during the week. Prevention of access during the weekdays for this 21 day period may cause them to avoid renewing their agreement to hire the club premises, resulting in a significant loss of revenue, which would need to be compensated.
* If the extended period of closure is enforced as an option and clubs advised appropriately the blanket closure during this extended period will affect current and future club membership and so compensation would need to be provided for that impact.

**Additional funding for Parks Victoria**

We support additional funding being provided to Parks Victoria, although this seems incredibly low relative to the cost of maintaining Albert Park. The additional funds should be allocated directly to the maintenance of the lake and Albert Park. Note that there are several long-term improvements required to Albert Park and the Lake, particularly relating to stormwater inlet structures and the lake walls, which are in need of major repairs, as well as improvements to the launching area adjacent to the ASC. Some of this funding should also be allocated to providing an alternative crossing of the lake that doesn't require the sinking of cement blocks, which significantly impede our sailing access particularly during times of low water.

**Non-motor sports**

In relation to the GP corporation having the ability to host additional events, it should be legislated that any such events held within the Albert Park Reserve have zero impact on any of the sporting clubs, including the sailing clubs. If such events must have an impact, then any affected clubs should be appropriately compensated.

**Governance**

We believe that it is important the there should be a representation of the sports clubs at Albert Park as part of the governance process. Ideally the Chair of the Albert Park Sports Club Association would be directly involved in the governance process, or they would have a regular engagement with the council or government representatives on the governance body.

Please contact me should you require further clarification or engagement from Albert Sailing Club.

Yours sincerely,

Greg Ryan



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