

## Heritage listing puts MCG car park under threat

26 Apr 10 @ 08:15am by Hamish Heard



**UPDATE APRIL 26:** THE future of game-day carparking at the MCG is under a cloud after Yarra Park was added to the state's heritage register.

East Melbourne residents were last week celebrating after a hard-fought campaign to have the park added to the register.

Their victory was confirmed on Heritage Victoria's website, which announced the Heritage Council had found Yarra Park was of "cultural heritage significance" and would be included on the register.

Melbourne Leader revealed last September that the Melbourne Cricket Club had plans for a permanent gravel carpark on a grassy area between the MCG and Punt Rd Oval.

The plans infuriated East Melbourne Group members who had been fighting for years to have game-day carparking banned from Yarra Park's lawns.

The MCC withdrew the carpark proposal from the Yarra Park Draft Master Plan before Christmas.

East Melbourne Group spokeswoman Barbara Paterson said she hoped the heritage announcement would ensure the plans were off the agenda for good.

Under the Heritage Act, alterations cannot be made to properties on the register without a permit from Heritage Victoria.

"Any alterations must respect the significance of the place, so that's another obstacle to anyone wanting to do anything untoward to the park," Ms Paterson said.

The group initiated its push for the park's registration last year after the Brumby Government stripped control for Yarra Park from Melbourne Council, which had in place a long-term strategy to ban carparking.

Heritage Victoria initially rejected the push, prompting the group to appeal to the Heritage Council, which heard submissions at a meeting last month.

Spectators can continue parking at the MCG for the time being, with MCC spokesman Shane Brown saying it was too early to speculate on the long-term ramifications of the decision.

“The MCC accepts the Heritage Council’s decision and will review the details to identify any impact on the management of Yarra Park,” Mr Brown said.

Greens city councillor Cathy Oke welcomed the Heritage Council’s decision. “It’s a great win for Yarra Park and a great win for the residents of East Melbourne who worked so hard to get it registered,” she said.

## **Comment** (1 of 1)

From: Graham Shepherd  
26 April 2010

As a resident of East Melbourne and a raving sports fan I have two interests in this. Car parking in Yarra Park reduces car parking in my street. Great! On the other hand I think that Yarra Park is spoiled by cars and that the setting for sport would be far more attractive without them.

The fact is that the park holds less than 5,000 cars, usually much less. For a big game, say, 5,000 cars, 4 people per car, 20,000 max out of capacity of 100,000 depend on Yarra Park, ie, 20%. For a smaller game, a smaller number of cars and people, still only 20%.

So 80% of the fans get to the MCG another way!

Those 80% might like to make a picnic of it and kick a footy around. Wouldn’t that be much more fun? Certainly the MCG would be a world stand-out if visitors enjoyed a regular picnic atmosphere around the ground instead of gasping engine fumes and dodging dodgy drivers.

How about building an MCG station on the southern side of the MCG with shops, cafes, bars and corporate entertainment overhead? Cover the railway lines. Serve all the nearby venues centrally. Put parking out at the suburban railway stations. Come on Brumby, how often do you get a chance to please 80% of the punters?

Graham Shepherd  
26 April 2010