

Jolimont rail yard land to be car park

By JENNIFER McCASEY,
urban affairs reporter

A large car park and commercial space will be built next year on a small section of the Jolimont rail yards released for sale by the State Government yesterday.

The announcement will sound familiar to Melburnians who have become cynical about plans for the rail yards, but the Premier, Mr Cain, said yesterday that the sale of the land was "concrete evidence" that his Government would tackle what others had turned their backs on.

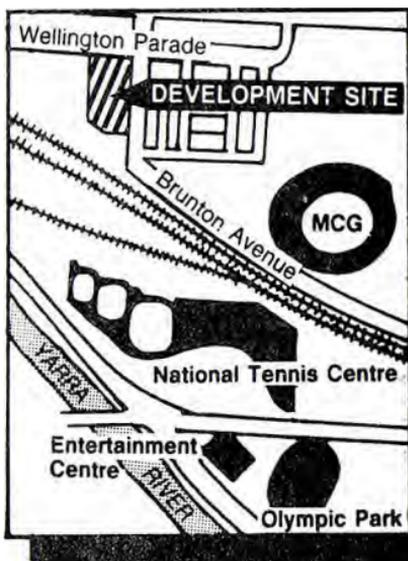
"For a very long time now, people have been told about grand plans for this area but nobody ever actually got around to doing anything about implementing them.

"Make no mistake about the dimension of what we are undertaking, the redevelopment of the entire Jolimont railway yards is a massive undertaking, a monumental undertaking."

The Government said the sale of the land would be the first step in the 10-year redevelopment of the whole area. The 1.5-hectare parcel for sale is at the MCG end of the rail yards, and the 1500-car park will cater particularly for the National Tennis Centre.

A pedestrian bridge from the Tennis Centre over the railway lines to the MCG is under construction.

The land is available for redevelopment at last because a new train depot is being built at Epping to stable trains that are



now kept at Jolimont. The trains will be relocated at the end of the year, and work could begin by mid-1989.

The Minister for Major Projects, Mr Walker, said the land would be put up for tender. Developers would be asked to submit designs and bids. "We're really looking to see what the commercial sector will offer for the land."

The successful developers will be required to build the car park, and up to 30,000 square metres of commercial and residential space. Mr Walker said the Government would like some housing to be included, but would not insist on it for the first stage of the project.

Mr Walker said housing would be included in stage two. A road link between Batman Avenue and Spring Street might also be a part of the next stage.