March 2019

The Honourable Martin Foley MP

Minister for Equality

*martin.foley@parliament.vic.gov.au*

Dear Minister

I write as a member of St Kilda Cycling Club (SKCC) - Australia’s largest cycling club with over 900 members, the highest female membership (35%) of any club and a number of Commonwealth and Paralympic champions.

I am also a mother/father, commuter, and work in (*insert details of employment*) who enjoys cycling for its health, environment and ‘traffic congestion reducing’ benefits.

As you are well aware, for the past 17 years, SKCC has hosted summer criterium\* races on a fully traffic managed circuit in South Melbourne. Most Sundays between October and April, over 200 cyclists of all ages and gender come to enjoy racing in a supportive, friendly and safe environment.

However this circuit is under threat with the increasing encroachment of commercial and residential developments.

Since 2008, representatives of SKCC have continuously and patiently pursued negotiations with numerous state and local government departments and Taskforces, including submissions to various master plans, to secure an alternative permanent site.

Plans have been ‘approved’, with budget available, for a proposed circuit in Albert Park. While this site offers a short term solution, the race offering will be compromised to accommodate the many other park users.

A long term solution has also been identified in Westgate Park and ‘in principle’ support has been given by Fishermans Bend Taskforce and various other departments.

As a concerned SKCC member, I write to seek your support to bring this matter to a resolution, thereby ensuring Australia’s largest cycling club enjoys the security of a permanent racing ‘home’, that is enjoyed by so many other sporting clubs.

To meet and discuss this matter, please contact Melinda Jacobsen (0412157987).

Thank you in advance of your support.

Kind regards

*Your name/signature*

CC Matthew Jackson - CEO Parks Victoria - ceo@parks.vic.gov.au

*\*A criterium, or crit, is a bike race consisting of several laps around a closed circuit, the length of each lap ranging from about 1km to 1.5km.*