

MIFGS – the continuing saga

31 January, 2024 Margaret O'Brien sent the following to the lord Mayor and Councillors

Greetings Mayor and Councillors,

Re: Impact of the MIFGS 2024 Event in the REB and Carlton Gardens and Buffer Zone and Yarra's WH values' policy.

Please find below attached my submission in reply to the International Management Group of America (IMG) application to Heritage Victoria for Heritage Permit for MIFGS 2024.

You know that MIFGS is an annual event, held at the World Heritage REB and Carlton Gardens. The City of Yarra has in some past years opposed the MIFGS, as being inappropriate, at the REB and Carlton Gardens, because of negative impact on WH values, public's exclusion and knock-on disruption in the Buffer Zone. Long term councillors also know, that dependent on the waves and moods of the COM and councillors, and droughts and damage, there have been moves to relocate the event. As well as being WH, IMG is private developer using public land for profit and to detriment of public asset and interests?

Also important considerations for Council, are the new World Heritage Management Plans and the Environs Area Strategy Plan for the Buffer Zone. They have been with Minister Kilkenny for approval since last May. Yarra Council has a vested interest in the recommendations in these new Plans, intended to deliver WH laws, *fit for present and future purpose*.

My MIFGS submission is short and focussed on application of the relevant laws. I took this approach, as the public notice was not long posted in Gardens and so targeted the fundamentals of the application.

I'm forwarding this for your information, but also to alert you to an event on which Council might care to form a policy position. After all Yarra Council is represented on the WH Management Steering Committee. In the new WHMP, the Committee is intended to have wider and more formal responsibilities.

Councillors might also note that the FRA's current Fitztalk, has an article on the MIFGS.

Best Regards, Margaret O'Brien