



世界自然(香港)基金會 World Wide Fund For Nature Hong Kong

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To: The Legislative Council, Attn: Mrs Mary Tang
HKSAR

From: William Cheung Your Fax No.: 2869 6794

Your Tel. 2869 9211 Page(s): 2 (Including this page)

No.:

Date: 15 April 2002

Subject: **LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs – Meeting on 22 April 2002**

Dear Mrs Tang,

I refer to your letter dated 9 April 2002 (your ref. CB1/PL/EA). I regret that we would not be able to attend the captioned meeting. However, we would like to submit our views on “The new dredged/excavated sediment disposal management framework” which is summarised below for the LegCo EA Panel’s consideration.

WWF Hong Kong welcomes that the new sediment disposal management framework includes contaminants PAHs, PCBs, and TBT in the sediment quality criteria for the classification of sediment. These chemicals are known endocrine disruptors and could have adverse effects on the health of both the marine biota and human being. As such, strict control on disposal of sediment contaminated with these chemicals is essential.

We also welcome the introduction of biological testing in the new sediment disposal management framework as a positive step to control and minimize the effects of sediment disposal to the marine ecosystem. However, since all the reference tests included in the biological test protocol employ non-local organisms. Thus results obtained from the biological tests may not be totally relevant to the local marine environment. As such, we suggest that researches on the ecotoxicology of local organisms including studies on the level of sensitivity and tolerance of the local indicator species to the toxic substances and comparison with the oversea standards are needed. Moreover, a long-term biological monitoring programme on the toxicity effect on marine organisms in the local waters should be implemented to monitor the effects of contaminated sediment disposal to the local marine environment as one of the aims.



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I hope that our views would be useful to your discussion on the new sediment disposal management framework at the captioned meeting. Please feel free to contact the undersigned at 2526 1011 or wcheung@wwf.org.hk should you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,

William Cheung