

LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs and LegCo Panel on Transport

Joint meeting on 13 December 2001

“Protection of wetlands in Long Valley in the light of the latest development of the
Spur Line Project”

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1. The ecological value of Long Valley relies on the continued existence of wet agricultural activities. The abandonment of wet agriculture would impair the biodiversity as would a change from wet to other form of agriculture.
2. Apart from ecological value, Long Valley has important heritage value. The once widespread farming in Hong Kong has become scarce but they should be protected and managed for public appreciation and education. Long Valley would be a magnificent outdoor classroom for geographical and environmental studies.
3. A long-term management strategy is needed to conserve the ecological importance of Long Valley for future generations. The ultimate goal should be to resume the land in Long Valley for ecological management. Short-term measures, such as renting lands for conservation, may be considered before this will happen.
4. The cost of buying up Long Valley may seem high now. However, the long term benefits for the years to come will surely make Long Valley an important asset of Hong Kong, comparable to Mai Po Marshes. The potential of further developing the tourism resources of Long Valley is very high. This is in line with the current policy of promoting tourism. Every Sunday and public holiday, hundreds of people in local tour groups visit Long Valley and Ho Sheung Heung now. With a little bit of investment, it could be developed into an attraction for international tourists focusing on N.T. village culture (temples and ancestral hall at Ho Sheung Heung), ecology, and traditional farming (Long Valley).