



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

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LEGCO PANEL ON ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
MEETINGS ON 13 DECEMBER 2001

I. WWF Hong Kong's Comments on "Protection of wetlands in Long Valley in light of the latest development of the Spur Line Project"

- 1 WWF Hong Kong is greatly disappointed that Government has still taken no action to secure the long-term future of Long Valley. The proposal to tunnel under Long Valley which costs billions to avoid negatively impacting the Long Valley wetlands is, at best, only a half solution. Hence it is disappointing that KCRC does not fully consider and evaluate the environmental performance of all possible alternative options for the Spur Line in the new EIA.
- 2 In addition, WWF Hong Kong is greatly concerned about the potential impacts of the proposed bored tunnel option on the ecology of Long Valley. It has yet to be shown if the proposed tunnel option at Long Valley would be cost-effective and environmentally friendly, and it is also doubtful if it could totally avoid any impacts to Long Valley which is an important ecological heritage for the present and future generations of Hong Kong. In particular, the potential hydrological problems caused by tunnel boring operation and portals construction may impose significant impacts on the underground hydrology of Long Valley. It is noted from KCRC's computer modelling results that the ground water level may be affected within a limit of 10 mm at Long Valley. However, it has yet to be shown with scientific data whether this estimation is accurate or not and how this change of water level, though numerically small, would affect the ecological functioning of Long Valley wetland.
- 3 Moreover, even if the proposed tunnel option is shown to be not causing any significant impacts to the Long Valley ecosystems, this is only a temporary relief to Long Valley which however is still unprotected and can be destroyed by 'legitimate' land use changes (e.g., dry agriculture use) under the existing 'Agriculture Use' zone.

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- 4 WWF Hong Kong calls on the Government to formulate a comprehensive conservation policy for Hong Kong so that all ecological important areas which are on private lands, such as Long Valley, Sha Lo Tung, Tai Ho and so on, can be fully protected by (1) securing the land ownership and (2) long term appropriate management to conserve and enhance the ecological value of these areas.

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