




2006/02/06 PM 03:57

To <cshiu@legco.gov.hk>

cc
bcc

Subject Panel On Planning, Land And Works

History:  This message has been forwarded.

6th February 2006

Dear Committee Members,

Regarding the LEGCO panel discussion on 9th Feb 2006 regarding the central waterfront, we submit for your consideration that the proposal fails completely and entirely to satisfy the needs and requirements for a waterfront district.

If planning in Hong Kong continues in this piecemeal fashion, future generations will surely condemn those who planned the Harbour without any respect for the human scale.

There must be a complete and concise plan for the entire harbour district. Assessing part plans without taking a holistic view for the entire harbour area is a dereliction of duty.

There is no need or requirement to locate more governmental accommodation at the Tamar site. In fact one could easily argue that do so is a complete waste of public resources, which as we are reminded so often, are very scarce indeed.

It is particularly disturbing that the whole process is based solely on a perceived traffic need, whilst other simpler and low cost options are viable. It is clear that government has completely ignored the views of the people, consultation is a dirty word that covers all manner of sins, however what it does not mean is that the government can once again ignore submitted views and carry on regardless.

Adding more roads has been proven to only increase traffic, whereas effective traffic control measures for example road pricing and controlled scheduled for commercial vehicles have been swept aside.

On behalf of the Hong Kong Sustainable Development Forum we submit to the committee that supporting further road building is a futile solution for traffic management in the central district. Furthermore constructing governmental buildings on the Tamar site is a complete waste of resources. The plan is clearly aimed for the convenience of a few government staff, whilst the majority will suffer.

Where are the wide promenades and cafes that were promised, hidden behind the new PLA berths perhaps?

In summary we urge the committee members to remember that planning the central waterfront area is a complex proposition that will remain as a monument or white elephant for a hundred years and must not be undertaken lightly.

Consultation does not mean canvassing for views and then

ignoring them entirely, today is the time to set out a better and more sustainable future for Hong Kong.

yours faithfully,

Hong Kong Sustainable Development Forum
Mr John A. Herbert
Chairman
<http://www.hksdf.org.hk>