



March 21, 2006

To: Honorable LegCo members

For: Panel on Planning, Lands and Works, Subcommittee to Review the Planning for the Central Waterfront (including the Tamar Site) Meeting on Monday, 3 April 2006

Dear Hon. Members,

Fund Tamar and you will turn the MTR Admiralty station into a gas chamber.

Hundreds of thousands of people will be gassed daily in one of the busiest MTR stations if you fund **any** buildings on the Tamar site. The area is already full of toxic gases from vehicles. You are being asked to spend billions on a building intended to block the wind, the most powerful fan in the world, and then pump those toxic gases directly into the MTR. Do you know this?



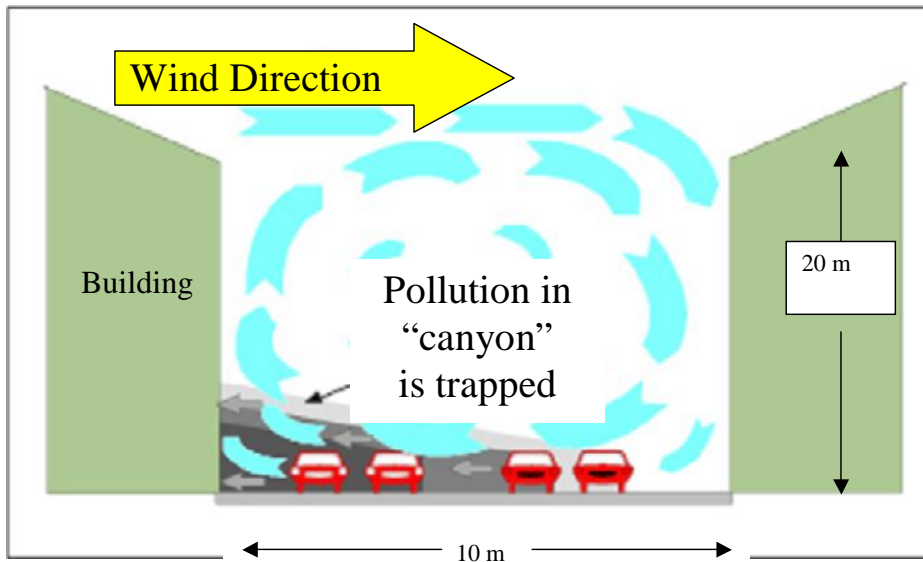
Government Air pollution models are false.

Every model used to create every report on air pollution you have seen has pretended that Central and Admiralty are flat surfaces. The reports, started in 1999 with data taken 18 metres off the ground, have never been accurate. Central is not flat. It is full of “canyons”. You need an updated report.



Air Pollution is trapped by buildings just a few stories high.

A “canyon” is created when there is a building on each side of a road. A “deep canyon” means the building is twice as high as the width of the road. If there is no wind, the situation is even worse. Therefore, even a building only 20 metres high can create what is considered a “deep canyon” and trap air pollution.



Why turn off the wind and gas us on the MTR?

Kindly look at the map on the first page.

We have marked the MTR fresh air intake vent in Harcourt Garden. Over 10 lanes of stop-and-go traffic converge just behind the PLA headquarters and Tamar (A). Building anything on Tamar and all the air pollution from the vehicle exhaust will be sucked down into the trains. It will also be sucked into the buses because you have blocked the wind.

Don't forget Queesway, just one block away. Tamar is only one block from Queesway, one of the most congested and polluted bus routes in Hong Kong. (B) The wind from Tamar blows through Harcourt Garden to help reduce the pollution on Queesway. If you block the wind here the pollution levels will shoot up.

It is not about the view, it is about air pollution. All the buildings and people on the mountain-side of Connaught and Harcourt Roads desperately need the fresh air from the Harbour at ground level. Building on Tamar will block their air because the damage is done by even very short buildings.



In summary,

The plan to develop Tamar is guaranteed to make the air pollution much, much worse in Admiralty. Millions who now ride the MTR and the buses will have even more toxic gases forced into their air, and they cannot escape. Those who work in the Admiralty area will see the air quality, which already fails to meet even our very lax objectives, deteriorate even further and very quickly.

This will happen if you build *even one building* on Tamar that blocks the wind.

Unless and until you have an updated air pollution report using a model that includes the “canyon effect” of tall buildings, every funding request on the Tamar project should be rejected.

We are failing our air quality objectives now. Building on Tamar will make the air much worse. It is within your power to stop pollution from being trapped.

Will you give the people clean air to breathe?

Annelise Connell
Chairperson
Clear The Air