

PI/LEGCO

21/08/2007 17:02

To Winnie WY CHENG/LEGCO@LEGCO

cc

bcc

Subject Fw: Mui Wo Ferry Services

----- Forwarded by PI/LEGCO on 2007/08/21 PM 05:00 -----



Kinzie <mail@kinzie.com>

2007/08/21 PM 12:56

To pi@legco.gov.hk

cc

Subject Mui Wo Ferry Services

Dear Sir/Madame,

I recently attended a public forum hosted by the Transport Department regarding the Mui Wo Ferry Services.

It has come to my attention that a number of critical issues have not been addressed in this review process.

- Willingness of commuters to pay increased fares to maintain the existing services
- Consultation with RC's beyond Mui Wo who will be affected by changes : ie. Pui O, Cheung Sha, Tong Fuk, etc.
- Capacity of ferries routing via Peng Chau during peak hours when existing services are already full
- Passenger loading during the past 12 months has steadily increased with the opening of Nong Ping Cable Car & Village
- Basing passenger response on the June 2006 of 600 respondents for a service that handles thousands of passengers daily

A number of options may be considered to address the current operators financial needs.

- Fixed resident rates for local families and their children who visit at weekends
- Senior citizen passes at special rates for elderly Lantau Island residents
- Commuter cards for passengers who rely on service for daily transport
- Increased fares for passengers who are not Lantau Island residents
- Increased fares for single-use passengers who do not travel daily

Having lived and worked independently in Hong Kong since 1992, I relocated my residence and business from Hong Kong Island in February 2007 and chose Pui O due to the accessibility of transportation to Central, where I travel regularly to meet clients. Any change to the service will directly affect my business, as my consulting services are charged at hourly rates and increased travel time cannot be passed on to clients.

If the service is re-routed or travel time is extended or the schedule is less frequent, I will consider relocating again, and this time outside Hong Kong. I see any change to the ferry services bring adverse affects to the business environment and economic stability of South Lantau. The area is finally recovering from many years of decline after airport workers relocated and holiday makers started choosing Shenzhen as a favored destination. South Lantau provides an ideal option for Hong Kong residents and families who choose to live outside the noise and air pollution of commercial areas, yet remain connected to the financial,

consumer and business services located there. It is imperative that a level of transportation be maintained and steadily improved to support the expansion of this residential option, particularly when residential and office property is limited in prime areas.

Any move to disrupt existing transportation services will immediately effect the Lantau South local communities with a devastating negative economic impact. The community of regular commuters is ready and able to consider substantial fare increases in order to maintain this vital service and support our local community.

Thank you for your consideration and I welcome any opportunity to meet with decision makers.

Best regards,
Arlene Kinzie

founder/director

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