



立法會

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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8 June 2011

Ms Eva CHENG, JP  
Secretary for Transport and Housing  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
16/F, Murray Building  
Garden Road,  
Central, Hong Kong

Dear *Eva*

### Panel on Transport

#### Fares of outlying island ferry services

As Chairman of the Panel on Transport, I write to express the Panel's grave concern about the large fare increases for the outlying island ferry services and also the Administration's failure to map out effective measures to improve the long-term financial viability of the ferry services and to maintain fare stability.

At the Panel meeting on 2 June 2011, the Panel discussed the fare increases for the outlying island ferry services with deputations and the Administration. Panel members expressed deep regret that the Administration had acted irresponsibly in considering the fares of the six major outlying island ferry services mainly in the light of their operating costs and in approving such substantial increase rates of about 7% for monthly tickets and of 9.63% to 12.5% for single journey adult fare. As ferry services were the only means of transport for some of the outlying islands, Panel members strongly considered that the Administration should ensure that such essential services were provided to the residents and the fare be maintained at a stable level. The Administration should make the best effort to alleviate the pressure of fare increase on the residents. At the Panel meeting, representatives of residents and individual Islands District Councillors all expressed a strong view that the existing helping measures of the Administration had little effect in stabilizing the fares, and the new fares were beyond residents' affordable level.

The Panel has all along requested the Administration to explore various options of enhancing assistance to the ferry operators in order to ensure their long-term financial viability and to maintain fare stability. These options include introducing fuel surcharge or providing fuel subsidy, and the option of the Government to purchase vessels for the operators. The Panel is disappointed to note that the Administration has still not taken on board these suggested options. The Panel urges the Administration to reconsider these suggested options and provide a response to address our concerns. I should be grateful if you would accord priority to considering the Panel's request. I look forward to your early reply.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Cheng Kar-foo', written in a cursive style.

(Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo)  
Chairman  
Panel on Transport