Submission to Panel on Transport, Legislative Council on the Franchise for Airport and North Lantau Bus Network

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Background

This submission is made without knowledge of how the Government intend on seeking providers of this public transport service. And, in particular, there is no information on proposed terms and conditions for providing this service, or records of existing terms and conditions for references. All that is known is that the existing service providers are New World First Bus Services Limited, Long Win Bus Company Limited and Citybus Limited.

From observations of buses on these routes, all of these Companies use fossil fuel diesel buses, that creates carbon emissions and other harmful substances.

The Government had committed to combat climate change and reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) and already acknowledges that Hong Kong should work towards adopting low-to-zero emissions transports.

My Proposals

- 1. Create terms and conditions in the new franchises which reflects GHG emissions, measured in CO2 tonnes (as accepted internationally)
- 2. Set maximum amount of CO2 level for each route.
- 3. Award the franchise to a party who can provide this transport service with the LOWEST CO2 emission for routes covered in that franchise.

Conditions Precedent To This Franchise Renewal

- C1 Establish a Low Emission Zone (LEZ) for Lantau.
- C2 Define Low Emission Zone (LEZ), restricting fossil fuel vehicles inside.
- C3 Encourage use of electric vehicles and other zero emission vehicles such as bicycles and electric vehicles. Allow their use without registration, or control from Government and Transport Department's existing powers on motor vehicles. Alternatively, allow all models of electric vehicles currently used on public roads in mainland China, and other countries, to be registered within LEZ; unless, Transport Department can provide evidence that such a model is dangerous to the public.