

(Joint submission provided by Ms Zara CAMPION and Mr Vinesh KHEMLANI)

Good Morning Everyone,

We are the students who organised the student strike on March 15 demanding more action to be taken in Hong Kong against climate change.

We understand that, as an island, Hong Kong has many problems and although climate change is one of them, others such as dealing with the need for housing remains a bigger priority. However, unlike climate change which has a limited amount of time before it is too late, housing problems in Hong Kong will always remain a problem regardless of what we do. Furthermore, climate action is the 13th sustainable development goal, and this makes it hard for us to understand why you would prioritise one thing, at the peril of another. This plan to build an artificial island will deplete fish species in Hong Kong, create sea pollution, use up \$600billion in its first stage of construction... all of which could be used in a more beneficial and worthwhile investment. Surely with that amount of money, we should be looking for long-term sustainable solutions which represent Hong Kong as an innovative city rather than one falling behind others.

The Greater Bay Area constantly says it wishes to resemble and exceed Silicon Valley's success, yet although they may be financially capable of doing so, in order to attract the younger generations in the near future, they drastically need to improve themselves and become greener and more sustainable. If you truly cared about Hong Kong's next generation, you would listen to us.

We find difficult the fact that Hong Kong has the potential to be a leader in green solutions but doesn't even try. Instead, you prefer building an artificial Island. Yet here is something which we believe you must know: sea levels are rising, typhoons are getting stronger and rain will become heavier. As we have witnessed from Typhoons Hato and Mangkhut, stronger typhoons will bring devastation to Hong Kong. Last year we saw Hung Fa Chuen get flooded as huge swells broke the sea wall. Although your artificial island may be safe from rising sea levels and flooding for a few decades, do you really believe that you can hide behind a sea wall ignoring climate change forever?

Unfortunately, nature will forever be stronger than us, no matter the intelligence or technology we develop. So what is the point in investing so much money into a project which will undoubtedly be below the water in a century? Yet perhaps seeing as this won't happen in your lifetime, then you don't mind and aren't concerned. For the sake of future generations, your children and grandchildren, we urge you to reconsider this plan and investigate worthier solutions which can help solve both the housing issue and prevent the damaging effects of climate change unlike your current solution of an artificial island. If you still ignore us and decide to go ahead with the plan, then we suggest you make it self sufficient and carbon neutral as this is the future we should be building.

Thank you.