

Our Ref : TC/EFB 9/55/21/36 Pt 3

Your Ref : CB2/PL/EA

Tel : 2136 3277

Fax : 2136 3321

12 July 2000

Clerk to the LegCo Panel on
Environmental Affairs
LegCo Secretariat
3/F, Citibank Tower
Garden Road
Hong Kong
(Attn: Miss Betty Ma)

Dear Miss Ma,

**LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs
Meeting on 7 April 2000**

At the meeting of the LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs held on 7 April 2000, we agreed to provide more information on the procedures for the Town Planning Board (TPB) and the Country and Marine Parks Board (CMPB) in delineating the boundary of the proposed Lantau North (Extension) Country Park.

The delineation of the boundary of country parks, like other town planning proposals, is a product of an interactive process with input from various government departments and advisory bodies. During the process of drawing up the boundary of the proposed Lantau North (Extension) Country Park, both TPB and CMPB have been closely involved.

The proposal to designate the Lantau North (Extension) Country Park was first initiated in the context of the Territorial Development Strategy Review in February 1993. TPB was consulted on this and the area involved has since been earmarked in TPB's relevant planning schemes as a potential country park, pending formal designation. We then went through an internal consultation process. Taking into account existing and planned developments in the area as well as views and comments received, the boundary of the proposed country

park was adjusted as appropriate. TPB was kept informed of these changes. On 12 May 2000, TPB was consulted on the proposed Recommended Outline Development Plan for the North Lantau New Town and the proposed Lantau North (Extension) Country Park was already indicated there.

CMPB is a statutory body established under the Country Parks Ordinance to advise on matters relating to country parks and special areas. After views from relevant departments have been incorporated on the proposed boundary of the Lantau North (Extension) Country Park and in accordance with the provisions in the Country Parks Ordinance, CMPB was consulted, and gave its support to the proposed boundary at its meeting on 25 May 2000. The boundary will be gazetted shortly and we intend to formally designate the area as a country park early next year.

At the meeting of the Panel on Environmental Affairs held on 7 April 2000, a Member expressed concern that the proposed designation of the Lantau North (Extension) Country Park would pre-empt the work of TPB. As pointed out above, TPB has been closely involved in the planning process prior to consultation with CMPB. There is therefore no question of the designation of the Lantau North (Extension) Country Park pre-empting the work of TPB. In the event that TPB comes up with different views later, these will be conveyed back to CMPB for consideration.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs Philomena Leung)
for Secretary for the Environment and Food