

**For discussion
on 22 May 2006**

**Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs
Tung Chung - Ngong Ping Cable Car Project**

PURPOSE

Further to the discussion paper considered at the meeting of the Panel on 24 April 2006, this paper informs Members the measures to be taken by MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) and the Administration in the prevention of hill fire associated with the Tung Chung - Ngong Ping Cable Car Project (CCP) and in Country Parks respectively.

BACKGROUND

2. At the Panel meeting on 24 April 2006, we briefed Members on the measures taken by MTRCL and the Administration to ensure the environmental impacts arising from the CCP were mitigated to an acceptable level.
3. Members expressed concern that the Administration and MTRCL should take pro-active measures, include the installation of mesh, closed circuit televisions or smoke detectors, to prevent cigarette butts being thrown out of the cabin of cable cars and causing hill fire.

HILL FIRE PREVENTIVE MEASURES

4. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will work closely with Fire Services Department and other departments in preventing hill fires, in particular, the following measures or works will be undertaken:-
 - AFCD has established a Fire Control Centre with dedicated fire fighting teams and manning fire lookouts on 24 hours basis during the hill fire season from September to April when the risk of hill fire is high;

- AFCD together with other relevant departments will launch publicity programmes in preventing hill fires including APIs, posters, leaflets, banners, village visits during the fire season, sky shouts by helicopters and other special publicity activities;
- AFCD is operating two management centres in Lantau Island with fire fighting teams who will attend to hill fires within or adjacent to Country Parks; and
- AFCD's park wardens patrol Country Parks regularly and will take enforcement action against illegal use of fires.

5. In response to Members' request, MTRCL has provided a written reply on the hill fire preventive measures. A copy of MTRCL's reply is in Annex A.

6. We note that MTRCL has already taken fire prevention into consideration at the planning and design stage of the project and is in the course of developing a fire prevention programme. MTRCL will further consider Members' suggestions on the installation of mesh, closed circuit televisions, smoke detectors etc. and review the related operational procedures in detail during the testing and commissioning stage of the cable car.

ADVICE SOUGHT

7. Members are invited to comment on the above hill fire preventive measures.

Environmental Protection Department
May 2006



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 Environnemental Compliance Division
 Regional Office (South)
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Your ref:

Our ref: C/SDM/TCC/E1000
 #832110

10 May 2006

Attention: Mr. Patrick Liu

BY FAX: 2880 5141

Dear Mr Liu,

**Tung Chung Cable Car
 Panel on Environmental Affairs**

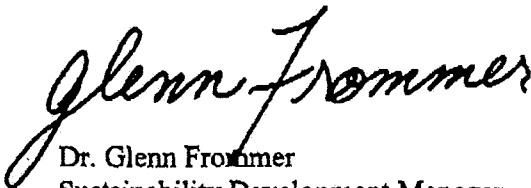
Reference is made to the letter dated 25 April 2006 and the agenda item regarding the 'Proposal to reduce the environmental impacts of the Tung Chung Cable Car Project on the ecology of Ngong Ping'.

We share the concern raised by the Environmental Affairs Panel regarding fire safety particularly as it could affect our passengers. In our presentation 24 April 2006 we focused on the issue of fire prevention and in particular the following.

- The design of the bi-cable system that does not allow for the provision of any electrical power to the individual cable cars;
- The bylaws that permit the Operator to fine passengers that smoke anywhere within the cable car system;
- The extensive programme of policing smoking including the no-smoking signage inside all the cabins and in the termini and verbal warnings to all passengers on days of high fire risk;
- The closed circuit television system on the towers to observe any signs of fire along the cable car alignment and Emergency Rescue Trail ; and
- The fire fighting programme in response to any incidents.

As stated in the Panel meeting of 24 April 2006, the MTR Corporation is considering the Panel's further recommendations during the testing and commissioning phase of the project to provide the installation of mesh and closed circuit television or smoke detectors inside each cabin. We have communicated our initial views on these measures at the Panel meeting and further information will be provided when available.

Yours sincerely,


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