

Hong Kong, February 2, 2007

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Panel on Planning, Lands and Works
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Fax: 2869-6794 / email: cshiu@legco.gov.hk)

Re: Development of Mui Wo

Honorable Chair and Members,

We support the concepts for Mui Wo, but are concerned about the ongoing management of the development and implementation. To ensure that the Mui Wo concept is developed in a consistent manner and in ongoing consultation with the community, it is important that one department maintains overall project management responsibility from start to finish.

The benefits of asking the Planning Department to maintain full project control are:

1. The PlanD has responsibility for its concept and the view it has taken of the balance of community interests and Government departments;
2. The concept is yet 'brushstroke' and requires continuous improvement to overcome constraints and to maximize opportunities as they are identified;
3. Ongoing liaison and community participation is required throughout the design, engineering and implementation stage;
4. In developing the concept, PlanD has established ongoing working relationships with the community and relevant Government departments;
5. The development of Mui Wo is a multi faceted and sensitive urban planning and design project, not limited to engineering issues;
6. Placing the overall management with planning professionals, who then coordinate the various departments, including the Civil Engineering and Development Department (such as to determine the structural challenges of making the silver mine safe for public access), avoids discontinuity and the risk of discontent among the community with respect to the final outcome.

Herewith we so submit for your consideration,

Yours sincerely,



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