

Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs: Special meeting on 22 March 2014.
Submission by Craig Colbran
On Behalf of The Naked Islands Project

Dear Distinguished Members,

As a Professional Pilot and holder of a Degree in Aviation Science and Business Management I feel my views on the Integrated Waste Management Proposal may provide a fresh perspective and instill a change in direction.

As a Professional Pilot, there is a saying that means you are about to make a grave and dire mistake. That saying is " Captain You Must Listen". This saying will only come to be heard if: a) You have made a wrong decision and failed to evaluate it.

b) You press ahead with the flawed decision regardless of the crew communicating their objections.

This saying will be the final chance of the crew to offset disaster and if ignored, it will likely be fatal. It is something that a professional will take seriously and will immediately stop and listen to the concerns of their peers.

The Assistant Director of the Environmental Protection Department is not listening to his peers (The Citizens and Legislative Council Members of Hong Kong) and is insistent on pressing ahead with his flawed plan. I hope he is professional enough to take heed of the following. I therefore have no choice and have to say " Assistant Director of Environmental Protection, YOU MUST LISTEN!"

On behalf of many residents of South Lantau and Hong Kong, we object to the IWMF (Integrated Waste Management Facility) proposed by the Environmental Protection Department. Specifically:

There are Two key issues:

- 1) The exhausting of landfill sites in Hong Kong and the need for extension.
- 2) The need to reduce waste sent to landfill.

The IWMF Plan proposed does not in entirety solve any of the above key issues and would necessitate the need for Extension of Landfill. The use of a Mass Burn Incinerator (MBI) would only encourage an apathy for the need to reduce waste. The MBI will also send 1/3rd of what is burnt to landfill, It will also be costly to run due to the treatment and need to dispose of the flyash. This MBI will be a financial burden on Hong Kong not only in initial costs but also running costs because no product is produced apart from small amounts of electricity.

All the data provided by the EPD has recently been proven to be false. The Recycling rates are false! Even the proclaimed prevailing wind direction is false (meaning there will be an impact on Hong Kong's air quality)! The statistics about the Incinerator are produced by engineers and sponsored by questionable links with a bank that supports the building of incinerators (I refer to the letter by Dr Martin Williams on the 27th February

2014 published in the SCMP). I therefore believe on closer inspection, what's claimed will also be false. Any Hong Kong Citizen can see through the data and therefore any Hong Kong Citizen can see this IWMF will be a mistake and I could argue a fatal one at that!

What do I propose:

I believe like everyone else, that a multi pronged attack on waste needs to be implemented. The biggest issue is organic (food) waste, some 50% of the daily waste Hong Kong generates. This waste is the first of a series of Reduce Reuse and Recycle initiatives that have been proposed by various parties. This would reduce Hong Kong's waste and would extend the life of the landfill sites. If this initiative alone was instigated in 2011, the council would not be voting on the need to extend landfill sites.

Recycling needs to be effectively implemented and increased. This would be done by bringing in a waste charging initiative already supported by the EPD. However it has only been a trial. The effect of the charging scheme would be similar to the levy on plastic bags. It would immediately gain support and the change in the output of waste and the amount of recycling would be significant. Also further negating the need for a vote on extension of landfill.

Finally "Gasification" needs to be considered as a way to reduce waste and tackle the landfill issue. The problem is the EPD's plan chooses an incinerator (the wrong incinerator). It also chooses the wrong location. The EPD has tried to show that their proposed incinerator is the best choice with proven results. But too much research and submissions from other parties proves that it is not the best. The other better alternative has been proven in multiple countries all over the world. The alternative is Plasma arc or Gasification. These are not incinerators as the process is different. Please refer to the attached submission from The New Territories Concern Group (NTCG). This is far superior and will tackle the two key issues I raised above. It will reduce and even reclaim existing landfill sites with the ability to back mine MSW. It will provide no residue that needs to go to Landfill instead it will provide a harmless construction aggregate that currently Hong Kong imports. The benefits of Plasma arc and the proposal I suggest is included. Additionally there will be a benefit of no emissions compared with the (MBI) proposed by the EPD.

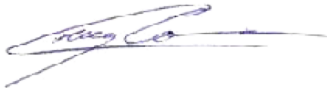
In addition to the above, I have a submission from "Solena" (Attached). This company is so remarkable that they are willing to build a gasification plant that can also take 3000TPD of MSW (As per (attached) their proposal to the EPD back in 2011). There will be no residue or pollutants that need to go to landfill. The proposal if started by 2016 can be up and running before the original time frame that the EPD's proposal puts forth but at considerably less cost! But the most amazing thing is Solena can make Bio Fuel from MSW. Solena can make Bio Fuel (30 million Gallons/year) and sell that on to either Aviation or Marine companies. This will ensure that this plant can reduce tipping fees by upto 50% and can be self sufficient and profitable by selling its product of Bio Fuel to Hong Kong's largest Airline which is very interested in this alternative to pricey fossil fuels. As detailed in the report, Solena has proven results and already has clients

including British Airways and Qantas. With Hong Kong being a hub for transport, to make money out of waste by turning it into Bio Fuel is purely good business and good for Hong Kong. The European Environmental Bureau has published a recent report (attached), detailing the importance of using waste as a resource to create bio fuel and increase revenue and jobs for the region. This is the future for Europe so why can't it be the future for Hong Kong. The benefit is Win Win for all! No waste goes to land fill and no emissions all while building a sustainable industry.

If the Gasification plant is installed in the most efficient location (as suggested by Solena) and used in combination with the other initiatives suggested. Hong Kong's waste will no longer be a liability. Instead it will be an asset that can produce energy, reclaim the landfill sites returning them to other land use available for the Government of Hong Kong and it's citizens. The Gasification plant would be cost free to tax payers of Hong Kong due to the ability to sell its product of Bio Fuel all from our waste! The cost and likely time to input all these initiatives would be cheaper and faster than the IWMF plan the EPD are suggesting. This would further mean that no extension to Landfill is necessary and Hong Kong's waste will be reduced. Clearly common sense and smart business says this proposal is far better for all concerned.

I therefore have no choice but to say "The Government of Hong Kong, You Must Listen!" Reject the IWMF proposed by the EPD. Demand a re-submission that includes Gasification and immediately implements waste reducing, charging/ recycling and food waste separation and treatment initiatives. These initiatives will ensure reduced waste to landfill and negate the need for extension and will deal with Hong Kong's waste problem and contribute to clean air initiatives without hindering them.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Craig Colbran', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Craig Colbran