

Submission to LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs

Special Meeting – 22 March 2014

What is Phase 2?

It has taken the Administration 16 years to reach this stage of trying to implement Phase 1 of its Integrated Waste Management plan, and it will take at least another 8 years for the proposed incinerator to be operational.

But Phase 1 will only deal with 3000 tons of Municipal Solid Waste per day, leaving another 7000 tons (at today's estimate) plus 1000 tons of toxic ash still going to landfill 24 years after the idea was first suggested.

The Administration has only recently announced* that in order to reduce its reliance on landfilling, it will conduct a strategic study on future waste management facilities to assess how to deal with the remaining two thirds of Hong Kong's waste.

Surely a comprehensive and strategic masterplan of waste management facilities - identifying the measures required for Phase 2 and Phase 3 - should have been conducted prior to designing and planning Phase 1? This brings to mind the absurdity of taking you on a recent study to Europe to assess technologies AFTER they had made their technology choice.

Is this new strategic waste study also a sham, and in fact a second incinerator is already planned for the Tsang Tsui Ash lagoons in Tuen Mun? And a third incinerator on another reclaimed island?

Will Phases 2 and 3 also take 24 years to become operational, putting an intolerable strain on Hong Kong's landfills in the meantime?

How can we have confidence in the credibility of the Administration's plans for Phase 1 if they are only now thinking about conducting a strategic masterplan?

After all, 2 years ago** on 22 March 2012, this Panel considered that more effort should be made to reduce and recycle waste; and again on 22 April 2012 stressed the need for a holistic package of waste management measures, including waste reduction, separation and recycling, with incineration as a last resort. This Panel called for better communication on the need for incineration,

and urged Administration to identify other suitable islands for waste management facilities. None of this has been achieved in the 2 years since. Only an admission from the Administration that the recycling figures contained in its Blueprint are incorrect.

* LC Paper No. CB (1) 931/13-14 (01)

**LC Paper No. CB(1) 951/13-14(03)

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