



RE: Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs: Special meeting on 22 March 2014

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From: "Martin Lerigo (mlerigo)"

I would like to submit the following written submission to support my attendance at the special meeting below:

I have many concerns arising from the "Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources 2013-2022" published by the Environment Bureau in May 2013 and of the most recent proposal being discussed on Saturday 22nd March.

I would urge you to reject the current proposal or allow more time to reflect on the technologies shown to the EPD team in Europe and on the recent revelations about recycling figures in Hong Kong.

My main concerns are:

1. Much of the problem with limited space for landfill could be alleviated with better recycling. The EPD has now admitted their previous claims that HKG recycles 48 percent of its waste as misleading. The true figure needs to be independently agreed so that we can chart a path forward. If HKG were to achieve the same kind of recycling figures as the most progressive countries in the world, the shortage of landfill space would be less of a problem.
2. The EPD has finally admitted that the proposed incinerator would only reduce the waste it burns by 70 percent, with a residue of at least 30 percent remaining as toxic ash that would have to go back into landfill. I would like the EPD to confirm definitively that the residue is only 30 percent by volume and not just weight.
3. The proposed incinerator uses outdated technology that will produce an unacceptable level of dioxins which will be released into HKG's already polluted air. This does not fit with a city that is trying to clear up its air in order to provide a healthy environment for its citizens and also remain an attractive place for its visitors.
4. There has not been enough reflection or consultation about the newer incineration technologies that the EPD reviewed in Europe. These would seem to offer cleaner and more effective options. Why conduct a fact finding trip after you have come up with a

detailed plan, shouldn't the fact finding mission have come first?

5. It does not make sense to site a huge incinerator on the pristine South Lantau coastline, it will not only damage the aesthetics of this beautiful place but also damage marine life out at sea. We should be protecting this beautiful area for the enjoyment of all Hong Kongers and our visitors. South Lantau is one of the green lungs of Hong Kong that people in the urban areas come out to enjoy, why ruin it?

I would like to thank the panel for their consideration of these issues and look forward to speaking with them on the 22nd

Best regards

Martin Lerigo