



梁繼昌議員 **Hon Kenneth Leung**

Mr. Chan Hak-kan
Chairman
Panel on Environmental Affairs
Legislative Council

17 August 2015

Dear Mr. Chan,

Subsidence of Fish Pond at Mai Po Marshes caused by the Construction of Express Rail Link

It has been recently reported that sludge leakage from the underground construction of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link has caused land subsidence of fish pond at Mai Po Marshes. As an important habitat for many species with conservation value, Mai Po Marshes is a protected area under the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170). I am concerned about the damage sludge spewing would cause on the area.

I would urge the Environmental Bureau to brief the panel on this matter and provide the following information:

1. Which are the departments responsible for monitoring the ecological and hydrogeological conditions in the Mai Po Marshes area, and their responsibilities;
2. The date(s) of meeting(s), if any, which the government held with MTR Corporation before and during the express rail link construction at Mai Po site; and the content of those meetings, in particular, construction methods, potential ecological impact and mitigation measures;
3. Concerning the potential impact on groundwater levels, the precautionary measures being taken during underground tunneling works at Mai Po site;



4. Record of incident(s), if any, being reported during the construction phase of express rail link at Mai Po site, including date(s) and content; and whether they have violated the environmental permit obtained by MTR Corporation;
5. Regarding the sludge leakage incident mentioned above, we are aware that grouting was proposed as a mitigation measure for groundwater drawdown in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report issued in 2009. Is grouting currently being undertaken as a mitigation measure? If yes, what would be its effectiveness and would there be any potential impact on the hydrogeology of Mai Po Marshes? and
6. Whether other tunneling methods or other more environmentally sound options have been considered for the Mai Po site construction.

Yours Sincerely,

Kenneth Leung

Member of the Legislative Council