



30 August 2018

Secretariat
Panel on Development
Legislative Council

Dear Sir,

Re: Special Meeting on 19 September 2018

We are writing to express our objection to the recommendation by the Task Force on Land Supply to redevelop the site of the Hong Kong Golf Club (Fanling).

The Hong Kong Golf Club at Fanling is the second oldest golf course in Asia. Built in 1911, it has hosted many marquee events throughout its 97-year history. Fanling is the mecca of golf in Asia and the envy of many neighbouring countries. This past January, golf legend Gary Player said, "This world-class golf course deserves to be preserved for generations to come."

Player's remark echoes comments made by many other world-famous golfers. They find it shocking that the city would consider redeveloping the Hong Kong Golf Club at Fanling that is not only a target of emulation for golf courses in Asia as well as an integral part of Hong Kong's heritage and culture.

The Task Force on Land Supply has put the Hong Kong Golf Club (Fanling) as a short-to medium-term option. The Hong Kong Golf Association is extremely concerned about any approach which may involve the Fanling site undergoing some form of development.

Hong Kong's golf history started from private clubs, which have been supporting local golf development for the last 50 years. Over this time, they have helped grow the sport from nothing to a point where young local talent is making its mark on the international scene. Tiffany Chan, for example, competed in the 2016 Olympics and went on to qualify for the LPGA Tour. None of this could have happened without the support of private clubs, who provide their facilities to national squad members for free and host more than 30 golf tournaments every year. Taking away any part of Fanling would stunt our sports development, dim our light on the world stage and destroy the history we have worked so hard to build.



It is worth noting that facilities like Fanling benefit far more people than just private club members. Members of public can book tee-times online to play golf at the Hong Kong Golf Club (Fanling) from Monday to Friday. The Hong Kong Golf Association has more than 15,000 registered members representing virtually all corners of society, including people who do not belong to private clubs. Many of them play at Fanling to enjoy the experience of playing one of the world's most famous courses.

To ensure the long-term sustainable development of golf, we need resources for development of more recreational and purpose-built training facilities. The Hong Kong Golf Association appreciates the need for housing but do not believe that housing and sport should be positioned opposite to each other.

Yours sincerely,

Danny Lai
Chief Executive
Hong Kong Golf Association