

Clerk to Panel on Development  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong  
By email: panel\_dev@legco.gov.hk

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Planning for land supply in Hong Kong

I have been playing golf for 18 years and now, in my 50s, I am regretting for not having picked up the sport while I was young. Being a qualified international referee (refereed in the Hong Kong Open since 2011), I have watched many young children prosper in their game and many have gained scholarships at universities overseas to pursue their passion in golf. Some have even turned professional, such as Tiffany Chan, who played in the Rio Olympics and even made it to the LPGA tour – the top ranked female professional tour in the world.

Without the facilities in Hong Kong to support their golfing ambitions, these children would never have the chance to shine on the world stage. The Hong Kong Golf Association conducts numerous amateur tournaments in Hong Kong, not just for locals, but for international participants as well. Discovery Bay Golf Club, Clearwater Bay Golf & Country Club and the Hong Kong Golf Club are the private clubs that mainly support these tournaments, with the Hong Kong Golf Club hosting most of them, especially at Fanling. With their three 18-hole tournament courses, they have the capacity and flexibility to be able to dedicate one course for the tournaments while at the same time utilizing the remaining courses to cater for their members as well as the public. If the Fanling site is taken back for housing development, this would deliver a significant blow to the development of golf in Hong Kong. Of the three golf clubs mentioned, we would only be left with Discovery Bay (27 holes) and Clearwater Bay (18 holes). Their capacity has already reached a maximum from their current demand and would not be able to make up for the significant loss in capacity from Fanling. This would mean even fewer tournaments, which is already currently behind other neighboring countries, and handicap the development of golf – especially at the elite level.

Moreover, the historical value of the course cannot be underestimated. Apart from the heritage buildings and ancestral graves, the course itself is treelined by decades old trees that makes it a perfect test of golf where precision is sought for rather than distance. This was apparent during the Hong Kong Open where Dustin Johnson, now the number one player in the world, missed the cut. He is well known for hitting drives well over 300 yards, but even the composite course at Fanling was no match for his long drives. This feature cannot be built overnight, therefore, relocation is not an option. Once demolished, it is gone forever.

Therefore, I sincerely hope that you would reconsider taking the Fanling site back for housing. There are many other considerations, such as reclaiming land from the sea and developing brownfield sites that can provide the sufficient supply of land for a sustainable future for Hong Kong.

Thank you for your kind attention to hearing out my views on this issue. I hope a prudent decision will be made that is a win-win for all parties involved.

Yours sincerely,



Roy Lester D. W. Lee

