

Dear Government Development Panel,

**OBJECTION TO THE GOVERNMENT PLAN FOR ARTIFICIAL ISLANDS**

Reference: LC Paper No. CB(1)729/18-19(03).

On behalf of most everybody I have consulted on this issue, I would like to express our opposition to the proposed artificial islands for the following reasons:

1. Development is not about more money, more people and more concrete. It is about better quality of living, a greener environment and happier people. This project does not deliver that kind of positive development for Hong Kong. The practicality and cost of the project is extraordinary and will end up costing trillions, with no real end-benefit delivered for the majority of Hong Kong people.
2. Ample better connected, cheaper alternative sites exist in Hong Kong already – multiple brownfield sites, industrial units that could be re-designated for residential use, barely used and unnecessary military sites in Kowloon, Fanling golf course and land in the New Territories etc. More effort should be expended in these areas.
3. The Greater Bay Area project is being actively promoted and supported, so plenty of land options in Guangdong exist already for the extra people. We should use those more economic areas instead and think regionally. This would also allow housing of a decent size to be provided for citizens, instead of micro-flats that people are being forced into in Hong Kong.
4. There is no commitment from the Government to prioritise those million people living below the poverty line in Hong Kong or improve options for Hong Kong's youth. The Government may claim 'social housing' is being zoned but Reference A's focus is real estate profits and experience shows us that property tycoon's, landlords and the richest 5% will be the main beneficiaries.
5. People do not believe the demand is there and that the forecast population figures are right. Birth rates are in decline and Hong Kong youth are not having children due to the cost of living, unaffordable housing and an over-stressed education, welfare and health system. General pessimism has a high proportion of our young adults actually wanting to emigrate. This cannot be a project that Hong Kong people really 'need' and we don't need more people crowded into our packed space.
6. The environmental damage this would cause is irresponsible. Having just completed the Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and multiple land reclamation projects, the environment must be protected for the long-term future and not exploited for the short-term gain of the property industry or politicians. Kai Tak is still not finished, the third runway is a challenge and finding enough decent marine sand for artificial islands will ecologically devastate somewhere else on the planet as well as our own region.

M J Whiley