

Dear Panel for Development,

I would like to send a brief comment ahead of your Jan. 20, 2020 meeting concerning the "Sustainable" Lantau Office. I am a resident in Mui Wo and passionately concerned about the welfare of Lantau's nature and country parks.

The "Sustainable" Lantau Office makes a mockery of the word "sustainable" -- unless, of course, it is meant to denote sustainable, as in sustainable development. There is little oversight and influence from this office that is worthy of environmental protection. While the office has existed, many privately-owned plots in the Pui O **COASTAL PROTECTION AREA** have been filled in or fenced in a piecemeal fashion that is detrimental to the environmental integrity of the land and environment (including water buffalo).

Moreover, in Mui Wo we have seen an imaginative variety of fences built that bring no improvement to the quality of life. Daily, I witness cows accessing our poorly placed rubbish bins, leaving the job to FEHD to slowly address through minimum-paid workers.

What's worse is the lack of enforcement and vision for our villages, in which rural leaders have selfishly and dangerously allowed private vehicle access up to their village houses. There is an incredibly bad situation brewing here, with private cars blocking fire hydrants and emergency vehicle access. As I attempt to address this, I am either referred by one government department to another, or harassed by some residents. Shouldn't this be the job of a "sustainable" Lantau office to create sustainable, green living spaces for all residents? Why do they take no action to protect a rare residential area which can be reliant on bicycle transport?

I would like to emphasize the vast biodiversity that Lantau holds. It is paramount that this green jewel be preserved while southern China and Guangzhou have faced massive development to the detriment of the natural environment. Here, there are still pockets of land and country park that are relatively untouched by man and still host a incredible platform for a vast variety of species to thrive. We must NEVER lose this resource. Economics and development should never take precedence over this unique opportunity we have to preserve habitats and species.

The "Sustainable" Lantau Office -- which is over 90% employed by engineers is wholly unequipped to provide Lantau with any genuine form of environmental sustenance and protection, as their track record of "nothing done" over the past years for conservation has shown.

I strongly urge the Panel for Development to pressure the SLO to prioritize genuine action to preserve Lantau and live up to it's name.

Best regards,
Kathryn Davies