

世界自然基金會 香港分會

WWF-Hong Kong

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Chairman and Members of Panel on Environmental Affairs, Legislative Council

(c/o Clerk to Panel on Environmental Affairs)Legislative Council Complex,1 Legislative Council Road, Central, Hong Kong

19 February 2021 (By e-mail)

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Panel on Environmental Affairs Meeting on 22 February 2021, agenda item #IV "Retrofitting of noise barriers"

We understand the above captioned will be discussed during the meeting of the Panel on Environmental Affairs on 22 February 2021. WWF-Hong Kong (WWF) would recommend the following actions be taken:

1. Apply solar photovoltaic (PV) technology on noise barriers

The use of solar PV on noise barriers was successfully tested in Switzerland in 1989. As mentioned in the Climate Action Plan 2030+, PV projects are being considered on public infrastructure, including on noise barriers. In order to facilitate the use of solar PV technology on noise barriers, the government should relax the requirement of "open spaces or flat surfaces with unshaded solar exposure area greater than 1000m^2 " as stated in the Development Bureau Technical Circular No. 2/2015 and Environment Bureau Circular Memorandum No. 3/2015 on "Green Government Buildings".

2. Adopt bird strike prevention design

The government should design noise barriers to minimize bird collisions. Transparent or reflective vertical panels are prone to bird strikes. The use of marks with various patterns visible to birds are known to be an effective collision prevention method. Materials that reflect ultraviolet light are particularly effective at reducing bird collisions.

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The Chief Executive of the HKSAR
Chairman: Mr Daniel R Bradshaw
CEO: Mr Peter Comthwaite

Honorary Auditors: BDO Limited Honorary Company Secretary: McCabe Secretarial Services Limited Honorary Treasurer: HSBC Registered Charity (Incorporated With Limited Liability) We believe our recommendations are an important step to help Hong Kong achieve carbon neutrality before 2050. We hope to see Hong Kong being Asia's most sustainable and liveable city which we will all be proud of.

Yours faithfully,

David Olson

Director of Conservation

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WWF-Hong Kong

Encl.

Cc: Mr KS Wong, Secretary for the Environment

Ms Michelle Au, Political Assistant to Secretary for the Environment