

島嶼活力行動

可持續 島嶼 發展



LIVING ISLANDS
MOVEMENT

SUSTAINABLE ISLAND DEVELOPMENT

Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP
Chairman
Public Accounts Committee
Legislative Council

Registered Mail

7 January 2016

Dear Sir

Rescind Funding for the Incinerator and Landfill extension

I write to you in your capacity as the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee in relation to the recent report from the Director of Audit. Report 65 highlights that the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has been misleading HK on the true situation with our landfills and that they have been promoting waste management strategies that are extremely overpriced and not fitting for a modern global city.

In short we strongly urge the Public Accounts Committee to recommend that funding for the landfill extensions and incinerator projects are rescinded or at least frozen until a full review is undertaken and the need for all components is reassessed based on correct information.

As you are aware, the public hearing on 7 December 2015 highlighted how the EPD management have misled LegCo members in both the Environment Committee and the Finance Committee as they presented the application for funding for the Landfill Extension and Incinerator. The decision to go ahead with the Incinerator was in itself based on a very dubious Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report that discounted options which would have enabled lower cost and more speedy solutions to have been undertaken.

As has been pointed out in the SCMP Letter by Tom Yam on 10 December 2015¹, if the landfills in the SAR are not at capacity, and purely by implementing the proposed extensions into the country parks, the landfill life-time could be extended by another 30 years or so. This means that the Incinerator could be delayed by up to 20 years, in which time newer technology (e.g. Heat Treatment, Mechanical Sorting, Bio-Digestion, etc.) should be fully tried and tested elsewhere, meaning that the most up to date technology of the time could be employed to help solve the waste problems of the day.

I hope you and your committee members can see that this whole waste management issue has been very poorly handled by EPD and that a full review is required to establish the true needs based on correct information to restore some credibility to the matter. In the meantime, **we strongly propose that funding for the landfill extensions and incinerator projects should be rescinded** or at least frozen.

Regards
Dr Merrin Pearse
Chairman of Living Islands Movement
Mob: 9156 9573

cc. Hon CHAN Kin-por, Chairman, Finance Committee

¹ <http://www.scmp.com/comment/letters/article/1889269/waste-data-shows-incinerator-plan-should-not-be-burning-issue>