

島嶼活力行動

可持續 島嶼 發展



LIVING ISLANDS  
MOVEMENT

SUSTAINABLE ISLAND DEVELOPMENT

Chief Executive  
Government of the HKSAR  
Tamar  
Hong Kong

Sent by post and email ([ceo@ceo.gov.hk](mailto:ceo@ceo.gov.hk))

30 December 2017

### **Continuing Destruction of the Pui O Wetland**

Dear Chief Executive,

I write on behalf of Living Islands Movement and our membership across Hong Kong, to express our considerable concern and dismay about a fresh round of landfilling that is taking place on the pristine and precious wetland habitat of Pui O on Lantau Island.

Living Islands Movement (LIM) is a non-affiliated, local group dedicated to the sustainable environment of Hong Kong's outlying islands – with a focus on Lantau

<http://www.livingislands.org.hk/about-us/>

I know this matter will be of concern to you because of your comments in the policy address about conserving and protecting the Pui O wetlands for future generations of Hong Kongers. These comments, mirrored by those in the Lantau Blueprint have been welcomed by local residents, NGOs and International Conservation groups as a sign that the Hong Kong Government is giving proper consideration to conservation and the Government commitments under international agreements such as the Convention on Biodiversity.

WWF-Hong Kong rate the Pui O wetlands as one of Hong Kong's more significant areas of wetland, a habitat rich in biodiversity and home to Hong Kong's only feral herd of water buffaloes. The only Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) conducted for this area, in 2001, concluded that the ecological value was high and that over the subsequent 20 years the area would grow into an important wetland if left alone.

Today, many visitors, especially from the urban areas of Hong Kong, enjoy this rural idyll, a chance to recharge the batteries away from the hustle and bustle of city life. A very necessary green lung that the vast majority of Hong Kongers want to preserve.

Given you clearly agree with these sentiments it seems bizarre that your own Environmental Protection Department (EPD) would sign an 'acknowledgement' for further landfilling to take place in this beautiful place. This directly contradicts your stated policy intent. It is even more troubling

given that a Judicial Review which challenges the basis on which these 'acknowledgements' are given was heard in September 2016 with the judgement now imminent.

We conducted a site visit with officials from relevant departments yesterday, 29<sup>th</sup> December, and were informed that the landowner commenced landfilling before the EPD's acknowledgement had been given. Although the EPD are now intending to prosecute the landowner, they have told us that they are powerless to stop the landfilling continuing. This site is also subject to a Town Planning Board Application which submissions only closed on Wed 27 December (Application number [A/SLC/148](#)).

You won't be surprised to hear that our members are incredulous that this could be the case. Is the Government of Hong Kong powerless to stop one landowner who seeks to destroy a piece of pristine habitat in order to make a few dollars from renting out shipping containers which have already been placed on the land in question? If so then the Government would appear to have lost the ability to govern.

We have assured our members that this cannot be the case and that our Chief Executive would not allow this to happen if made aware. This letter is to ensure you are aware and that you can take the necessary steps to prevent this madness from continuing.

Like you, we are concerned about what we hand on to the children of Hong Kong. Destruction of the Pui O wetland cannot be allowed to continue and we await your response with hope and anticipation.

Your Sincerely  
Dr Merrin Pearse  
Chairman of Living Islands Movement

Email: [info@livingislands.org.hk](mailto:info@livingislands.org.hk)

CC. (by email)

- Chief Secretary for Administration, HKSAR Government - [cso@cso.gov.hk](mailto:cso@cso.gov.hk)
- Secretary for the Environment - [sen@enb.gov.hk](mailto:sen@enb.gov.hk)
- Director of CEDD - [shlam@cedd.gov.hk](mailto:shlam@cedd.gov.hk)
- Director of AFCD - [dafcoffice@afcd.gov.hk](mailto:dafcoffice@afcd.gov.hk)
- The Ombudsman - [ombudsman@ombudsman.hk](mailto:ombudsman@ombudsman.hk)

ATTACHMENT 1 - THE NOTICE

環保署編號 EPD's Ref.: LP01/RS/00406121

WASTE DISPOSAL ORDINANCE (Cap. 354)  
DEPOSITING OF CONSTRUCTION WASTE ON A PRIVATE LOT

在私人地段堆填建築廢物

茲將《條例》第16C(4)條、C和D部(包括該地段與堆填廢物有關的平面圖)的副本附於本署備案。請將本署備案的一副副本呈交本署。  
Note: Copy of Part C and Part D (including map showing boundaries of the Lot and the depositing area) must be displayed in a conspicuous place on the Lot, at all times during the depositing activity, according to Section 16C(4) of the WDO.

Part C 堆填活動的詳情  
Part D 環境保護署署長收訖(由堆填者填妥)

Part C DETAILS OF THE DEPOSITING ACTIVITY  
地址: 大嶼山貝澳DD316 Lot 2366  
地段編號: DD 316 Lot 2366  
Date of deposit: between 1 Dec 2017 and 30 Nov 2018  
Estimated total area of the depositing activity (in square metres): 4.11 m<sup>2</sup>  
Estimated height of the depositing activity (in metres): 1.2 m

Part D ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FROM DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
The Director of Environmental Protection hereby acknowledges receipt of owners' permission for the intended depositing of construction waste on the Lot No. as mentioned in Part C. The affixing of acknowledgment from section 16D(1) of the WDO. The depositing activity has to be in compliance with other applicable laws of Hong Kong. The owner(s) of the Lot(s) should consult the relevant Government departments for advice.

日期: 29.11.2017

警告: 堆填者須在堆填活動期間, 隨時與以下公司(如適用)聯絡。  
92889570  
92885270

ATTACHMENT 2 – LOT INDEX PLAN



PHOTOGRAPH 1 - 2-STOREY STRUCTURE ON THE SITE



PHOTOGRAPH 2 – CHAOTIC STORAGE OF BUILDING MATERIALS



PHOTOGRAPH 3 – INFERTILE EARTH AND STONES ALREADY DEPOSITED ON SITE



PHOTOGRAPH 4 – INDICATION OF THE WETLAND DESTROYED ON THE SITE

