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Dear Mr. Suen,

**Review on Driving Lantau Island Scheme and Issuance of Lantau Closed Road Permits**

Designing Hong Kong would like to express our concerns and comments on the Driving on Lantau Island Scheme and Issuance of Lantau Closed Road Permits.

- The government has stated clearly in the Sustainable Lantau Blueprint that the vision of “Development in the North, Conservation for the South” for Lantau in 2017. The government has the responsibility and should prioritize conserving the beautiful nature of South Lantau to prevent destruction of the environment.
- Minimizing is key to safeguarding the irreplaceable environment, landscape and ecology of South Lantau. Strict control and management of transport and traffic is required to limit the human disturbance to the existing environment in line with the planning intention of preserving South Lantau.
- Increase in road use will lead to demand for further increase in land use for infrastructure and parking. It will impact the environment, landscape and residents’ daily life.
- Designing Hong Kong strongly opposes the relaxation of the Lantau Island Scheme (DLS). Designing Hong Kong urges tightening the issuance of Lantau Closed Road Permits (LCRP). The government should conduct a comprehensive review to conserve the South Lantau.
- From the document discussed in Island District Council, the decision of expanding the DLS is based on the rising demand for DLS and suggests that there is ample capacity along the main roads of South Lantau. Relaxation of the DLS will induce further increase of the demand (one person goes, the next one wants to go).
- Despite the government claims that there are more than 500 parking lots in South Lantau, they are mostly clustered in Tai O and Mui Wo. Many popular recreation destinations such as Pui O,

Tong Fuk and Cheung Sha only provide around 60 parking lots in total. The increase in vehicles will worsen illegal parking adversely impact residents' daily life.

- While there is a vision to conserve the South Lantau, expanding the DLS would attract more tourists using private vehicles, cause more pollution and disturbance to the environment. Any increase in visitation should be solely based on public transport capacity.
- The planned and committed developments of South Lantau generates rights to closed road permits, irrespective of the availability of a parking spaces and irrespective of road space availability. There are several residential projects, including public housing, completed in South Lantau in recent year. It can be expected that there will be an increase in the population as well as the number of applying for the LCRP.
- The new public housings in Mui Wo named Ngan Ho Court and Ngan Wai Court provides nearly 800 flats but only 50 parking spaces. However, every resident based on an electricity meter bill can apply for an LCRP. This despite the fact that in the planning stage for developments on Lantau, the government assumes that many or most residents will commute by ferries and/or buses.
- There is thus in the current system an inherent growth of vehicle use while there is limited room to increase road and parking capacity without destroying the environment.
- The result is unauthorised development and use of land for parking, resulting in ecological damage. Since last year, Designing Hong Kong and Save Lantau Alliance have reported numerous unauthorised development cases in South Lantau, including the case in Tong Fuk where a large area of the "Coastal Protection Area" was filled for parking purpose (Attachment 1). We urge the government to review the LCRP in order to prevent other similar destruction.
- The government should first conduct a comprehensive study and full traffic assessment taking into account planned and committed developments – assuming a full development of land expected under the Lantau Tomorrow Vision. Furthermore, a clear understanding of the carrying capacities of the South Lantau, especially in environmental terms, in order to determine what traffic demand can be catered for while balancing the long term preservation of the natural assets of South Lantau.

Here we submit our concerns and comments for your consideration.

Yours,

**Designing Hong Kong Limited**