

Green Lantau Association  
Mui Wo Post Office Box 161  
Mui Wo, Lantau Island  
E-Mail:  
[rbunker@netvigator.com](mailto:rbunker@netvigator.com)

Lantau, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014

**Green Lantau Association  
Autumn 2014 GLA Newsletter**

**Case Reporting**

Below are updates and reports on issues GLA has dealt with in spring and summer 2014. These have been subdivided into geographical areas to facilitate reading. Member questions and comments on these items are welcome.

**Tai O**

***CEDD Yat Chung River Wall project***

GLA is monitoring the winding down of this project to try to ensure that unwanted materials are not left behind or inappropriately disposed of. As part of these efforts, CEDD has agreed to clear abandoned railings and construction debris that had been deposited on Allocated Government Land under their responsibility.

***Tai O River Promenade trees***

At GLA's request LCSD has restored three additional tree pits along the Tai O riverside road, in preparation for tree replanting. This brings to six, the number of tree pits and trees being restored at the riverside promenade. The trees had been removed and the tree pits concreted over two years ago for no justifiable reason.

### ***Lung Tin Estate noisy renovation works***

Following transformation of the Housing Authority's Lung Tin Estate Tin Lee House into Tin Lee Court under the Home Ownership Scheme, noisy and prolonged flat renovation work has been taking place, severely affecting residents of adjacent Tin Ning House. A GLA proposal has since been implemented that requires all doors of flats under renovation to be closed when noisy work is in progress. Windows of the said flats can remain open for ventilation as there are no sensitive receivers on that side of the building.

### ***Lung An Monastery plastic foam boxes***

An EPD server malfunction delayed responses to a number of GLA reports filed last June, including the captioned. EPD took action in early autumn and asked the Lung An Monastery management to remove all plastic foam boxes and other dumped objects from the nearby stream bed. As part of the same EPD inspection the monastery management was advised to lock its substandard toilet it built over the stream and to prevent plastic items from being burnt in monastery incinerators.

### ***Nam Chung Village open burning***

Following a GLA report about open burning of waste materials including plastic containers on the short stretch of beach near the Nam Chung FEHD public toilet, EPD has visited the site and given advice to villagers. The situation is improving in that no plastic items have been observed being incinerated at this location recently.

### ***Tai O Road WSD works***

Following a GLA report of construction items having been found in woodland along a WSD construction site in the Keung Shan Valley section of Tai O Road, EPD visited the area and advised builders on proper waste management procedures.

### ***Ling Yan Stream pollution***

The Ling Yan Stream was found to have been affected by pollution from kitchen oil and solid objects in recent months and reports have been made to EPD who are looking into the issues.

### ***CEDD slope works***

Members of the public have attracted GLA attention to CEDD Tai O Road works in the Keung Shan Valley, with regard to possible discharge of muddy water that could affect water quality in the Keung Shan stream. A GLA site visit revealed that measures taken by CEDD to contain mud runoff appeared to be adequate and that mud interceptors on site seemed to be effective. We think current CEDD arrangements are sufficient for the dry season, but are consulting EPD for advice in regard of additional measures that might have to be implemented if the works continue into the wet season.

### **Tung Chung**

#### ***Tung Chung Remaining Development Study***

There has been no further GLA input into the Tung Chung further development plans, as government has indicated it would proceed with the works regardless of concerns expressed about likely damage to the river system and Tung Chung Bay water circulation. In the meantime, Clive Noffke has appeared on Apple Daily Television to present a paper he recently published titled “Lantau – HK’s Jewel - A Biodiversity Study of Lantau”, which includes descriptions of valuable biodiversity in the Tung Chung Valley that government is eyeing for new town extension development. In the interview, Clive was particularly critical of government plans to channelize the intertidal section of the Tung Chung River. “A Biodiversity Study of Lantau” is a comprehensive biodiversity study of Lantau assembled from all currently known sources prepared by Phillip Yip, a trained ecologist, with the assistance of GLA member Clive Noffke. The document can be viewed in the GLA website, [www.greenlantau.org](http://www.greenlantau.org), which also features the documentary “Keep Lantau Beautiful”.

#### ***Proposed third runway at HKIA***

GLA has become aware of a public opinion survey being carried out over the telephone by the Public and Government Programme of Lingnan University, which appears to be designed to lead interviewees to answer questions about a third runway in a manner that is favourable to the Hong Kong Airport Authority’s position. We have asked for a copy of the survey to be sent to us for evaluation and possible comments.

### ***Airport management***

Late summer visits to the airport suggested that even though HKIA are attempting to resolve the issue of people smoking in non-smoking areas, there is still quite some way to go for real progress to be made. The question of automatic door maintenance also remains an issue at times. We plan a further visit later this year before further sharing ideas with HKIA on this.

### **Mui Wo**

#### ***Wo Tin Slope Works***

In September last year, following expressions of concern from local residents, GLA drew the attention of DO to the depositing of slope work related materials at two locations in Wo Tin Village. As the problem remained unresolved by June this year, GLA reported the matter to EPD which advised the work proponent, the LD Slope Section, to improve site conditions. A subsequent GLA visit in October revealed that though improvements had been made, they were not up to generally accepted government standards. Further input by EPD resulted in additional improvements, with all site items now being concentrated in a smaller fenced-off and sign-posted area. GLA will follow up this case until all construction materials are removed from site.

### **South Lantau**

#### ***Pui O Lo Wai storage***

For the second time in three years, GLA has communicated with EPD and DLO the issue of a disused vehicle stored on paved Government Land near a public sitting-out area in Lo Wai Village, Pui O. More abandoned items have appeared in the vicinity in recent months, affecting the amenity value of this part of the village. We understand the matter is being looked into.

#### ***Tong Fuk footpath reconstruction***

HAD/DO have consulted GLA on plans to substantially reconstruct an old footpath linking Tong Fuk Village to the water catchment. GLA has indicated that it does not object to the plans as long as tight rules are worked out to minimize the impact of path construction on the surrounding vegetation.

## **Peng Chau**

### ***CLP Cable Landing Mats at Tai Lei Chau***

We understand that a CLP – GPCA meeting was held in Peng Chau recently during which CLP attempted to retreat from their earlier assurance that visually intrusive concrete mats at the Tai Lei Chau Island submarine cable landing point be removed and the cables be buried instead. The earlier agreement had envisioned the removal of the section of concrete mat that is visible at low tide.

## **Other topics**

### ***Annual General Meeting***

The 2014-2015 GLA Annual General Meeting will take place in the Squash Court of the Mui Wo Leisure and Cultural Services Department's Sports Centre from 10.30 to 12.00 on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2014. GLA members and friends are welcome to participate.

### ***Keep Lantau Beautiful documentary***

The “Keep Lantau Beautiful video released on 10<sup>th</sup> June had three public screenings before the summer and has recently been shown at two departments of City University. The student events in October have prevented more showings. However we will continue promoting the video through social media and in educational establishments.

### ***Hill Fire Prevention***

Weather-wise the Chung Yeung Festival period was favourable and there were no major hill fires. The firebreak system around cemeteries that had been proposed by GLA in previous years is now well established, which improves hill side cemetery management by DO, as well as facilitating access and fire fighting by FSD and GFS. One aspect that needs to be improved is the restocking of fire beaters contained in fire beater racks. The racks are currently over-stocked, resulting in waste of materials and public resources as well as littering. GLA plans to raise this issue with DO before Ching Ming.

### ***Convention on Biological Diversity implementation***

It would appear that the task of implementing numerous recommendations from the working groups would face insurmountable policy and resource issues. There is a possibility that only changes not requiring new policies and resources will proceed, which would fall short of the overarching change in approach that CBD requires.

### ***Lantau cattle***

The remaining stock of leaflets on Lantau Cattle and Lantau Buffalo published by GLA member Clive Noffke have been donated to LBA (Lantau Buffalo Association) to help further their valuable work in the field of bovine protection.

### ***NWFF vessels***

Following several GLA reports related to serious black smoke emissions from NWFF large vessels Xin Chao and Xin Guang last spring and a subsequent meeting with MD, sustained improvements were noticed in smoke emissions from NWFF large ferries for the first time in more than twenty years of efforts. It seems that replacing engine turbo chargers during scheduled maintenance, instead of merely cleaning them, may be the key to keeping smoke emissions from vessel stacks within legal limits.

### ***Environmental reporting***

Members are reminded that incidents of environmental damage can be reported by telephone to the Government Easy Link Line 1823 or by email to [tellme@1823.gov.hk](mailto:tellme@1823.gov.hk). The service can be used for both, enquiries and complaints, and the case will be recorded and transferred to the relevant government department for handling. This arrangement is being expanded to an increasing number of government departments and in some cases even complaints sent to departments directly are now handled by the 1823 integrated service.

## **Contacts of organizations with which GLA cooperates**

GLA has been cooperating with Islands District, Hong Kong and international environmental protection groups, a list of which is provided below.

### ***Islands District***

[Association for Tai O Environment and Development](#)

(ATOED)

[DB Green](#)

[Green Peng Chau Association](#) (GPCA)

[Living Islands Movement](#) (LIM)

[Living Lamma](#) (LL)

[Transition South Lantau](#) (TSL)

### ***Wider Hong Kong***

[Association for Geoconservation](#) (AGHK)

[Friends of the Earth \(HK\)](#) (FoE)

[Green Power](#) (GP)

[Green Sense](#) (GS)

[Hong Kong Birdwatching Society](#) (HKBWS)

[Kadoorie Farm & Botanic Garden](#) (KFBG)

[The Conservancy Association](#) (CA)

[World Wide Fund For Nature Hong Kong](#) (WWF)

Boulders Trackways: <https://sites.google.com/site/hongkongbouldertrackways>

Friends of Sai Kung: <http://www.friendsofsaikung.org/>

### ***International***

[Center for the Advancement of the Steady State Economy](#) (CASSE), USA

[Climate Change Campaign](#) (CCC), UK

[Ecological Internet](#) (EI), USA

[Environmental Investigation Agency](#) (EIA), UK

[Optimum Population Trust](#) (OPT), UK

[Rettet den Regenwald](#) (Rainforest Rescue) (RRW), Germany

## **Names of government departments and public utilities**

Below is a list of government departments and public utilities the acronyms of which appear in our newsletters. If you wish to contact any of these departments by email, please just click the relevant acronym.

<a href="#"><u>AFCD</u></a>	Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
<a href="#"><u>ASD</u></a>	Architectural Services Department
<a href="#"><u>CLP</u></a>	China Light and Power Company Limited
<a href="#"><u>CEDD</u></a>	Civil Engineering and Development Department
<a href="#"><u>DLO/Is</u></a>	District Lands Office Islands of the Lands Department
<a href="#"><u>DO/Is</u></a>	District Office Islands of the Home Affairs Department
<a href="#"><u>DSD</u></a>	Drainage Services Department
<a href="#"><u>EPD</u></a>	Environmental Protection Department
<a href="#"><u>FEHD</u></a>	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
<a href="#"><u>FSD</u></a>	Fire Services Department
<a href="#"><u>GFS</u></a>	Government Flying Service
<a href="#"><u>GEO</u></a>	Geotechnical Engineering Office of CEDD
<a href="#"><u>HAD</u></a>	Home Affairs Department
<a href="#"><u>HAB</u></a>	Home Affairs Bureau
<a href="#"><u>HyD</u></a>	Highways Department
<a href="#"><u>HKPF</u></a>	Hong Kong Police Force
<a href="#"><u>LCSD</u></a>	Leisure and Cultural Services Department
<a href="#"><u>LD</u></a>	Lands Department
<a href="#"><u>MD</u></a>	Marine Department
<a href="#"><u>OFTA</u></a>	Office of the Telecommunications Authority
<a href="#"><u>OMB</u></a>	Office of the Ombudsman
<a href="#"><u>PD</u></a>	Planning Department
<a href="#"><u>TPB</u></a>	Town Planning Board
<a href="#"><u>WSD</u></a>	Water Supplies Department

## **Public transport to Lantau**

### ***By sea***

[Tai O](#)

[Discovery Bay](#)

[Mui Wo](#)

[Trappist Monastery](#)

### ***By road***

[City Bus](#)

[Discovery Bay Transport](#)

[MTR](#)

[New Lantau Bus](#)

[Long Win Bus](#)

***End of the Autumn 2014 GLA Newsletter***