

Society for Protection of the Harbour

保護海港協會

(275 Words)

URGENT

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Dear Editor,

Re: Central Reclamation – Questions for Government

Our Society wish to remind the Government that the only justification for reclamation of the harbour it gave to the public and the law courts was to build the Central Wanchai By-pass in order to relieve traffic congestion. This was also the only justification that the Court of Final Appeal accepted as being an 'overriding public need' and hence rendering harbour reclamation lawful.

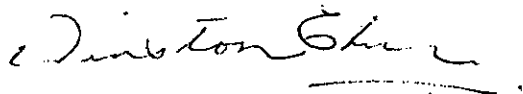
Until the Government's recent announcement of new plans for the Central Reclamation, the Government had proposed to construct 9.24 million sq. ft. of new office and commercial developments thereon in accordance with the current Outline Zoning Plan. According to the Transport Department, these developments will attract an additional 7,623 vehicles to Central. This will worsen the traffic condition and the air quality in Central.

Our Society is pleased and grateful that the Government has now reduced the development intensity in response to objections by the public and our Society. The Government's review was also in compliance with a directive from the Town Planning Board and the recent Policy Statement of the Chief Executive "to return the harbourfront to the people".

Nevertheless our Society must still ask the Government the following questions regarding the Government's new plans:-

1. How much new office and commercial development is being planned for the Central Reclamation?
2. How many more people and vehicles will be attracted to Central by these developments?
3. How much of the reclaimed land will be sold or given to real estate developers for these developments?
4. Why attract more traffic to Central and worsen traffic congestion when this is the complete opposite of the Government's original justification for the Central Reclamation?

Yours sincerely,



Winston K.S. Chu, Adviser