



BY E-MAIL ONLY

**House Committee and Subcommittees
Legislative Council
HKSAR**

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27 April, 2017

Dear Chairperson and Members,

**Subcommittee on Two Proposed Resolutions under
the Fixed Penalty (Traffic Contraventions) Ordinance (Cap 237) and
the Fixed Penalty (Criminal Proceedings) Ordinance (Cap 240)**

1. Green Power, a local charitable green group, has been monitoring the local air quality through investigating the Air Pollution Index (API) and Air Quality and Health Index (AQHI) since 1999. We refer to the above-captioned House Subcommittee meeting on 5 May 2017, and would like to provide our comments for the Subcommittee's consideration.
2. Green Power supports in principle the increase in charges related to "Congestion-Related Traffic Offences" in order to
 - (a) restore road traffic smoothness,
 - (b) combat the roadside air pollution,
 - (c) secure road safety,
 - (d) maintain public transport efficiency, and
 - (e) improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emission.
3. Committing offences stipulated in the Schedule to above-captioned Ordinances (Cap. 237 & 240) may lead to traffic congestion. Compared with smooth traffic condition, the intermittent driving journeys and idling engines caused by traffic congestion will increase the air pollutants emitted in vehicular exhaust effluent. Such worsening of roadside air pollution will unnecessarily increase the health risk of drivers, pedestrians, shopkeepers and workers on the streets.
4. Furthermore, some of these offences will obstruct vehicular and pedestrian access that imposes road safety risk and causes inconvenience to other road users, especially the disabled, the elderly and children.
5. Green Power notices that the increase in number of private cars has been accelerating in the past decade. Uncontrolled increase of private cars on limited road surface in Hong Kong is highly unfavourable because they compete with public transport tools and freight transport for the limited road surface and parking spaces, especially in downtown. The Administration should maintain the high transport efficiency for the public transport.
6. Green Power urges the Government to devise more effective measures to reduce the number of driving private cars. Any economic and infrastructural incentives to promote the use of private cars should not jeopardize the public health, transport efficiency and the right of other road users.

7. Also, the congested traffic will cause extra emission of greenhouse gases from the vehicular engines and exacerbate the global warming. In local context, vehicles in congested traffic will generate more waste heat and aggravate urban heat island effect, especially on streets bounded by tall buildings. Both situations will raise the air temperature of the city and hence the demand for air-conditioning. In order to generate additional electricity to cope with higher demand for air-conditioning, the power plants will emit more greenhouse gases.

8. We hope that the legislators urge and steer the Government to enforce the laws to rectify the improper driving behaviours and take prompt actions to improve the sustainability of transportation of the territory to protect the health and living quality of Hong Kong's citizen. On the other hand, the lawmakers should admonish all road users, including drivers, to observe the laws.

Thank you very much for your kind attention. We look forward to your favourable decisions and prompt actions.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cheng Luk Ki". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cheng Luk Ki, Ph.D.
Division Head, Scientific Research and Conservation