

Dear Editor,

Letter to the Editor
Country park lighting project not a victory if the people lose

We refer to the letter of Ms Karen Winton, entitled "*Country park lighting project not a victory if the people lose*" published on page A12 of SCMP on 3 December 2007. The letter referred to the Pak Tam Road street lighting installation project (the project) being implemented by Highways Department (HyD). We find that the letter contained a lot of information which is not factual and may mislead your readers.

Firstly, HyD has no contract with CLP that mandates a quota of street lighting installation. Also, the government has never claimed any policy success or personal victory on the implementation of the project. In addition, the project installation cost is about \$1.2 million, not \$2 million.

We consider the lighting project being implemented justifiable on traffic safety ground. Its implementation also has the support from villagers using Pak Tam Road and is acceptable to relevant departments. The project design has been subject to review and modification since January 2006 to address concerns on preservation of natural environment in the country park. The present modified project design represents a balanced and appropriate solution, taking into account advice and views from relevant experts and stakeholders.

Thank you for the attention to this case.

Information and Public Relations Unit
Highways Department
5 December 2007