

**Lantau Development and Advisory Committee  
Traffic and Transport Subcommittee**

**Traffic Restrictions and the Closed Road Permit Arrangements  
in South Lantau**

**PURPOSE**

This paper aims to invite Members' views on the proposed review of the closed roads arrangement in Lantau and the issuance of Lantau Closed Road Permits ("LCRPs").

**BACKGROUND**

2. At the meeting of the Traffic and Transport Subcommittee of the Lantau Development Advisory Committee held in October 2014, Members noted that the current closed road arrangements in Lantau was put in place based on the planning intention of preserving South Lantau as a natural conservation area. They considered that the closed road arrangement would hinder the development of green tourism and local economy in Lantau. In his Policy Address delivered in January this year, the Chief Executive announced that the Government would roll out in full swing a review of the closed road arrangements in Lantau and the issuance of LRCs to support its short term economic and social development.

**RESTRICTIONS ON THE CURRENT LCRPs ISSUANCE AND THEIR USAGE**

3. Currently, to cater for the public needs to enter the Lantau closed road area,

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motorists may apply to the Transport Department (“TD”) for the LCRPs<sup>1</sup>. There are two types of LCRPs: long-term permits and temporary permits. Long-term LCRPs are generally issued to residents/people doing business in South Lantau for a period of 12 months in the first instance. Holders may apply to the TD’s Licensing Offices for permit renewal upon expiry. Temporary LCRPs are generally issued to people with needs to enter South Lantau one-off, such as indigenous villagers residing outside South Lantau but returning to their home place for grave-sweeping. The TD would approve the applications on a case-by-case basis subject to the documentary proof provided. In 2014, a total of about 12 700 permits were issued by the TD, of which 31% (about 4 000 permits) were long term LCRPs and 69% (about 8 700 permits) were temporary LCRPs.

4. Moreover, in order to promote tourism and local economy, the TD allows a maximum of 30 permit-holding coaches to access South Lantau everyday. Among the 8 700 temporary permits issued in 2014, around 2 000<sup>2</sup> were issued to coaches by this quota allocation system. Details of the utilisation rates of the quotas on weekdays, Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays are given in **Annex 1**.

## **EXISTING PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES AND OTHER MAJOR ANCILLARY FACILITIES PROVIDED FOR TOURISTS TO SOUTH LANTAU**

5. Franchised bus services<sup>3</sup> are the main public transport services used by tourists to South Lantau and these include 15 daytime bus routes, 2 overnight bus routes and 1 recreation bus route. To cater for the higher passengers’ demand during holidays, the bus company has to allocate additional resources for increasing service frequencies. These bus routes and their actual frequencies during peak hours on weekdays and holidays are set out in **Annex 2**. In addition, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has provided a total of 18 public toilets and 16 pavilions in the Lantau South Country Park for use by tourists.

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with Regulation 49(2) under Cap. 374E, the validity period of LCRPs shall not more than 12 months.

<sup>2</sup> The validity period of a Lantau Closed Road Permit for coach could be longer than one day. One permit could cover several days approved under the permit quota.

<sup>3</sup> At present, tourists can also use ferry or Lantau taxi services to travel to South Lantau.

6. The current traffic capacity and flow of the roads in South Lantau are set out in **Annex 3**, and the number of parking spaces for private cars and coaches are set out at **Annexes 4 and 5** respectively.

### **CONSIDERATIONS IN THE RELAXATION OF CLOSED ROAD ARRANGEMENTS FOR LANTAU AND THE ISSUANCE OF LCRPs**

7. The following factors should be taken into account when reviewing the proposed relaxation of the closed road arrangements for Lantau and the issuance of LCRPs as a short term measure for development of Lantau:

- (a) The relaxation arrangements should adhere to the current planning intention for preserving South Lantau as a natural conservation area with due regard to the limitations of the receiving capacities of tourist attractions and facilities. The relaxation should be implemented in a gradual and orderly manner.
- (b) The vehicle types to be relaxed may include vehicles that will be generally used by tourists such as coaches, and even private cars used by non-local residents. However, the scale of relaxation must not cause unacceptable impacts on the environment, traffic safety and the livelihood of the residents. The provision of ancillary facilities should also be considered. Since some of the ancillary facilities such as parking spaces and public toilets cannot be increased rapidly in a short period of time, the number of existing ancillary facilities should be used as the starting point for consideration at this stage.
- (c) Roads on South Lantau such as Keung Shan Road, South Lantau Road and Tai O Road have a width of 6.8 metres. These roads are built on hillside and have some narrow bends. Drivers of long vehicles have to be extremely careful when there are head-on encounters at these bends. If the current closed roads arrangements in Lantau are entirely revoked, traffic flow will increase substantially and that will result in more head-on encounters of long vehicles at such bends. There will also be more occasions where other vehicles

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overtaking franchised buses/coaches stopping at the kerbsides picking up and dropping off passengers. With many drivers not familiar with the road conditions of South Lantau, the accessibility of these roads would be adversely affected and the risks of traffic accidents would be increased.

In light of the above three reasons, it is not suggested to entirely revoke the closed roads arrangements in Lantau and the issuance of LCRPs. However, relaxation to some extent is feasible.

- (d) There are fewer narrow bends on Tung Chung Road and section of South Lantau Road between its junctions with Tung Chung Road and Keung Shan Road. Compared to other roads in South Lantau, it can be considered to impose a less stringent control on vehicle entry at this road section. That said, to tie in with the relaxation of vehicle entry restriction, sufficient space for turnaround must be provided at this road section for vehicles which cannot get access to other restricted roads from this section.
- (e) Compared with weekdays, there are more visitors in South Lantau on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays and the road traffic is busier. To avoid affecting local traffic, in particular the increased parking demand which may cause disturbance to local residents, some relaxation arrangements (especially private cars which have a small carrying capacity but take up considerable road space) may be considered for implementation from Mondays to Fridays (except public holidays) on a temporary basis. For coaches with a larger carrying capacity, consideration can be given to allow a greater number of them to enter the area on all days.
- (f) At present, goods vehicles may apply for temporary permits to enter the closed road area in Lantau. There is no restriction on the number of such temporary permits issued to goods vehicles each day. In light of the concerns over long vehicles using roads in South Lantau stated in item (c) above, relaxation of the restriction on goods vehicles is not suggested at this moment.

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**ADVICE SOUGHT**

8. The TD is considering the proposals regarding the relaxation of the closed road arrangements in Lantau and the issuance of the LCRPs. Members are invited to give their views on the arrangement and scale of the relaxation.

**Transport Department**

**March 2015**

**Utilisation Rate of the 30 Permit Quotas for Coaches per Day in 2014**

	Weekdays (Mondays to Fridays) (except public holidays)	Saturdays (except public holidays)	Sundays and public holidays
No. of days	247	49	69
Total quotas for application	7 410 (247 x 30)	1 470 (49 x 30)	2 070 (69 x 30)
Quotas used	2 707	1 023	1 641
Average quotas used per day	11	21	24
Utilisation rate of quotas	36.5%	69.6%	79.3%

**Franchised Bus Services in South Lantau**

## Daytime bus services

Route	Origin – Destination	Average actual peak headway (minutes)	
		Weekdays	Holidays
A35	Airport – Mui Wo (some departures via Tung Chung Town Centre)	5 departures each bound per day	
1	Mui Wo – Tai O	20-40	20-30
1S*	Mui Wo – Tai O	on reservation only	
2	Mui Wo – Ngong Ping	20-40	20-30
2S*	Mui Wo – Ngong Ping	on reservation only	
4	Mui Wo – Tong Fuk	45-60 <sup>#</sup>	20-40
21	Ngong Ping – Tai O	Mondays to Fridays: 30 Saturdays: 10-30	5-30
21S*	Ngong Ping – Tai O	on reservation only	
3M	Tung Chung Town Centre – Mui Wo	5-15	5-10
11	Tung Chung Town Centre – Tai O	5-15	2-7
11A	Tung Chung Town Centre – Shek Pik	Operated on Sundays and public holidays only	25-45
11S*	Tung Chung Town Centre – Tai O	on reservation only	
13S*	Tung Chung Town Centre – Mui Wo	on reservation only	
23	Tung Chung Town Centre – Ngong Ping	5-20	5-15
23S*	Tung Chung Town Centre – Ngong Ping	on reservation only	

\* Special services on reservation only

# Departures to Mui Wo on weekdays and departures to Tung Fuk on Mondays to Fridays are available during peak hours only

## Overnight bus services

Route	Origin – Destination	Average actual peak headway (minutes)	
		Weekdays	Holidays
N1	Mui Wo to Tai O	1 departure per night	
N35	Airport – Mui Wo	2 departures each bound per night	

## Recreation bus services (Operated on Sundays and public holidays only)

Route	Origin – Destination	Average actual peak headway (minutes)	
		Weekdays	Holidays
1R	Hung Hom Ferry Concourse to Ngong Ping	Operated on Sundays and public holidays only	30

**Capacity and Average Daily Vehicular Flow of Roads in South Lantau**

<b>Roads in South Lantau</b>	<b>Road capacity (No. of vehicle trips per day)</b>	<b>Average daily vehicular flow (No. of vehicle trips)</b>
(a) Tung Chung Road	10 000	about 3 700
(b) South Lantau Road		
• Section between Mui Wo and Tung Chung Road	8 000	about 2 770
• Section between Tung Chung Road and Keung Shan Road	8 000	about 2 600
(c) Keung Shan Road		
• Section between South Lantau Road and Shum Wat Road	8 000	about 2 600
• Section between Shum Wat Road and Tai O Road	8 000	about 1 120
(d) Tai O Road	8 000	about 1 120



**Existing Parking Spaces for Private Cars in South Lantau**

Location	No. of non-metered parking spaces		No. of metered parking spaces	Total
	For general vehicles	For persons with disabilities		
Mui Wo Ferry Pier Road			8	8
Mui Wo Ferry Pier Road near the former New Territories Heung Yee Kuk Southern District Secondary School	59			59
Ngan Kwong Wan Road (Mui Wo Government Offices Building)	19			19
Ngan Wan Road			4	4
Ngan Shu Street	9			9
Ngan Shek Street	52	1		53
San Shek Wan	19			19
Road junction (Pui O) between South Lantau Road and Chi Ma Wan Road	9			9
South Lantau Road near Tung Chung Road	10			10
South Lantau Road in	6			6

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Location	No. of non-metered parking spaces		No. of metered parking spaces	Total
	For general vehicles	For persons with disabilities		
front of Tong Fuk Beach				
South Lantau Road near Tong Fuk Beach (2 lay-bys)	12			12
South Lantau Road near Tong Fuk Village	25			25
Ngong Ping Road (new Public Transport Interchange)		1	21	22
Tai O Road near Fire Station	8			8
Tai O Road near Fire Station	10			10
Tai O Road near Nam Chung Road	14			14
Tai O near Bus Terminal	36			36
Tai O Yim Tin	30			30
<b>Total</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>353</b>

Note: According to surveys conducted in November 2014, the utilisation rate of parking spaces for private cars in South Lantau on weekdays (Mondays to Fridays and non-holidays) is about 75%.

**Existing Parking Spaces for Coaches in South Lantau**

<b>Location</b>	<b>No. of parking spaces in 2014</b>
Mui Wo	2
Tai O	21
Keung Shan Road	2
Ngong Ping	17
Shek Pik	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>

Note: Upon provision of 6 additional parking spaces for coaches in Shek Pik by end 2015, the total number of parking spaces for coaches in South Lantau will be increased to 48.