

LS News Commentary #1

7th March, 2019

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To what extent do you agree the repurposing of country parks facilitates the sustainable development of Hong Kong?

To a large extent do I agree the repurposing of country parks facilitates the sustainable development of Hong Kong in terms of land reallocation and cost-effectiveness.

In terms of land reallocation, it is sustainable. Hong Kong being such a compact city, lacks land while has a huge population size comparatively. This results in the insufficiency of housing, leisure and healthcare facilities. With the land problem, the only solutions are reclamation or repurposing of land. Country parks typical are very big in terms of their area and are built on relatively flat land. All of these are the perfect condition of houses to be built on. By repurposing the acquired land, a lot of public housing units can be provided to alleviate the housing problem effectively. We can see that the demolition and repurposing of country parks in Hong Kong can increase the population capacity of Hong Kong and decrease the population density. This can prevent the overload of carrying capacity of Hong Kong.

In terms of cost-effectiveness, it is sustainable. Other alternatives to solving the land insufficiency problem are very expensive. The price of housing units built there will also have to be adjusted higher to cover the cost. We can see that it is not a very viable option. However, by repurposing the country parks, it requires a lot less work and cost to build them. The price of these new buildings can be decreased and can thus help it be more affordable for middle-class residents. The government can also save the budget and use the funds in other aspects.

However, some may say that it can destroy the local environment. But considering other alternatives such as reclamation, repurposing country parks pose a lot less damage to the local environment and biodiversity. Comparing the effectiveness of both options, repurposing of the country parks is the better solution.

In conclusion, the repurposing of country parks can facilitate the sustainable development of Hong Kong.