

**The Fourth Review of 1989 White Paper on the Environment
Summary of Comments on Consultation "Think Piece"**

Issues	Comment
General Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There should be an overall review of the effectiveness of policy instead of just looking at individual areas. Particular focus should be put on ensuring timely implementation of various programmes. • Priority should be given to ensuring public health. For example, by improving indoor air quality.
Pollution Prevention and Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The opportunity costs of pollution, such as the cost of poor air and water quality to the health of the public should be taken into account in calculating the "costs" of government's environmental protection programmes. • It should pay special attention to the effects of enforcement. The Administration might need to rely more on penalties in controlling pollution.
Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It should cover the conservation of terrestrial habitats in areas other than country parks, particularly wetlands. • The issue of wildlife trade and government's efforts in ensuring the sustainable utilization of wildlife in Hong Kong through the implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) should be addressed. • Coastal zones should be included.
Environmental Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It should address issues such as environmental management systems and clean production. • The role and contributions of the commercial sector in environmental protection and the impact of ISO 14000 on proper environmental management strategy in Hong Kong should be included.
Community Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would be worthwhile if the Review could measure the effectiveness of government's environmental protection programmes by comparing the changes in the community's mood towards environmental protection before and after the publication of the 1989 White Paper.
Polluter Pays Principle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It should cover the use of economic instruments for achieving environmental protection, such as taxation, pollution quotas and pollution permits. • Proposals should be formulated to put the polluter pays principle into practice. • It should review the polluter pays principle as part of Government's financial management strategy.
Regional Co-operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper terminology should be used to describe Hong Kong's relations with China after the handover. • It should include regional co-operation in transboundary air pollution and conservation, including biodiversity conservation. • It should cover liaison with Guangdong and integration issues, especially as regards joint planning with the Pearl River Delta. • The continued application of international agreements to Hong Kong after 1997 should be reviewed.