

HKILA Statement on the Northern Metropolis

The HKILA argues for adopting a landscape and ecological approach that takes on a middle-scale that more sensitively bridges the larger planning visions to site-level infrastructural requirements and design solutions. The following are 10 key points of recommendation:

1. The Shenzhen and Hong Kong boundary should be considered in terms of **their natural topography** and nature as **watersheds**. By doing so, the resilience of the Shenzhen River shall be considered across both sides of the riverbanks.
2. Development of the Northern Metropolis should not only be thought of as urban expansion (or encroachment), but holistically understood as **opportunities to improve** both quality of living, economic development, and enhancement of ecological resources.
3. This landscape and ecological planning process require accurate **data** from the ground, scientific analysis, and applications of **landscape ecology principles**. The integrity of ecosystems should be an underlying basis that development decisions are based upon.
4. Landscape and ecology, together with architecture and other engineering infrastructure, should be comprehensively considered as **interrelated systems** in the development process.
5. The planning and design of landscape and ecosystems should take on a **dynamic and phased approach** based of possible future scenarios and adjusted and fine-tuned based on scientific monitoring and evaluation.
6. Traditional villages, agricultural activities, rural fabric, and other tangible and intangible cultural elements should be respected as part of an integrated, **actively evolving cultural landscape** and not be jeopardized by development. Fish ponds and agricultural lands should be protected for their holistic contribution as **environmental resources** rather their simple food production value.
7. Development density and building heights should appropriately respond to site contexts. There should be **gradual transitions of development intensity** rather than abrupt change from low-rise village housing to high-rise towers.
8. Flood risks introduced by **climate change and sea level rise** is an urgent issue that needs to be addressed for the low-lying areas and coastal wetlands. The site selection of future development should carefully consider their locations in relation to the overall hydrological conditions of the two watersheds.
9. These **resilient design and coastal defence strategies** should be considered in relation to the entire Pearl River Delta.
10. Fresh water and food supply should consider **local self-sufficiency**. Sustainability principles with regards to energy production and use, wastewater and solid wastes treatment should apply to all localities.