

## \$5m laser show 'was bad value'

Mary Luk

Urban councillors criticised the \$5m spent on the laser show at the gala opening of the Hong Kong Stadium last Friday and said the amount spent was not reflected in the quality of the show.

Some members also criticised the performance of the French musician, Jean-Michel Jarre, saying it was nowhere near as spectacular as they had hoped.

They also complained the programme arrangements for the night were confusing.

One member said the show stopped for 20 minutes at one stage.

A spokesman for the Urban Services Department said the stoppage was due to rain, requiring backstage workers to adjust electrical equipment, and organisers would not allow anyone on the stage to announce the reason.

The council intends to ask the show producers to offer a

full explanation.

The council chairman yesterday promised to step up measures to reduce noise pollution caused by the stadium after a series of complaints were filed by nearby residents.

Ronald Leung told a council meeting that measures aimed at noise reduction, including relocating sound equipment and limiting the performance time to 11pm would be considered.

He said the council would hold detailed discussions on the issue next week.

He rejected proposals by council members to reduce the number of pop and rock concerts at the stadium, saying this would be against commercial interests.

Wembley International, the management agent for the stadium, agreed to try its best to reduce the noise nuisance.

But it did say there was no existing legislation controlling noise from stage performances.