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AA joins anti-ERP lobby 17-15

The Hongkong Automobile Association's general committee has unanimously rejected Electronic Road Pricing as a system for managing Hongkong's roads.

The association's executive director, Mr Phil Taylor, explained the refusal, which included the whole of the consultation document, in a letter to the Secretary for Transport, Mr Ian Macpherson.

He said the consultation document is presented entirely out of context of existing policy as expressed in the 1979 White Paper on Internal Transport Policy.

The letter said that to implement ERP would be to go against the advice given by the Government's own consultants in the Comprehensive Transport Study Report in Brief that such schemes do not hold much promise of controlling vehicle volumes.

Mr Taylor said there is "a high level of irresponsibility" because ERP is a scheme totally untried operationally in any other part of the world.

He said the "promise" of reducing annual licence fees on the introduction of ERP is considered "dishonest" when it is noted that since this promise was first made not only have annual licence fees been increased but many other motoring taxes have been raised.

Worse still, the question of invasion of privacy of the individual under ERP has not been seriously answered by Government, Mr Taylor said.