

# Airport highway for Discovery Bay

By Vivian Tse

THE tranquil lifestyle at Discovery Bay may be disrupted as Government engineers plan a new highway to link the 6,000-people community with the proposed airport at Chek Lap Kok.

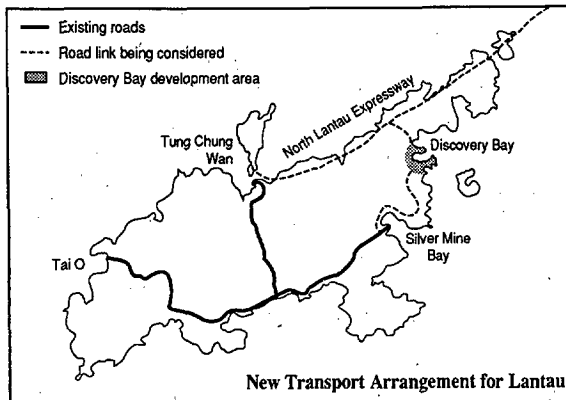
The only vehicles now at "Disco Bay" - as it is known to its many expatriate residents - are the buses linking the pier with residential blocks and quiet golf-buggy vehicles.

The new highway will be an integral part of a circular road network proposed for Lantau which will eventually open up a huge area of land for development.

Lantau is the territory's largest island and the road plan will provide access to many remote areas.

Both the developer and Discovery Bay residents have welcomed the Government's tentative move to build a new road to their doorstep.

Ringo Chan, a spokesman for Discovery Bay Action Group and an elected district board member, said residents welcomed any new road



link between Discovery Bay and other parts of Lantau.

"It may help to break the transport monopoly situation. And we support any new road link to be provided as long as it does not create any noise and air pollution problems," he said.

The Government is proposing a road link from Tai O to the new airport at Chek Lap Kok at the northern tip of Lantau, which will be connected with the planned North Lantau Expressway all the way to Silvermine Bay on the south.

A new road would have to be built to link north Lantau, via the North

Lantau Expressway and Discovery Bay, to the south, he said.

"From an urban planning point of view, a road link between Discovery Bay and the new airport is quite desirable as the development is the major residential area on Lantau," a town planner said.

"It is far from sensible if people living in Discovery Bay have to go to Central first in order to get access to Chek Lap Kok airport, which is only several kilometres from their home," another Government town planner said.

However, they said the road design within Dis-

covery Bay may not cope with normal free vehicular traffic flow.

They said no immediate answer could be offered but a possible solution was a new ferry service between the development and the new airport.

When Hongkong Resort, the developer of Discovery Bay, started the project 11 years ago it intended to limit traffic to a minimum.

Jeremy Marriot, head of City Management which handles the Discovery Bay project said his company favoured a direct road link from the area to Chek Lap Kok airport.

Patrick Chung, general manager (planning and co-ordination) of Hongkong Resort, said the company had identified the need to provide new transport arrangement for its development.

"We would also like to take active part in negotiating with the Government concerning development surrounding our site," said Mr Chung.

Government planners said the matter would be addressed by the Port Peninsular Development Strategy Study.