

Henry Henry & Landown

Govt asked to help as landowners  
short-circuit China Light plant

# \$8.4b POWER PLAN IN DANGER

by  
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**TENS of thousands of landowners are standing in the way of China Light's new \$8.4 billion Tuenmun power plant — and the company has appealed to the Government for help.**

The power company's huge \$500 million overhead cable system will have to pass through the properties of literally tens of thousands of landowners.

This means China Light officials have the virtually impossible task of having to get permission to trespass from all the landowners.

The company has now appealed to the Government for help and officials are now considering new legislation giving China Light the "right of way" into private property.

"It's a really tricky problem," one Government official said yesterday.

"The power company wants the right of way so it will not have to negotiate with the landowners who may seek compensation for the intrusion," the official said.

"What the Government has got to do is find a solution with built-in safeguards for property owners if the power company is given the right of way into private property."

But whatever government officials decide to do, they've not got much time left.

Sources said yesterday a solution had to be found by the end of the year.

Work on the new power cable system will have to start eventually and any confrontation with landowners will have to be staved off before then.

"Without right-of-way laws the route of the overhead cable system could be thrown into confusion even if a fraction of the thousands of landowners object," another source said yesterday.

The \$500 million system will more or less encircle the New Territories, passing over private land, country parks and Crown land.

The planned route is necessary to bring power supply to populated areas in the New Territories, including the new towns and Kowloon.

Spreading out in two directions, the cable system will start from the new plant at Tapshekkok.

One will run to Yuenlong, Taipo, Shatin and Hammerhill while the other will go towards Kwatchung and Laichikok.

Sources said the problem is not so much Crown land.

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## Power plan in danger

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and country parks but private land.

Although by comparison the area of private land involved is small when measured against Crown land and country parks which will also be affected by the overhead lines, literally tens of thousands of landowners are involved.

Batches of high voltage heavy cables will weave between 270 towering pylons dotting the countryside.

The pylons do not pose a problem because each one only requires a small chunk of land.

"It's the cables that stretch almost round the New Territories that's giving everybody a headache, one official said.

The Government has called in Legal Aid Department officials to come up with solutions.