

SCMP 15-7-2005  
**Letters**

## Canopy a health hazard

I echo the call for the proposed canopy of the West Kowloon Cultural District to be dropped as suggested in your leader "Culture hub a test of Tsang's election pledges" (July 8).

The canopy will not only be prohibitively expensive and environmentally unfriendly, but it will pose a severe public health hazard – it would be a potential breeding ground for pathogenic micro organisms.

The canopy blocks the sun's ultraviolet light, which is the most powerful natural disinfectant. Moreover, as the space under the giant structure will be extremely humid from April to the end of September, the area will be plagued with significant condensation on the outside walls of all the air-conditioned buildings and on the ground. Moist sea breezes will be another source of moisture. This wet and warm

environment is an ideal incubator for the growth of all forms of microbials.

Besides, insects, birds and rodents are free to come, breed and die under the canopy, not to mention domestic pets set free by their owners. How is our government going to disinfect the canopy area every day? By the laws of natural balance, most insects, birds and rodents which go to the canopy are likely to multiply and most will die there, instead of migrating elsewhere.

The West Kowloon site commands a panoramic view of Victoria Harbour and the Hong Kong skyline, and does not need a canopy. Hong Kong needs an urban park. A park gets more attractive as it gets older. It does not cost much and is environmentally sustainable.

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