

6 August, 2020

Editor  
The Australian  
Email: letters@theaustralian.com.au

Dear Editor,

I refer to your editorial "A further blow to Hong Kong" (3 August, 2020).

The health and wellbeing of all Hong Kong people is Hong Kong Government's overriding concern. We are at a critical juncture in our current battle against COVID-19. If not handled resolutely, the current wave of infections could spiral out of control to overwhelm Hong Kong's public hospital system.

In the light of the latest epidemic situation, the Electoral Affairs Commission wrote to the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) on 28 July expressing concerns over the public health risks of conducting the General Election. The decision to postpone the 2020 Legislative Council General Election in Hong Kong is to protect public health and to protect the voting rights of all registered voters.

The Hong Kong Government attaches importance to protecting the constitutional right of Hong Kong residents to participate in elections. With the stringent social distancing measures in place, no meaningful electioneering activities could be conducted. This would prevent candidates from putting across their manifesto to voters. Moreover, the strict boundary control measures make it virtually impossible for voters outside Hong Kong to return to cast their vote. If the election is to be held on 6 September as scheduled, it would be difficult for the election to be a fair and open one.

In view of the above, the HKSAR Government had to make the difficult but necessary decision to postpone the election.

Yours sincerely,  
Raymond Fan  
Director  
(Representative to Australia and New Zealand)