



HKETO
Government of the HKSAR

By email and post

23 August 2019

The Editor
The Australian

Dear Editor,

I write to let you know that the content of a full page advertisement titled "Stand with Hong Kong until Dawn" published in your newspaper on 20 August 2019 was misleading.

There is no basis to suggest that the rights and freedoms of Hong Kong people are under threat or have been eroded. The freedom of protest and the freedom of the press are very much alive and well for the whole world to see. For example, since June, Hong Kong Police have issued more than 100 Letters of No Objection in response to 125 applications for rallies or processions. Local and international media have been covering these events in great detail without interference and continue to do so.

Hong Kong has been severely affected by violent protests. There were severe chaos at the international airport causing disruptions to innocent visitors, vandalism of public property and attacking of Police stations. These were not peaceful and rational expression of views but disrespect for rights and freedoms of others.

At such a critical juncture in Hong Kong's history, people from all sectors should help restore the peace and calm for which Hong Kong is well known and under which it has thrived. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government will start immediately a platform for dialogue with people from all walks of life to listen to different views.

Please publish this letter in your newspaper.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Winnie Chan
Acting Director

Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Sydney)