



Annex 1: Reasons for Project Rejection

1. The aim of the project given as to accommodate Boeing 777 twinjet landing unfortunately is not a valid justification when compared to the long-term environmental and socio-economic negative impacts that would arise from this project.
2. The frequency of landing of large aircrafts is expected to be minimal in the medium-term and the frequency of landing in the long term is also unknown.
3. Reclamation works would lead to permanent loss of a large area of Maafaru lagoon, affecting the surrounding coral reef ecosystem.
4. Loss of lagoon space for future island expansion, while there is a high demand by the Island Council and community for excess land reclamation to compensate for the land being taken up for this expansion project.
5. Proposed dredging methodology (CSD) takes more time in operation and therefore timeframe for marine impacts is substantial. If the alternative methodology (TSHD) is to be used, the project footprint would expand outside Maafaru lagoon.
6. Sand burrow site for the reclamation has a rich sea grass bed, which is a habitat for many juvenile marine lives as well as a sea turtle grazing area.
7. Dredging the inner lagoon would result in turbidity and sedimentation as well as changes to the hydrodynamics which would most likely result in erosion and accretion of the unprotected coastal areas in the residential side of Maafaru, alternatively increasing the cost of the project as shore protection would be required.
8. The Island is known for sea turtle nesting, hence the loss of the grazing site as well as the turtle nesting beaches due to predictable erosion, from the activities of this project will have a direct negative impact on the marine life within the vicinity.
9. The airport expansion footprint will affect a total of 22,000 trees, which is a major portion of the existing vegetation of the island. Furthermore, this area also contains plots allocated for residential buildings pending constructions. Hence, if the compensation plots are to be allocated from the available land on the other end of the island, that would mean, the last remaining mature vegetation of the island would also be destroyed and Maafaru would be left barren of any

