

CSO/ADM CR 14/3231/97

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The Hon Selina Chow Liang Shuk-ye, JP  
Chairman of the House Committee  
Legislative Council Building  
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### **Proposed Priority in the Scrutiny of Bills by Members**

I am writing to suggest that priority be accorded by Members to the scrutiny of the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment) Bill 2002, which was introduced into the Legislative Council on 24 April 2002, proposing improvement measures to minimise delays in completion of street excavation works.

At present, permits for excavation works on streets maintained by Highways Department as well as on other unleased government lands are issued free of charge. This is not in line with the user-pays principle and the current arrangement does not provide the permit holders with any incentive to complete their works as expeditiously as possible. The Amendment Bill seeks to introduce a series of improvement measures, including a scheme charging excavation permit holders for the economic costs in relation to the likely traffic impact caused by the excavation works. These measures, if implemented, could discourage delays in completion of street excavations and help smoothen traffic flow. We therefore propose that priority be accorded to the scrutiny of the Amendment Bill so that the improvement measures could be put in place as soon as possible.

I should be grateful if you would put forward our above suggestion for Members' consideration at the coming House Committee meeting on 14 June 2002.

( Andrew H Y Wong )  
Director of Administration