Bills Committee on Product Eco-responsibility Bill

List of follow-up actions arising from the discussion at the meeting on 13 May 2008

- (1) To consider including "polluter-pays principle" in clause 2(1)(b) to require relevant parties to share the responsibility to minimize the environmental impact of certain types of products. To also consider replacing the last "and" in clause 2(1)(b) with "or" to reflect more accurately the different responsibilities of different parties.
- (2) To advise the criteria for appointment and the minimum ranking of "authorized officer" under clause 3. Reference should be made to other recently enacted environmental legislation in respect of appointment of authorized officer.
- (3) To consider combining Part 2 and Part 3 of the Bill such that all the provisions confines only to plastic shopping bags. To also conduct an overhaul of the Bill to delete any provisions which are not relevant to the implementation of producer responsibility scheme on plastic shopping bags.
- (4) To advise the reasons for the arrangement under clause 6(3) for an authorized officer to take with him such persons as he reasonably requires to assist him in the performance of a function under the Bill. To also advise how "reasonably requires" can be qualified and whether similar provision can be found in other existing legislation.
- (5) To review the extensive power under clause 7(1)(b) which requires a person to provide all reasonable assistance, information or explanations in connection with any record or document kept by him/her, failure of which will be liable to a fine of \$200,000. To also advise whether similar power can be found in other existing legislation designed for the collection of levy.
- (6) To advise the circumstances under which entry to and search of domestic premises with a warrant are required. To also consider excluding domestic premises from the entry and search provisions under the Bill.

Council Business Division 1 <u>Legislative Council Secretariat</u> 26 May 2008