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29 February 2008

Clerk to Panel
Panel on Environmental Affairs
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central, Hong Kong

(Attn.: Mrs Mary Tang)

Dear Mrs Tang,

EA Panel Meeting on 28 January 2008 (Agenda item VI)

The subject of “Government efforts in addressing climate change” was discussed at the captioned meeting. The Panel suggested the Administration to consider including in the terms of reference of the Inter-departmental Working Group on Climate Change (IWGCC) a timetable within which emission reduction targets for greenhouse gases (GHG) should be set, such that the subject could be considered in the context of the consultancy study on climate change.

We have reviewed the above suggestion in conjunction with the scope of the planned consultancy study on climate change. The IWGCC is tasked to, *inter alia*, oversee the conduct of the consultancy study, which will formally commence next month. As set out in the consultancy study brief, the selected consultants are required to “review different strategies, policies, measures, technologies, programmes, plans, legislations and regulations that are recommended by IPCC or currently adopted by overseas countries to control GHG emissions or increase the sinks of GHG”; and “with full consideration of the findings of the reviews, to develop and evaluate additional policies and measures, including available options, which could be implemented in Hong Kong”. The

option of formulating emission reduction targets will therefore be considered under the consultancy study which will be further deliberated by IWGCC.

Regarding the Panel's request for information in respect of latest development on the bus-bus interchange schemes, the Secretary for Transport and Housing will respond separately.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Wong', with a stylized flourish at the end.

(Mr David Wong)

for Director of Environmental Protection

c.c. STH (Attn : Mrs Avia Lai) (Fax : 2104 7274)