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Advisory Council on the Environment
Comments on the proposal to further enhance the regulation of depositing
of abandoned construction and demolition materials on private land

The Advisory Council on the Environment (the Council) discussed the Administration's proposal to amend the Waste Disposal Ordinance (WDO) (Chapter 354) to further enhance the regulation of depositing of abandoned construction and demolition (C&D) materials on private land at its meeting on 8 February 2010. The Council's views on the proposal are as follows -

- (a) the Council supported the proposed amendments to the WDO as it was an important step to enhance the legal framework for enforcement actions to further combat the problem of unauthorized depositing of abandoned C&D materials on private land;
- (b) the Council considered it important to let the public understand the comprehensive picture and purpose of the amendments. To avoid confusion or misunderstanding, it was necessary to highlight that the amendments would not grant any extra right to landowners in respect of depositing activities and these activities must still comply with requirements of existing legislation;
- (c) the Council recommended that the relevant "Written Permission Form" be refined to avoid any possible confusion or misunderstanding;
- (d) the Council considered it important to step up policing and deploy more manpower resources to strengthen enforcement actions and respond to complaints; and
- (e) the Council noted that WDO was only one of the tools in tackling the problem. On top of concerted efforts and inter-departmental collaboration among government departments concerned, relevant departments should continue to review other instruments under different legislation to come up with a package of control measures to prevent and address the problem.