

香港特別行政區政府
保安局



The Government of the
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
Security Bureau

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22 December 2011

Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road, Central
Hong Kong
(Attn: Mr Derek LO)

Dear Mr Lo,

**Public Works Subcommittee
Follow-up to meeting on 14 December 2011**

I refer to your letter of 16 December 2011 to the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury.

At the Public Works Subcommittee meeting on 14 December 2011, Members requested the Administration to provide information on the "Study on Land Use Planning for the Closed Area" (the Study) undertaken by the Planning Department during the discussion on the funding application for Project 12GB "Construction of a secondary boundary fence and new sections of primary boundary fence and boundary patrol road - phase 2" (which was endorsed by Members). The Development Bureau has provided the requested information as set out below.

Information on the "Study on Land Use Planning for the Closed Area"

In January 2008, the Security Bureau announced that the coverage of the Frontier Closed Area (FCA) would be substantially reduced from about 2 800 hectares to about 400 hectares. The Study was commissioned by the

Planning Department to examine the future use of the areas to be released from the FCA. The findings of the Study were to provide inputs for the preparation of statutory town plans for the Study area.

The Study has adopted a comprehensive two-stage community engagement programme to proactively engage the community in the planning of the Study area. The Stage 1 Community Engagement was carried out in 2008 to present the Draft Concept Plan to the community and to invite public comments on the development concepts. During that stage of public engagement, the Development Bureau consulted the Legislative Council Panel on Development on 27 May 2008 (LC Paper No. CB(1)1602/07-08(03)). Based on the comments and suggestions received, the proposals in the Draft Concept Plan were refined and further developed. Taking into account the results of the broad technical assessment and strategic environmental assessment, the Draft Development Plan was prepared for the Stage 2 Community Engagement during which the Development Bureau consulted the Legislative Council Panel on Development on 24 November 2009 (LC Paper No. CB(1)396/09-10(07)).

The Study was completed in July 2010 and its final report is set out at the website of the Planning Department:

http://www.pland.gov.hk/pland_en/misc/FCA/frontier_eng/frontier_e.htm

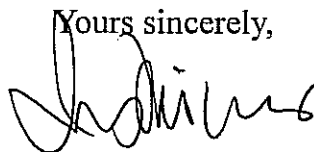
In line with the objective to achieve a balance between development and conservation, the Study report proposes a sustainable planning framework that respects the existing rural settings, local traditions and ways of life without compromising the ecologically and environmentally sensitive areas. The vision is to maintain the area as a belt of conservation, cultural heritage and sustainable uses. While making good use of vacant land or abandoned agricultural land for appropriate scale and form of developments at suitable locations in the area, the Study report proposes to preserve the ecologically and environmentally sensitive areas, including the protection of the key ecological areas in the eastern and western portions of the area under the land use framework by designating them as the country park, conservation area and green belt.

A broad traffic and transport assessment was undertaken as part of the Study. It has illustrated that the existing road network will have sufficient capacity to cater for the increase in traffic arising from development in the FCA upon its release and some improvement schemes are proposed for existing rural roads.

To put the area to be released from the FCA under statutory planning control, the Planning Department subsequently prepared five Development Permission Area (DPA) Plans based on the Recommended Development Plan of

the Study. The DPA Plans were gazetted on 30 July 2010 for public inspection in accordance with the Town Planning Ordinance. Hearings of the representations and comments, and of the further representations and further comments had been completed by the Town Planning Board, recommendations would be submitted to the Chief Executive in Council for approval in due course.

Yours sincerely,



(Ms Veronica Wong)
for Secretary for Security

c.c.

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