



Reclamation outside the harbour only as last resort for specific needs

Civic Party has studied the Strategy to Enhance Land Supply, and will submit the following views during the current Stage 1 Public Engagement Exercise:

1. To increase land supply the first priority must be the rezoning and resumption of inefficiently and inappropriately used land in the New Territories, and the development of new towns including in the north-west New Territories.

This will create employment opportunities in the New Territories and allow sensitive areas to be conserved. The Civic Party has promoted this development strategy for some time, including with our recommendation for a Kam Sheung Road station for the Express Rail Link.

2. The Civic Party supports the use of caverns as and when the costs are justified by public gains such as improvement of the environment. We also support the use of caverns when no land is available in already built up areas to provide public utilities and facilities.

Subject detailed cost/benefit analysis and environmental impact assessments, Civic Party supports moving the sewage treatment facilities in Sha Tin into a cavern. This will allow the waterfront to be opened up for the public, and the remainder of the site can be used for residential developments including public housing.

However, we are concerned that there are no net public gains when creating housing sites by moving the Mt. Davis water reservoirs into caverns. The sites are currently green open spaces in a large green belt used by the public for leisure and recreation.

3. Reclamation outside Victoria Harbour should be used as a measure of last resort only and after all other means have been exhausted. The public need must have been established with cogent materials based on extensive public discussion of that specific need.



Reclamation if any, should contribute to high quality urban design and be based on well considered land use plans and detailed layout plans. The government has yet to put convincing arguments forward for the creation of a land bank through reclamation for undetermined uses.

Having said this, we support minimal reclamation outside Victoria Harbour for facilities and uses which enhance the public enjoyment of Hong Kong's waters and coast lines, provided they meet stringent environmental standards