立法會 Legislative Council

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Public Works Subcommittee of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council

Minutes of the 17th meeting held in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex on Wednesday, 18 June 2014, at 8:30 am

Members present:

Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, BBS, MH, JP (Chairman)

Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP (Deputy Chairman)

Hon James TO Kun-sun

Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP

Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP

Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP

Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP

Hon WONG Kwok-hing, BBS, MH

Hon CHAN Hak-kan, JP

Hon CHAN Kin-por, BBS, JP

Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP

Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC

Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip

Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP

Hon James TIEN Pei-chun, GBS, JP

Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming

Hon WU Chi-wai, MH

Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP

Hon Charles Peter MOK

Hon CHAN Han-pan

Hon CHAN Yuen-han, SBS, JP

Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, JP

Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung

Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan

Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, JP Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun, BBS, MH, JP Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen

Members absent:

Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau Hon Gary FAN Kwok-wai Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok

Public officers attending:

Mr YEUNG Tak-keung Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and

the Treasury (Treasury)3

Mr WAI Chi-sing, JP Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)

Mr Thomas CHOW Tat-ming, Permanent Secretary for Development

P (Planning and Lands)

Ms Anissa WONG, JP Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Ms Jasmine CHOI Suet-yung Principal Assistant Secretary for Financial

Services and the Treasury (Treasury) (Works)

Mr HON Chi-keung, JP

Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Chi-ch Engineering and Development

Mr MAK Chi-biu Chief Engineer (Hong Kong (1))

Civil Engineering and Development

Department

Ms Amy CHEUNG Yi-mei Assistant Director (Territorial) (Acting)

Planning Department

Mr Robin LEE Kui-biu Deputy Head of Civil Engineering Office (Port

and Land)

Civil Engineering and Development

Department

Mr David LAM Chi-man Chief Town Planner (Strategic Planning)

(Acting), Planning Department

Clerk in attendance:

Ms Sharon CHUNG Chief Council Secretary (1)6

Staff in attendance:

Mr Jimmy MA Legal Adviser

Mr Andy LAU

Mr Bonny LOO

Mr Fred PANG

Mr Frankie WOO

Assistant Secretary General 1

Assistant Legal Adviser 3

Senior Council Secretary (1)8

Senior Legislative Assistant (1)3

Ms Christy YAU Legislative Assistant (1)7

Action

The Chairman advised that the Public Works Subcommittee ("PWSC") would continue to examine five of the unfinished agenda items carried over from the meeting on 10 June 2014, which, if endorsed, would involve a total funding allocation of \$8,824.4 million. If these proposals were approved, the cumulative number of Capital Works Reserve Fund items approved by PWSC in the 2013-2014 session would be 25 while the total amount of funding approved would be \$67,619.4 million, of which \$63,868.5 million was related to capital works projects.

- 2. <u>The Chairman</u> advised that, according to the Administration, excluding the five items on the agenda for the meeting, it was anticipated that 20 more items, involving a proposed funding allocation of about \$11,740.0 million, would be submitted to PWSC for consideration in the current session.
- 3. The Chairman reminded members that in accordance with Rule 83A of the Rules of Procedure ("RoP") of the Legislative Council ("LegCo"), they should disclose the nature of any direct or indirect pecuniary interests relating to the funding proposals under discussion at the meeting before they spoke on the item. He also drew members' attention to Rule 84 of RoP on voting or withdrawal in case of direct pecuniary interest.

Head 707 – New Towns and Urban Area Development
PWSC(2014-15)10 770CL Planning, engineering and architectural study for topside development at Hong
Kong boundary crossing facilities island of Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge

- 4. The meeting continued the deliberation on the agenda item.
- 5. <u>The Chairman</u> advised that at the last meeting the Subcommittee had completed discussion on the funding proposals, and had dealt with motions

from members for adjournment of the item as well as further proceeding of PWSC under paragraph 33 of the PWSC Procedure. The meeting had also dealt with two motions for expressing views on the item under paragraph 32A of the PWSC procedure.

- 6. Before putting the item to vote, <u>the Chairman</u> asked if members had any further questions on the item.
- 7. <u>Mr Albert CHAN</u> said that Mr Gary FAN had prepared 12 motions to express views on the funding proposal pursuant to paragraph 32A of the PWSC Procedure. As Mr Gary FAN was absent from the meeting and could not move the motion, <u>Mr Albert CHAN</u> said that he would then move the motions prepared by Mr Gary FAN under his name. <u>Mr CHAN</u>, accordingly, submitted 12 motions in written form to the Chairman.
- 8. <u>The Chairman</u> suspended the meeting for 10 minutes to consider whether the motions just submitted by Mr Albert CHAN were directly related to the agenda item under deliberation.
- 9. When the meeting resumed, the Chairman said that he had examined the proposed motions submitted by Mr Albert CHAN and ruled that eight of the proposed motions were directly related to the agenda item under deliberation. He would put them to the Subcommittee to decide whether they should be proceeded forthwith. The Chairman also returned to Mr Albert CHAN the remaining motions he considered not directly related to the agenda item under deliberation.
- 10. <u>The Chairman</u> put to vote the question that motion numbered 0003 be proceeded forthwith. As requested by Mr WU Chi-wai, the Chairman ordered a division and the division bell was rung for five minutes before members cast their votes. The question was voted down by a majority of members. <u>The Chairman</u> said that the motion would not be proceeded forthwith.
- 11. <u>Mr TAM Yiu-chung</u> moved that in the event of further divisions being claimed in respect of any motions or questions under the same agenda item, the Subcommittee should proceed to each of such divisions immediately after the division bell had been rung for one minute.
- 12. <u>The Chairman</u> put to vote Mr TAM Yiu-chung's motion. At the request of Mr Albert CHAN, <u>the Chairman</u> ordered a division. The division bell was rung for five minutes before members cast their votes. The question was agreed by a majority of members. <u>The Chairman</u> declared that the motion was passed by the Subcommittee and that the duration of the

division bell in respect of any motions or questions under this agenda item would henceforth be shortened to one minute.

- 13. The Chairman took turns to put to vote the questions that the proposed motions numbered 0004, 0005, 0006, 0008, 0010, 0012 and 0013 be proceeded forthwith. As requested by Mr Albert CHAN, the Chairman ordered a division in respect of each of the questions, and the division bell was rung for one minute before members voted on individual questions. All questions were voted down by a majority of members.
- 14. <u>Dr Fernando CHEUNG</u> indicated his intention to raise further works-related questions on the funding proposal.
- 15. <u>The Chairman</u> said that the meeting had finished discussion on the funding proposal and had dealt with motions from members to express views on the agenda item. It had been the Subcommittee's practice that no further questions would be raised at that stage. <u>The Chairman</u> added that members could request that the item be taken out for separate voting when it was put to the Finance Committee ("FC") for approval among other recommendations from the Subcommittee. Members could raise questions at the FC meeting.
- 16. <u>The Chairman</u> put the item PWSC(2014-15)10 to vote. At the request of Mr Albert CHAN, <u>the Chairman</u> ordered a division. Thirteen members voted for and three members voted against the item. The voting results of individual members were as follows –

For:

Mr CHAN Kam-lam
Ms Emily LAU Wai-hing
Mr TAM Yiu-chung
Mr WONG Kwok-hing
Mr CHAN Kin-por
Mr IP Kwok-him
Mr Frankie YICK Chi-ming
Mr WU Chi-wai
Mr MA Fung-kwok
Mr Charles Peter MOK
Mr LEUNG Che-cheung
Mr Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun
Mr Tony TSE Wai-chuen

Against:

(13 members)

Mr Alan LEONG Kah-kit Mr Albert CHAN Wai-yip Dr Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung (3 members)

17. <u>The Chairman</u> declared that the item was endorsed by the Subcommittee.

Head 705 – Civil Engineering PWSC(2014-15)11 768CL Strategic studies for artificial islands in the Central Waters

18. <u>The Chairman</u> said that the item sought the support of the Subcommittee to recommend to FC the upgrading of 768CL to Category A at an estimated cost of \$226.9 million in money-of-the-day prices for carrying out the strategic studies for artificial islands in the central waters and associated site investigation works.

Artificial islands in central waters

- 19. Mr Albert CHAN commented that the proposed construction of artificial islands in central waters to provide land for meeting the housing supply objective would destroy Hong Kong's natural environment that the public cherished. On the other hand, the Government did not dare to develop such sites as the Fanling Golf Course or the land held by the Garrison. Mr CHAN queried whether the Government had conducted a territory-wide strategic planning study to identify suitable locations for housing and other development.
- 20. <u>Director of Civil Engineering and Development</u> ("DCED") said that it was a community's consensus that more land was required to sustain Hong Kong's continued development. Not only did the Government need to provide more housing units, but it also needed to create more spacious environment to improve the living quality of people of Hong Kong. The Administration forecast that the projected population would rise by over 1 million by 2041. More land was also required to sustain Hong Kong's economic development. Various land search exercises had been conducted, and the Government recognised the broad support for a six-pronged approach for increasing land supply as revealed by the Stage 1 public engagement exercise ("PE") for the study on "Enhancing Land Supply Strategy ("ELSS"): Reclamation outside Victoria Harbour and Rock Cavern Development" in 2011.

Conservation issues

21. <u>Miss Alice MAK</u> said that Administration should ensure that the construction of artificial islands in the central waters would not damage the marine ecology and would not affect the operation of local fishermen. <u>DCED</u> said that the scope of the strategic studies included the assessments of impacts on marine ecology and fisheries, and consultation would be maintained with the fisherman community and relevant stakeholders.

Development options under ELSS and planning procedure

22. <u>Dr Fernando CHEUNG</u> commented that Hong Kong was not short of land for development, but it lacked proper and effectual planning. <u>Dr CHEUNG</u> asked, during the two stages of PE, which of the six-pronged approach received the strongest objection. <u>DCED</u> advised that there was broad support for the six-pronged approach for enhancing land supply during the Stage 1 PE of ELSS and that there was roughly a balance of public opinions in favour and against reclamation. <u>The Chairman</u> requested the Administration to provide a summary of the results of the Stage 1 and Stage 2 PE of ELSS after the meeting.

Admin

- 23. <u>Dr Fernando CHEUNG</u> asked when the concepts of the East Lantau Metropolis ("ELM") and the development of artificial islands around Kau Yi Chau were first conceived. <u>DCED</u> advised that, in response to public's suggestion, the Administration had proposed 25 possible reclamation sites outside Victoria Harbour to facilitate public discussion on the initial site selection criteria during the Stage 1 PE of ELSS and one of them was in the vicinity of Kau Yi Chau. The ELM concept emerged naturally afterwards as the central waters had good potential for development of artificial islands and the geographical advantage of being close to urban areas.
- 24. <u>Mr Albert CHAN</u> noted that the Hong Kong 2030 Study had set out directions for long-term development of Hong Kong. He did not recall that the Study had envisaged large-scale reclamation in the central waters. <u>Mr Albert CHAN</u> criticized the Administration for trying to implement a new planning concept without having gone through proper planning process and public consultation. He said that all the efforts put in developing the Hong Kong 2030 Study were wasted.
- 25. <u>DCED</u> said that territorial planning was a dynamic process and needed to be reviewed from time to time in the light of changing circumstances and new development opportunities. Assistant Director (Acting), Planning Department ("AD(Territorial)(Acting)/PlanD"), said that in the course of carrying out the Hong Kong 2030 Study, which was completed in 2007, the Administration recognized the need for additional land to support Hong Kong's long-term development. Given the long lead time for planning and formation of land, it was now necessary to start planning on a time horizon beyond 2030. AD(Territorial)(Acting)/PlanD added that the proposed strategic studies for artificial islands in the central waters would provide the necessary inputs to the Administration in formulating the longer-term planning strategy.

- 26. <u>Ms Emily LAU</u> noted that the ELM concept was to be implemented without prior public consultation. She queried why the Administration had not adhered to proper planning procedure. <u>DCED</u> said that ELSS had pointed out the need for land to sustain future development of Hong Kong and the public had been engaged on the opportunity of developing artificial islands in the central waters during the PE exercises. <u>DCED</u> assured members that public consultation and engagement efforts would continue to be made.
- 27. <u>AD(Territorial)(Acting)/PlanD</u> supplemented that in conducting strategic planning exercises, the Administration would ascertain needs and identify options, and would then evaluate, select and prioritize feasible options for further investigation and implementation. The proposed strategic studies would look into the development opportunities in the central waters and assess their broad technical feasibility, thereby providing important inputs to the formulation and consideration of different development options beyond 2030.
- Miss CHAN Yuen-han noted that the proposed development of 28. artificial islands in central waters was controversial. She said that the Administration must handle any public objections arising with care. Miss CHAN asked if the Administration had evaluated the public reactions arising from the two stages of the PE exercise. DCED said that views for and against the reclamation approach were mixed amongst the comments received from the Stage 1 PE. Those who objected to the reclamation approach were concerned about the impacts on local communities and the environment, including the marine ecology and the operations of fishermen in Hong Kong waters. DCED said that according to the broad technical assessment undertaken during the ELSS study, the proposed central waters were considered most suitable for developing artificial islands taking into account the impacts on local communities and the environment.
- 29. <u>Miss CHAN Yuen-han</u> cautioned that the Administration needed to handle the diversified views very seriously, particularly when the interests of stakeholders were affected. <u>Miss CHAN</u> said that the Administration would fuel further controversies in the later stages of the artificial islands proposal if the public objections were not resolved before it proceeded to the other stages of the project.
- 30. Mr Alan LEONG commented that it was improper for the Subcommittee to be asked to recommend to FC the approval of funding for conducting studies of a concept that was conceived at the whim of the Government without having gone through a due process. DCED said that the concept of providing land by artificial islands was mentioned in the two

- stages of the PE exercise of ELSS. <u>AD(Territorial)(Acting)/PlanD</u> added that the proposed strategic studies would provide useful information to support longer-term planning for 2030 and beyond.
- 31. <u>Dr Fernando CHEUNG</u> asked if the proposed strategic studies would cover reclamation in Hei Ling Chau, Mui Wo and Sunshine Island, including the associated rail or road links connecting the areas with the Hong Kong Island and Lantau. <u>DCED</u> advised that the proposed study was a high level conceptual study covering the preliminary extent and location of the artificial islands, the connecting road and the transportation networks. However, the detailed engineering feasibility and design of the proposed works would have to be examined in subsequent planning and engineering studies.
- 32. <u>Mr Albert CHAN</u> echoed Mr Alan LEONG's comment and said that it was not appropriate for the Administration to announce unilaterally without a due process and proper consultation that the studies would provide directions for development beyond 2030. He commented that the funding proposal seemed to cover engineering feasibility aspects and was more than a conceptual study as the Administration had claimed.

Publicity and public education on ELSS

- 33. Mr WONG Kwok-hing supported the proposed strategic studies for artificial islands in the central waters in view of the long-term land supply direction of Hong Kong. He appealed to members for support on the proposal to explore the feasibility of developing artificial islands in the central waters, as it became increasingly difficult to identify large areas of land over the territory for major development. Mr WONG asked the Administration to provide information to the public setting out the necessity and importance of the proposal to Hong Kong.
- 34. <u>DCED</u> responded that following the Stage 1 PE, the Administration had identified a few potential locations for near-shore reclamation and also artificial islands, which required further investigation. In particular, <u>DCED</u> said that the central waters offered good potential for artificial island development since they were neither bounded by shorelines of high ecological value nor constrained by many major infrastructure projects under planning or construction.
- 35. <u>Dr CHIANG Lai-wan</u> suggested that the Administration should produce a three-dimensional animation to show the artificial island development concept for publicity and public education purposes. <u>DCED</u> advised that the Administration could consider Dr CHIANG's suggestion with a view to facilitating public understanding and participation in the

development of the proposal.

Constraints for the proposed strategic studies for artificial islands in the central waters

- 36. <u>Mr WU Chi-wai</u> asked the Administration to specify the scope and the boundary of the proposed strategic studies. He queried why the Administration was reluctant to adopt the themes and conservation proposals of the Revised Concept Plan for Lantau as given constraints in the proposed strategic studies.
- 37. <u>DCED</u> said that the scope and the boundary of the proposed strategic studies were set out in the paper (PWSC(2014-15)11). More precise locations of the artificial islands would be examined in detail in the context of the proposed strategic studies. <u>DCED</u> added that the Revised Concept Plan for Lantau released in 2007 would provide important reference for the proposed strategic studies. However, it was important to allow sufficient flexibility for the consultants to examine different development options including options of improving connectivity between future development areas. He added, however, that statutory requirements as reflected in the Revised Concept Plan for Lantau would certainly be taken as constraints in the strategic studies.
- 38. Mr WU Chi-wai said that the Administration would not have included Hei Ling Chau and Mui Wo in the study areas for reclamation if it had taken the Revised Concept Plan for Lantau as constraints of the proposed strategic studies. Mr WU said that the Administration should make every effort to protect the country parks of Lantau Island. He also said that the voting decisions of Members belonging to the Democratic Party might hinge on how the Administration would take into consideration the Revised Concept Plan for Lantau as constraints of the proposed strategic studies.
- 39. <u>Ms Emily LAU</u> commented that it would be difficult for LegCo Members to support the proposal if the Administration was not willing to take out South Lantau from the proposed strategic studies. She said that those previous development outlines had indicated the need to protect the area.
- 40. <u>DCED</u> reiterated that it would be necessary to leave adequate flexibility for the strategic studies to explore feasible options (e.g. transport connectivity) which might involve South Lantau for comparison purposes. The Administration was aware of the conservation value of South Lantau and would try to strike a balance between conservation and development in the course of the strategic studies.

Land use of reclamation areas

- 41. Mr WU Chi-wai commented that the size of the proposed reclamation near Kau Yi Chau and Lantau Island amount to more than 1 000 hectares. He requested the Administration to explain clearly how these reclaimed areas would be developed to meet the long-term social and economic needs of Hong Kong. Mr WU said that the Administration should have a plan for the land use of the proposed reclamation, and should avoid leaving the reclaimed land simply as land reserve. Miss Alice MAK suggested that the strategic studies should examine the need to supply land to support the development of new industries in Hong Kong.
- 42. <u>DCED</u> said that it would be desirable to leave some parts of the land formed as land reserve, which could then be readily made available to support new industries and economic activities that might emerge as new opportunities of development in future.
- 43. Mr Tony TSE supported the proposal to conduct the strategic studies. However, he expressed concerns that the proposed strategic studies would over-emphasize the engineering aspects of constructing the artificial islands than the land use planning of the reclaimed land. Mr TSE commented that the Administration should first examine the planning issues associated with the development of the artificial islands, its interface and connectivity with the adjacent areas and the synergy effects the developments could generate, before examining the engineering feasibility of constructing the artificial islands. DCED advised that the proposed strategic studies would cover the broad land use concept, sustainable development and other planning elements of the artificial islands, in addition to the engineering feasibility and infrastructure study including broad reclamation extent and transport links and other technical aspects.
- 44. Mr LEUNG Che-cheung agreed that strategic studies should be conducted to identify the long-term development directions for Hong Kong. DCED advised that Hong Kong's population by 2041 was forecast to increase to more than 8.4 million. There would be heavy demand for land to improve the living environment of the population as well as to meet economic growth. For a few decades in the past, the Government had been able to supply about five to seven square kilometres of land through reclamation every five years. Land formation through reclamation had since slowed to almost a halt in the past decade. It was necessary to speed up the land formation process in the near future so that land supply could match development needs.

- 45. <u>Ms Emily LAU</u> queried the source of the Administration's population forecast, which appeared to her to be inconsistent with the Administration's suggestion that the working population was shrinking. <u>DCED</u> explained that the population forecasts he quoted earlier were compiled and published by the Census and Statistics Department.
- 46. <u>Mr LEUNG Che-cheung</u> queried whether the proposed strategic studies would include an assessment of the total area of reclamation for the artificial islands and how such supply of land would support Hong Kong's development needs. <u>DCED</u> said that the exact extent of reclamation to be carried out for the development of artificial islands would be examined in the course of the strategic studies.

Management and co-ordination of the strategic studies for artificial islands in the central waters

- 47. Mr Tony TSE also asked whether the Administration would divide the proposed strategic studies into different components, each to be undertaken by different independent consulting firms. DCED explained that the proposed strategic studies would be a large scale project involving different professional disciplines. Engaging a single consultant to carry out the strategic studies had the advantage of having professionals of different disciplines working under one roof to ensure better co-ordination and interface management during the iterative study processes.
- 48. Mr Tony TSE asked how many consulting firms in Hong Kong would have all the professional expertise required to carry out the proposed strategic studies. DCED said that he did not have the information in hand, but stressed that the usual practice of many similar large-scale studies was that a single consultant would be engaged. This consultant would be allowed to engage sub-consultants with the required expertise to ensure that professionals of different disciplines worked as a team for better co-ordination and interface management. On the other hand, if the strategic studies were undertaken by different consulting firms, there might be interface and co-ordination problems between different consultants.
- 49. <u>Mr Tony TSE</u> had reservations on the Administration's arrangement of engaging a single consultant to carry out the strategic studies. He cautioned that if the sole consulting firm had defined the directions of the development, the Administration would not have the benefits of alternative opinions.

Connectivity of the artificial islands in the central waters

- Miss Alice MAK suggested that the proposed strategic studies would draw up the timetable for the development of the artificial islands. She commented that the project should also explore the connectivity between the artificial islands and the other parts of Hong Kong. Mr LEUNG Che-cheung expressed a similar concern. DCED said that the proposed strategic studies would explore the possible locations for developing artificial islands, address the issues of connectivity between the proposed artificial islands and various parts of the territories, and examine the impact of artificial islands on port operations and marine traffic. The implementation timetable would be developed in the subsequent studies as necessary.
- 51. Mr Michael TIEN asked if the Development Bureau would co-ordinate with the Transport and Housing Bureau ("THB") to look into the development of a new rail link connecting the proposed artificial islands to the rail networks being studied under the auspices of THB. DCED said that the proposed strategic studies would examine, in a broad-brush manner, the development parameters of the artificial islands in the central waters and the strategic infrastructure required to support the development. DCED assured members that there would be proper internal communication within the Administration on various aspects, including the transport connectivity between the artificial islands and other parts of Hong Kong.

Provision of housing units on the artificial islands in the central waters

- Ms Emily LAU noted that about half of the housing units in Hong Kong were smaller than 500 square feet. She said that the Administration should demonstrate to the public that measures were being carried out to improve the living environment of the community to convince the community that the proposed development of artificial islands would be a further means to help achieve this objective. DCED said that the development of artificial islands would provide additional land supply which would, in turn, offer better opportunities to improve living space of the population.
- 53. The Chairman said that the meeting would be extended by 15 minutes.
- 54. <u>Mr Alan LEONG</u> referred to the paper FCR(2000-01)25 seeking FC's approval for \$15 million to conduct the Hong Kong 2030 Study, which was a conceptual planning study. He said that if the funding proposal under deliberation was also meant for a conceptual study, it should follow the same procedure and similar steps as the Hong Kong 2030 Study. <u>Mr LEONG</u>

commented that the current proposal, which included engineering feasibility and infrastructure study, was too elaborate to be a conceptual study. He criticized the Administration for having breached the established planning process.

- 55. <u>DCED</u> responded that the concept of developing artificial islands had been discussed in the PE exercises of ELSS since two years ago. The potential artificial islands involved an unprecedented scale of reclamation that required further investigation and detailed study. The project had however not reached the statutory planning stage.
- Dr Fernando CHEUNG commented that from the information that he had obtained, he could not find any of the 25 proposed artificial island sites that were to be located at Kau Yi Chau. DCED said that one of the proposed sites was near Kau Yi Chau. However, the precise location and size of the reclamation required would be examined in detail in the proposed strategic studies.
- Deputy Head of Civil Engineering Office (Port and Land) 57. supplemented that during the Stage 1 PE of ELSS, the Administration, in response to the public's suggestion, had listed 25 sites to facilitate public These sites include a discussion on the initial site selection criteria. connected island scheme linking Peng Chau and Hei Ling Chau near Kau Yi Chau. The Administration realized that more than one location within the central waters might be suitable for development of artificial islands. After completing the Stage 1 PE and a broad technical assessment, the Administration had recommended five near-shore reclamation sites and identified the opportunity of developing artificial islands in the central waters for public consultation during the Stage 2 PE of ELSS. While the central waters offered good potential for development of artificial islands, there were physical and technical constraints that made it difficult for the Administration to draw up the precise boundary and location for reclamation. As a result, the Administration presented the whole of the central waters as having a good potential of developing artificial islands. There had been general support for the development of artificial islands in the central waters and the concept of ELM began to emerge afterwards.

Any other business

58. As requested by members, the Chairman said that PWSC(2014-15)10 be taken out for separate discussion and voting at the relevant FC meeting. The Chairman said that as the time was up for the meeting, discussion on PWSC(2014-15)11 would continue at the next meeting scheduled for 24 June

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59. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:45 am.

Council Business Division 1 <u>Legislative Council Secretariat</u> 29 August 2014