## 政府總部 發展局 規劃地政科



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本局檔號 Our Ref.

DEVB(PL-P)50/01/28

來函檔號 Your Ref. CB1/F/2/1(7)B

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18 February 2014

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Clerk to Public Works Subcommittee Legislative Council Complex 1 Legislative Council Road Central, Hong Kong (Attn: Ms Sharon CHUNG)

Dear Ms CHUNG,

## <u>Development of Anderson Road Quarry site</u> – Follow-up to the Meeting on 22 January 2014

We refer to your letter of 24 January 2014 to the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury on the above. In response to the first 3 items in your list of issues requiring follow-up action by the Government, after consultation with the Transport and Housing Bureau, we set out our replies below.

Item 1: At the request of Hon Albert CHAN, the Administration would provide a written response to his suggestion of developing a theme park at the Anderson Road Quarry site, similar to the Eden Project in Cornwall, the United Kingdom, to serve educational, recreational, cultural promotion and tourism purposes.

The Government will bear in mind the suggestion when drawing up the scope of the proposed Quarry Park having also regard to the unique landform and historical background of the quarry site. The Park is to serve educational, recreational, cultural promotion and tourism purposes. We understand that the suggestion of developing a theme park similar to the Eden Project had also been raised by the Honourable Member during Stage 1 Community Engagement of the Planning and Engineering Study on Future Land Use at the Ex-Lamma Quarry Area at Sok Kwu Wan, Lamma Island.

Item 2: At the requests of Hon Alan LEONG and Hon CHAN Yuen-han, the Administration would provide information in relation to the Administration's short-, medium- and long-term plans to resolve the traffic congestion problem in East Kowloon, in particular the Choi Hung Interchange, including the study, if any, on the redevelopment of Choi Hung Estate to pave way for carrying out the related large-scale improvement works to address the problem.

To alleviate the traffic congestion at the Choi Hung Interchange (CHI) during peak hours, the Transport Department (TD) has proposed a short-term traffic improvement scheme which includes extending the public light bus (PLB) stop loading/unloading bay at Clear water Bay Road near CHI in order to smoothen the flow of PLB entering the stop bay, and change the road markings to regulate the lane changing action of vehicles and ensure unimpeded traffic flow, so as to alleviate the traffic situation. TD has consulted the Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin District Councils on this improvement scheme, and is considering the views received in revising and enhancing the scheme. TD will continue to liaise with the District Councils for implementation of the improvement measures.

In the medium term, the traffic situation of the major roads parallel with Route 6, including Tseung Kwan O Road, Kwun Tong Road, Kwun Tong Bypass and Choi Hung Road, is expected to be improved significantly when Route 6, which is under design, is commissioned.

In the long term, it is possible that large-scale road improvement measures (e.g. construction of an underpass or flyovers, etc.) would be necessary for CHI due to the actual growth of traffic at the road network. Implementation of the improvement measures would involve resumption of land from Choi Hung Estate. TD will conduct a preliminary investigation on the measures to ascertain their effectiveness in traffic improvement, so as to come up with feasible proposals for implementation when the opportunity arises upon redevelopment of Choi Hung Estate.

The Government is aware of the age of Choi Hung Estate and the demand of residents on the issue of redeveloping the estate. The redevelopment programme of public housing estates is something that the Government will continue to keep under review. In considering the redevelopment of individual public housing estates, the Housing Department and Housing Authority will need to take into consideration the structural safety and cost effectiveness in repair works, as well as build-back potential and availability of suitable rehousing resources

The Government recognises the existing traffic condition of the roundabout at Kwun Tong Road/Hip Wo Street which could be easily congested at present as its traffic volume is already close to the road capacity. The traffic condition of the Kwun Tong town centre will be improved to an acceptable level upon redevelopment of the Kwun Tong town centre together with the associated road improvement measures, including reversing the traffic flow direction of Mut Wah Street, the addition of a left turn lane at Kwun Tong Road/Hip Wo Street roundabout and other traffic management measures.

Moreover, the volume of through traffic going through Kwun Tong Bypass and Kwun Tong Road will be reduced when Route 6 is commissioned. The overall traffic condition of the existing roads in Kwun Tong, including Hip Wo Street, Lei Yue Mun Road and the Kwun Tong Road /Hip Wo Street roundabout, will then be further improved.

The Government will continue to keep under review the whole range of measures to improve the traffic situation in Kwun Tong and report progress to the relevant Panels of the Legislative Council and the relevant District Councils, as well as to consult them on specific improvement measures in due course, including the ones proposed in conjunction with the proposed development at the Anderson Road Quarry (ARQ) site.

Item 3: At the request of Hon Cyd HO, the Administration would provide information on the transport arrangements to ensure the connectivity between the new developments at the Anderson Road Quarry site and the nearby MTR stations, such as the Choi Hung Station, Kwun Tong Station and Lam Tin Station.

The Government has proposed to provide a public transport terminus at the north end of the quarry site and a public transport loading/unloading area near the centre of the site, which could at the same time serve the residents of the adjacent Development of Anderson Road To reduce the traffic loading in the Kwun Tong town housing projects. centre, the traffic impact assessment of the engineering feasibility study has recommended the provision of bus/public light bus connections to the Mass Transit Railway (MTR) stations of Diamond Hill, Lam Tin and Po Lam. TD will devise a public transport services plan and consult the District Councils and locals in due course, such that shuttle services could be provided by the time of population intake for distributing traffic and passengers from the ARQ development to different destinations and MTR At the same time, the Government has also proposed a bus-to-bus interchange at the toll plaza of Tseung Kwan O Tunnel (near the Kowloon exit) so as to facilitate the use of bus services via the Tseung Kwan O Tunnel by the residents.

In addition, the proposed footbridges, lift towers and escalators of the four pedestrian connection routes under the ARQ development would attract the residents of the existing public housing estates along the routes to make use of these facilities to access the other estates and the Kwun Tong MTR Station, thereby reducing their demand for public transport and freeing up some road capacity to cater for the public transport need of the quarry development.

Yours sincerely,

(Kevin Choi)

for Secretary for Development

## c.c.

Secretary for Transport and Housing

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