

**Public Works Subcommittee
Meeting on 4 June 2014**

**List of issues requiring follow-up actions by the Administration
before the relevant meeting of the Finance Committee**

PWSC (2014-15)9

1. At the request of Hon Tony TSE, the Administration would provide information about the manpower support at the relevant Government departments for the maintenance of the greening works to be completed under the Greening Master Plans ("GMPs") for Southeast and Northwest New Territories.

The Administration's response:

The funding application for the implementation of priority greening works under GMPs for Southeast and Northwest New Territories (NT) includes an annual recurrent cost of \$15.1 million, which would be allocated to the relevant government departments, including Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), for maintenance of GMPs greening works. The departments would be allocated resources based on the operational needs and staff resources required for maintaining the new greening measures. The staff resources for maintaining greening works are under regular review. As illustration, ten Amenity Assistant posts had been created for managing and maintaining the greening works under the GMPs for urban area. LCSD is also planning to deploy staff in a similar scale to that for urban GMPs in the future maintenance of softworks completed under the NT GMPs. The actual number of additional staff deployed in future would be subject to review.

2. At the request of Hon Albert CHAN, the Administration would provide information about --
 - (a) whether, under the respective GMP, any specific native tree, shrub and flower would be planted at each district to enhance the local character of the greening works; if yes, the details about the selected species;

The Administration's response:

In order to enhance the local character of the greening works, after consultation with District Councils, local residents and professionals, we propose to plant the

native trees and shrubs with noticeable flowering features. The main examples are set out below-

District	Native trees	Native shrubs
Sha Tin	· <i>Gordonia axillaris</i> · <i>Pongamia pinnata</i>	· <i>Rhododendron simsii</i>
Sai Kung	· <i>Michelia chapensis</i> · <i>Sterculia lanceolata</i>	· <i>Rhaphiolepis indica</i>
Tuen Mun	· <i>Elaeocarpus chinensis</i> · <i>Elaeocarpus sylvestris</i>	· <i>Rhodomyrtus tomentosa</i>
Yuen Long	· <i>Viburnum odoratissimum</i> · <i>Thespesia populnea</i>	· <i>Ixora chinensis</i>

- (b) whether, and in what way, ecological issues have been taken into account when designing the greening works; and

The Administration's response:

We have taken into account ecological considerations in choosing plants in each district. The main points are summarised below-

Sha Tin

There are major existing breeding sites for shore birds such as egrets in Sha Tin and *Ficus microcarpa* is one of the native tree species suitable for nesting and roosting of shore birds. Therefore, this native tree species has been adopted especially for the coastal area near Ma Liu Shui.

Sai Kung

Sai Kung Peninsula is one of the active breeding sites for shore birds in Hong Kong. Native tree species such as *Ficus* sp. can provide nesting and roosting opportunities for local shore and they have been adopted in the Sai Kung GMP.

Tuen Mun

Liquidambar formosana has spectacular red autumn foliage and serves as a food plant for various caterpillars. This complements the butterfly habitat at Siu Lang Shui which is a large butterfly overwintering site in Hong Kong, and the Fung Shui Woods in the vicinity of Lung Kwu Tan Village.

Yuen Long

Native tree species such as *Bischofia javanica*, *Cinnamomum burmannii* and *Ilex rotunda* var. *microcarpa* are proposed to be planted with a view to increasing the biodiversity of native trees and bird species in the area. In addition, *Thespesia populnea* is proposed to reflect and match the river line and estuarine characteristics of the district.

- (c) whether growing plants densely in a small area and in an unnatural way would be avoided.

The Administration's response:

In designing the greening measures under GMPs for Southeast and Northwest New Territories, we have taken into account the experience in greening works under the previous GMPs. For instance, we would limit the number and varieties of plant species within a planting area to a suitable level. We will allow reasonable growing space for the trees and shrubs. Complicated planting design would not be adopted in the current GMPs. We have also made reference to the Proper Planting Practices published by the Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section of the Development Bureau in the planting design. Thus, the concern of growing plants densely in a small area and in an unnatural way would be suitably addressed.