

**The Legislative Council Public Accounts Committee’s Public Hearing on  
“Management of roadside skips” (Chapter 2)  
of the Director of Audit’s Report No. 61  
Speech by Acting Secretary for Transport and Housing**

Chairman,

First of all, we would like to thank the Audit Commission for conducting an audit review of the management of skips and providing valuable comments. We would also like to thank the Public Accounts Committee for giving us a chance to further explain our policy and work.

2. As mentioned in the audit report, a skip is often placed at roadside near a construction site or a building under renovation for the construction and fitting-out trades to store temporarily the waste removed from the site, the building or renovation works, so as to reduce environmental nuisance and facilitate the disposal of such waste in a tidy and orderly manner.

3. All bureaux and departments concerned, including the Development Bureau, Environment Bureau, Transport and Housing Bureau (“THB”), Lands Department, Environmental Protection Department, Transport Department (“TD”) and Hong Kong Police Force, will monitor and enforce against skip operation in accordance with their respective policy objectives and power conferred by the law.

4. It is the policy of THB and TD to promote and ensure road safety. From the traffic and transport management perspectives, skips are best placed in works sites rather than at roadside. However, we understand that operationally the relevant trades may not be able to place skips inside works sites or works areas. To reduce public nuisance caused by skips which may affect the smooth flow and safety of road traffic, TD in response to the request of the Steering Committee on District Administration established under the Home Affairs

Bureau, published in 2008 the Guidelines for Mounting and Placing of Skips to stipulate good practices for skip operation, with a view to reducing obstruction to pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Skip users of course have to comply with relevant legislation if they want to place their skips legally on government land, including roads. There is an established mechanism under the existing law to deal with illegally placed skips.

5. As just mentioned by the Secretary for Development, in order to better handle the problems caused by skips, the Government will set up a joint working group to follow up on the recommendations in the audit report. THB and TD will proactively support the joint working group by providing advice and assistance from the traffic and transport management perspectives.

6. Chairman, the above is our brief response to the audit report. We welcome any questions and suggestions from the Committee.

7. Thank you, Chairman.