

For information

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**PWP Item 5183DR –
Refurbishment and upgrading of Sha Tin Transfer Station**

During the discussion of the above item at the Public Works Subcommittee meeting held on 20 May 2015, the Administration was requested to provide information about --

- (a) how the Administration will achieve effective recovery and recycling of furniture items and wooden pallets received at the transfer station to avoid such items being delivered to the landfills for disposal; and
- (b) the final treatment of the wooden materials recovered.

The requested information is given below:

1. The Sha Tin Transfer Station (STTS) receives on average some 50 to 110 tonnes of bulky waste per day, the majority of which comprise of waste wooden pallets and waste furniture. Upon the designation of South East New Territories Landfill to receive only construction waste, more bulky waste may be received at the STTS. To enhance the handling efficiency of bulky waste at the STTS in its upcoming Second Follow-on Contract, a bulky waste treatment facility with a maximum daily handling capacity of 150 tonnes will be installed. The contractor will be required to sort, shred and recover recyclables from the incoming bulky waste. The activities will be supervised and monitored by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) as part of the STTS operation. The addition of this facility will facilitate the recovery and transportation of recyclable extracted from the bulky waste received.

2. Waste wooden pallets will be the priority material to be shredded at the facility because of its larger quantity and the higher recycling value of pure shredded wood (which is much more compact and can save substantial transportation cost). Waste furniture items will be shredded separately as they are usually composed of different materials other than wood. Components of the shredded furniture which have commercial values, such as wood and metal will be sorted for recycling.

3. The contractor will be required to publicize and promote the sale of the shredded wood and other recyclables recovered from the facility, and to conduct the sale in a fair and commercial manner by open competitive tendering. As a financial incentive for the contractor to extract and sell the recyclables as much as possible, consideration will be given to allow the contractor to retain part of the profit generated from the sale of recyclables under the contract, while the remaining part of the profit will be paid to the Government as royalty.

4. The contract for the sale of recyclables will be renewed regularly and subject to scrutiny by the EPD, who will ensure that the recyclables are effectively recycled through proper outlets and the residues disposed at landfills will be kept to the minimum possible. Potential uses of shredded wood include production of wood fuel, panel boards, landscape surfacing, recycled paper, etc.

5. On a related issue, EPD will install a similar bulky waste treatment facility at the West Kowloon Transfer Station to reduce the bulk volume of waste to be handled and to extract wood and other recyclables for recycling purpose. The bulky waste treatment facility is expected to be commissioned for operation later this year.

Environmental Protection Department
June 2015