

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE**

**117KA – Relocation of New Territories West Regional Office and Water Resources Education Centre of Water Supplies Department to Tin Shui Wai**

**Follow-up Actions to Meeting on 3 June 2015**

Regarding the follow-up actions in respect of upgrading of **117KA** for the “Relocation of New Territories West Regional Office and Water Resources Education Centre of Water Supplies Department to Tin Shui Wai” to Category A during the discussion of PWSC(2015-16)15 at the meeting of the Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC) on 3 June 2015, we would like to provide the Government’s responses below –

Item 1: At the request of Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN, the Administration will provide information about the impact of the proposed project on trees and the proposed remedial measures.

For the proposed new building site at Tin Shui Wai, the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) has already conducted a preliminary tree survey. Of the 19 trees within the site boundary, none are important trees<sup>1</sup>. Subject to a detailed tree survey and finalization of the building design, one tree will be preserved, four trees will be transplanted to other suitable locations within the site and 14 trees will be felled. Trees proposed to be felled include 12 *Leucaena*

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<sup>1</sup> An “important tree” refers to trees in the Register of Old and Valuable Trees, or any other trees that meet one or more of the following criteria –

- (a) trees of 100 years old or above;
- (b) trees of cultural, historical or memorable significance e.g. Fung Shui tree, tree as landmark of monastery or heritage monument, and trees in memory of an important person or event;
- (c) trees of precious or rare species;
- (d) trees of outstanding form (taking account of overall tree sizes, shape and any special features) e.g. trees with curtain like aerial roots, trees growing in unusual habitat; or
- (e) trees with trunk diameter equal or exceeding 1.0 metre (m) (measured at 1.3 m above ground level), or with height/canopy spread equal or exceeding 25 m.

leucocephala (銀合歡), one Celtis sinensis (朴樹) and one Melia azedarach (苦楝). On top of the Leucaena leucocephala (銀合歡) which are invasive species, the Celtis sinensis (朴樹) is found to have a structural defect in the trunk and the Melia azedarach (苦楝) is found to be situated on a sloping ground where formation of a balanced root ball for transplanting will not be practical. All these 14 trees are considered not suitable for transplanting. They cannot be preserved and have to be felled. We have already incorporated a comprehensive planting proposal as part of the project, including about 50 trees (including four transplanted trees and 46 new trees) and 20 000 shrubs/ herbaceous/ groundcovers and climbers.

For the demolition of the existing Water Supplies Department (WSD) facilities in Mong Kok, there are four existing mature trees (*Ficus microcarpa* (細葉榕)) identified within the site boundary. They are generally in healthy condition of significant sizes and will be preserved in-situ in the future development. Appropriate protection measures including protection and stabilization of critical root area as well as identification and setting up of tree protection zone etc. will be taken during the demolition of the WSD facilities.

Item 2: At the request of Dr Hon Helena WONG, the Administration will provide information on whether it will extend the visitor coverage of the Water Resources Education Centre and introduce new initiatives to enhance visitors' knowledge about water resources upon the relocation of the Centre to the proposed site; if yes, the details; if no, the reasons.

The existing temporary education centre in Mong Kok has an area of only 270 square meters (m<sup>2</sup>). Owing to its limited size, it only covers basic information on water resources and is targeted mainly at primary school students at Primary four or above. The new Water Resources Education Centre (WREC) in Tin Shui Wai is aimed at promoting the general public's awareness to the protection of water resources and the scarcity of water. It will have a total floor area of 1 160 m<sup>2</sup>. With the expanded area, the new WREC will introduce more new initiatives and in-depth materials covering various aspects of water resources. It is intended that different themes of water resources will be covered including global water shortage, from a barren rock to a reliable supply, protection of water resources, from source to tap, water conservation, new water resources and future water efficient city. The ultimate goal is to build up a

culture of water conservation amongst the general public thereby contributing to the sustainable use of water resources for future generations. Against this, we will extend our visitor coverage from the current target of primary school students at Primary four or above to the general public. Both guided group visits by appointments, and walk-in visitors are welcome. We will engage expert consultants to plan and design for the exhibits, and will arrange education talks and activities at various levels suitable for students, the general public as well as waterworks practitioners to further enhance consolidation of knowledge on various subjects related to water resources.

Details of the themes of the water resources to be provided at the new WREC are summarised as follows –

(i) Global water shortage

This theme is about the water crises encountered in different parts of the world and how different cities tackle the issue. It will include how scarce water resources are decreasing as a result of water pollution as well as the impact of climate change on water resources. The aim is to promote the public's alertness to the worldwide problem and the consequences of not taking timely action to address it.

(ii) From a barren rock to a reliable supply

This theme is about the development of the public water supply system in Hong Kong from the first well sunk in 1851 to the current supply network. It will highlight the lack of local raw water resources and also the difficult times of water rationing in the 50s and 60s as well as the various innovative measures on the part of government and public to conserve water. The aim is to remind visitors of the difficult times that Hong Kong has experienced in the past and to recapitulate the important message of water conservation.

(iii) Protection of water resources

This theme is about the collection of raw water from our local water gathering grounds. It introduces the mapping of water gathering grounds in Hong Kong, their relationship with our Country Parks and efforts made in protecting the water gathering grounds. The aim is to reinforce the important message of the scarcity of local natural water resources, and how the general public can contribute to protection of the water gathering grounds.

(iv) From source to tap

This theme is about how water is collected, stored, treated, and distributed to consumers, including salt water for flushing. Topics including local water resources, import of water from Dongjiang, various water treatment technologies, the supply and distribution networks, water quality control, measures to minimize leakage as well as maintenance of consumers' pipeworks will be covered. The aim is to provide visitors with knowledge on the efforts required in the management of water resources.

(v) Water conservation

This theme is about the implementation of various initiatives to conserve water such as change of habits in using water and use of water saving devices registered under the Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme. The aim is to equip visitors with the knowledge on how they could contribute to the sustainable use of water resources through only simple change of their habits.

(vi) New water resources

This theme is about the exploitation of different new water resources including seawater desalination, water reclamation as well as grey water reuse and rain water harvesting. The new building in Tin Shui Wai will be installed with a grey water recycling and rainwater harvesting system to recycle the grey water and harvest the rainwater for non-potable uses including toilet flushing. Visitors can view the treatment facilities in action on site. The aim is to provide visitors with the knowledge on the latest technologies and various constraints in the exploration of new water resources.

(vii) Future water efficient city

This theme is about integrated application of the latest technologies in the management of water resources with the goal of enhancing water use efficiency. It will cover new water resources, intelligent network management tools including pressure management, district metering, smart meters, and leakage monitoring and detection systems. The aim is to equip visitors with an insight on how different innovative technologies integrate together towards the vision of building a water efficient city.