



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部食物及衛生局
Food and Health Bureau, Government Secretariat
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

(translation)

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Ms Anita SIT
Clerk to the Finance Committee
Finance Committee
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Fax No.: 2869 6794)

26 January 2018

Dear Ms SIT,

FCR(2017-18)19A

**Site formation and associated infrastructural works
for development of columbarium, crematorium and
related facilities at Sandy Ridge Cemetery**

At the Finance Committee meeting on 20 October 2017, Members requested the Government to provide some information when discussing the captioned item. Having consulted the relevant Bureau and Departments concerned, our consolidated response is as follows.

- (a) **Provide the traffic impact assessment report of this item to the Finance Committee (request of Hon Andrew WAN; meeting time 17:19:44)**

2. The traffic impact assessment report has been uploaded to the website of the Legislative Council from early June 2017 (the relevant link is appended below):

<http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr16-17/english/fc/pwsc/papers/pwsc20170506pwsc-189-1-e.pdf>

(b) The Government's work in planning for green burial facilities in every new development area such that the responsibility can be shared among districts (request of Hon CHU Hoi-dick; meeting time:18:25:30)

3. The Government endeavours to promote green burial (i.e. scattering of ashes in Gardens of Remembrance (GoR) and at sea) as a more sustainable means to handle ashes. To promote green burial, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has deployed more resources in enhancing promotion efforts, including organizing exhibitions, public seminars and talks; producing and broadcasting promotional videos; distributing posters and banners; and collaboration with relevant non-Governmental organizations. While being mindful that it takes time for the community to accept green burial as a socially laudable way to handle ashes, we recognize the need for proactive and sustained steps to fortify necessary mindset changes. We hope that green burial will gradually become the preferred choice of handling of ashes of the public with persistent effort and service enhancement.

4. There are currently 11 GoRs within the eight public columbaria managed by the FEHD for members of the public to scatter ashes. During the planning stage of new public columbaria, we proactively consider whether GoR can be built within the site. For instance, GoRs will be constructed in both the Tuen Mun Tsang Tsui Columbarium which is currently under construction and the Shatin Shek Mun Columbarium which is under planning.

5. Separately, we are also actively exploring with non-Governmental organisations or religious bodies on collaboration opportunities in publicising green burial and provision of green burial facilities. FEHD will also continue to collaborate more with non-Governmental organisations which provide after-death arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]
(Miss Diane WONG)
for Secretary for Food and Health