

Supplementary information regarding the Government's emergency response and recovery work related to Super Typhoon Mangkhut

- (a) *Whether building owners are required to comply with the Code of Practice for Structural Use of Glass 2018 ("the Code of Practice") issued by the Buildings Department when replacing the glass curtain walls of buildings damaged by Super Typhoon Mangkhut ("Mangkhut"), and whether the Government would plan to update the Code of Practice after the passage of Mangkhut, and making it a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice should be complied with:*

The materials, design and construction of curtain walls and windows are regulated under the Building (Construction) Regulations (Cap. 123B). To ensure the safety of new and existing curtain walls and windows, the Buildings Department (BD) has formulated relevant codes of practice and practice notes to provide guidelines on the design wind pressure, safety supervision for installation, safety testing, maintenance and repair, etc. of curtain walls and windows.

In view of the latest development in the design and construction methods of glass structures, BD completed a consultancy study to review the requirements and standards for the materials, design and construction of glass structures. By consolidating the guidelines in the relevant practice notes and taking into account local practices as well as the experience and practices in Europe, the United States, the Mainland, Singapore, Australia and Canada, BD formulated new requirements, which are applicable to the local context yet in line with the latest international standards, and promulgated the Code of Practice for Structural Use of Glass 2018 (the Code) accordingly.

In general, replacement of individual damaged glass structures of existing curtain walls needs only to comply with the technical requirements of the original approved design. That said, BD will process plans of new buildings, as well as those of addition and alteration works for existing buildings in accordance with the technical principles set out in the Code.

- (b) *The current tree management work in Hong Kong and the way forward, including the responsibilities of various tree management Government departments and the coordination of tree management work among these departments:*

The Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section (GLTMS) was established under the Works Branch of the Development Bureau (DEVB) in March 2010 to take up the overall policy responsibility for formulating and coordinating landscape and tree management strategy and initiatives in Hong Kong. Underpinned by the Greening and Landscape Office and the Tree Management Office, GLTMS is responsible for formulating a holistic tree

management policy and coordinating their effective implementation.

The Government adopts a holistic and integrated approach in conserving and managing our tree assets, promoting good planting practices in the upstream and proper tree management in the downstream. Pursuant to this approach, a tree management department responsible for maintaining the facilities or land under its allocation would take care of the trees thereon in accordance with the directions, requirements and guidelines promulgated by GLTMS. The nurturing and maintenance of these trees are then carried out as part and parcel of its daily duty. This approach allows the department concerned to pay close attention to trees under its purview having regard to their specific characteristics as well as other location and maintenance requirements. The division of work among tree management departments (details at **Appendix**) is clear. Tree-related issues and problems can be reported to the Government's one-stop hotline at 1823, which makes prompt referral to the appropriate department for follow-up.

GLTMS steers tree management work in Hong Kong through —

- setting standards and guidelines on tree management requirements, e.g. mandating the annual Tree Risk Assessment and Management (TRAM) exercise for trees in areas with high pedestrian and traffic flows, and promoting good tree management practice;
- coordinating tree management departments in major exercises, auditing tree works and resolving complex cases;
- promoting proper tree care on private properties;
- building capacity in the workforce; and
- educating and engaging the public in respect of tree management and tree safety.

A Works and Maintenance Committee on Greening (WMCG), led by DEVB and comprising tree management and works departments, is in place to oversee the implementation of landscape and tree management policies and initiatives at the departmental level under the “integrated approach”, including the annual TRAM exercise and resolving interdepartmental interface issues, etc. The WMCG also serves as a forum for promulgating good practices, sharing experience, exchanging information and identifying collaboration opportunities in piloting innovative approaches and new arrangements.

The “integrated approach” has been a pragmatic and effective means for proper care of some 1.7 million trees (excluding trees in country parks and unallocated Government land) in Hong Kong. Building on the established TRAM regime, GLTMS will introduce a number of new measures to streamline operation procedures and enhance the output quality of tree risk assessment. These measures include enhancing the risk assessment of tree groups and individual trees, strengthening tree care and conservation, increasing the percentage and frequency of internal audits, and trial application of technologies in tree management.

Effective tree management hinges on the availability of a professional workforce. In the days ahead, GLTMS will focus on building capacity and driving professionalism among practitioners. In collaboration with the Education Bureau, GLTMS has been assisting the arboriculture and horticulture industry to develop the Specification of Competency Standards and the Qualifications Framework. Besides, GLTMS will also study the introduction of a registration system for tree management personnel to uplift the quality of tree management personnel and the professional standing of the industry.

Typhoon Mangkut has caused extensive damage to our tree assets. GLTMS has taken the lead to formulate replanting plans together with core tree management departments. The first inter-departmental tree replanting working group meeting was held in mid-October. For replanting, we will select suitable tree species according to the principle of “Right Tree Right Place”. In this connection, GLTMS has just compiled the Street Tree Selection Guide, which features 80 tree species (of which half are native species) suitable for urban environments. Each of these species has the fundamental abilities to survive and maintain its physiological functions in the urban street environment, with climate resilience (including heat, drought, wind and waterlogging tolerance) and being pest and diseases resistant. The Guide will be promulgated in late 2018 for use by tree management departments as well as for reference and feedback by stakeholders and the public. We will also take the opportunity to improve the growth conditions for newly planted trees and enhance our tree care and risk assessment regimes to strengthen our tree assets against inclement weather.

(c) *The expected time schedule for reopening the beaches which were closed after the passage of Mangkhut:*

After the passage of Mangkhut, 15 gazetted beaches under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) have been reinstated and reopened in October 2018.

Districts	Beach
Tuen Mun	1. Butterfly Beach [#]
	2. Cafeteria New Beach [#]
	3. Cafeteria Old Beach [#]
	4. Castle Peak Beach [#]
	5. Golden Beach [*]
	6. Kadoorie Beach [#]
Tsuen Wan	7. Anglers' Beach [#]
	8. Approach Beach [#]
	9. Hoi Mei Wan Beach [#]
	10. Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach [#]
Islands	11. Hung Shing Yeh Beach [#]
	12. Lo So Shing Beach [#]

	13. Silver Mine Bay Beach [@]
Southern	14. Repulse Bay Beach [*]
Sai Kung	15. Silverstrand Beach [*]

[#] Lifeguard services suspended from 1 November 2018 to 31 March 2019

^{*} Lifeguard services are still available from 1 November 2018 to 31 March 2019

[@] Lifeguard services for the months of November 2018 and March 2019 only

From 1 November 2018 onwards (during the winter season), lifeguard services have been suspended at most of the LCSD beaches. Currently lifeguard services are still available at four LCSD beaches namely Golden Beach, Repulse Bay Beach, Silverstrand Beach and Silver Mine Bay Beach. It is anticipated that Clear Water Bay Second Beach will be able to provide lifeguard services after reopening in December 2018. As for other gazetted beaches, including Deep Water Bay Beach which is normally open all year round, will remain closed until further notice as much longer time for repairing beach facilities and damaged shark prevention nets or clear up is required due to the severe damages brought about by the earlier typhoon.

(d) ***The time and date of update by the Hospital Authority regarding the following two data on the number of people who sought medical treatments at the Accident and Emergency Departments at public hospitals during the typhoon period:***

- (i) ***394 as mentioned by the Chief Executive in her remarks given at a media session on 17 September 2018 regarding the recovery efforts arising from Mangkhut;***
- (ii) ***458 as mentioned in the speaking note of the Chief Secretary for Administration tabled at the special House Committee meeting on 4 October 2018.***

The Hospital Authority reported 394 casualties in its Situation Report on Super Typhoon Mangkhut as at 07:00 hours on 17 September 2018 and subsequently updated the number of casualties to 458 in the Situation Report issued as at 17:00 hours on 17 September 2018. The difference of the two reported casualty numbers at 07:00 hours and at 17:00 hours may be due to the following factors –

- (i) It took time for confirmation of diagnosis for certain attendances at the Accident & Emergency (A&E) Departments before 07:00 hours and therefore contributed to the increase of casualty number in the subsequent report as at 17:00 hours on 17 September 2018; and
- (ii) persons injured during Typhoon Mangkhut might have attended the A&E Departments after they considered that the situation was safe (i.e. after Typhoon Signal No. 8 was lowered).

Division of work among major tree management departments

- Highways Department manages trees on roadside man-made slopes/retaining walls and expressways;
- Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) manages trees in LCSD venues and landscaped areas along public roads (other than expressways);
- Architectural Services Department manages trees on man-made slopes maintained by the Department;
- Housing Department manages trees in public housing estates;
- Water Supplies Department manages trees within waterworks facilities;
- Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department manages trees in country parks;
- Drainage Services Department manages trees within drainage facilities; and
- Lands Department manages trees on unallocated government land not managed by any other departments.