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30 May 2019

Clerk to Public Works Subcommittee
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

(Attn: Ms Doris WY LO)

Dear Ms LO,

**Public Works Subcommittee meeting on 22 May 2019
Studies related to Artificial Islands in the Central Waters
[PWSC(2019-20)5]**

In the meeting on 22 May 2019, the Public Works Subcommittee requested the Administration to provide supplementary information in respect of the status of the unplanned land in Hong Kong and the fill materials for the Kau Yi Chau Artificial Islands reclamation works. Having consulted the Planning Department and the Civil Engineering and Development Department, the Development Bureau hereby provides our responses as enclosed.

Yours sincerely,

Original signed
(Jacky WU)
for Secretary for Development

C.C.

Director of Civil Engineering and Development (Attn: Mr Andy LOK)

Director of Planning (Attn: Mr LUI Wing-cho)

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Studies related to Artificial Islands in the Central Waters
[PWSC (2019-20)5]**

**Follow-up Actions Arising from the
Public Works Subcommittee Meeting on 22 May 2019**

In the meeting of the Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC) on 22 May 2019, PWSC requested the Administration to follow up the matters below:

- (i) The Administration is required to provide supplementary information to illustrate the status of the unplanned land in Hong Kong, including the area analysis, location, land uses and the reasons why the land concerned cannot be used for development purposes.
- (ii) The Administration is required to provide supplementary information to illustrate the breakdown of the Administration's estimate of some 250 to 300 million tonnes of fill materials (including public fill, marine sand or manufactured sand) required for the reclamation of the Kau Yi Chau Artificial Islands, and convert the figures into cubic metres.

2. For the two matters above, having consulted the Planning Department and the Civil Engineering and Development Department, the Development Bureau hereby provides a consolidated reply as follows :

- (i) The total area of Hong Kong is about 1,111 square kilometres. Among them, land area covered by statutory plans is about 590 square kilometers, while the country parks account for land area of about 443 square kilometers¹. Apart from statutory plans and country parks, about 17 square kilometres of land is developed land but has not been covered by statutory plan, such as the land used for Black Point Power Station, the T·PARK sludge treatment facility and the Wo Hop Shek Cemetery, etc. The remaining land yet to be planned is mainly remote islands, hilly terrain between country parks and towns, and quite some scattered land with valuable ecological, landscape, historical and cultural values (such as mangroves and marshes, and woodland) or with constraints in technical, infrastructural and other aspects (such as water catchments and steep slopes with slope angle of 30 degrees or above)

¹ Part of the land of the country parks overlaps with that covered by statutory plans (about 36 square kilometres).

that is not suitable for development.

- (ii) We preliminarily estimate that the amount of fill materials required for the reclamation works of the Kau Yi Chau Artificial Islands of about 1,000 hectares ranges from 250 million tonnes to 300 million tonnes, or from 125 million cubic metres to 150 million cubic metres². According to our current estimate, about half of the fill materials (i.e. approximately 125 million tonnes to 150 million tonnes, or approximately 62.5 million cubic metres to 75 million cubic metres) is public fill while the remaining is mostly manufactured sand. We will explore the feasibility of using other fill materials (including marine sand) in the Studies related to Artificial Islands in the Central Waters (the Study).

The estimates above contain certain design and construction related assumptions that would be subject to the findings of the Study. The estimates would be reviewed after completion of the Study.

We will examine in detail the supply of fill materials under the Study. As pointed out in the press release issued by the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers in November last year, with over a decade ahead to plan and complete the reclamation works for some 1,000 hectares of land, in compliance with the statutory requirements of environmental protection and relevant legislation, fill materials should not be an insurmountable problem from engineering point of view.

Development Bureau
May 2019

² Calculated at a density of fill materials of approximately 2 tonnes per cubic metre.