## **Panel on Development**

## Motion on "Studies related to Artificial Islands in the Central Waters, Lantau Conservation Fund and Work Progress of the Sustainable Lantau Office" Passed at the Meeting of 26 March 2019

Our response to the motion passed by the Panel on Development (the Panel) at the meeting of 26 March 2019 is provided in the ensuing paragraphs.

- 2. We would like to express our gratitude to the Panel for the support for our proposal on the Studies related to Artificial Islands in the Central Waters (the Study). After obtaining funding approval from the Finance Committee, we will commence the Study in the latter half of 2019 at the soonest.
- 3. In carrying out the Study, we will conduct detailed assessments of the impacts arising from the artificial islands proposal to the environment, ecology, fisheries, etc. and will propose specific corresponding mitigation measures. We will also follow the latest standards to design the artificial islands and where appropriate, provide breakwater, wave breakers, non-building buffer zones near the shorelines and other practicable measures to ensure that the artificial islands will be sufficiently resilient to cope with climate change and extreme weather. Moreover, in formulating the implementation strategies, we will conduct detailed financial assessments and take into consideration relevant factors, such as the Government's long-term fiscal capability and sustainability, to ensure that the project expenditure is fiscally affordable by the Government.
- 4. In the course of the Study, we will conduct public engagement activities to provide more comprehensive information for consulting the public as well as soliciting their views and suggestions.

Development Bureau April 2019