

Legislative Council Finance Committee

PWP Item No. 43CG – Greening master plans for the New Territories

Follow-up to meeting on 14 July 2020

The Finance Committee discussed the proposal to upgrade part of 43CG “Greening master plans (hereinafter referred to as “GMPs”) for the New Territories” to Category A for implementation of priority greening works recommended in the GMPs for Southwest and Northeast New Territories in the paper submitted to the Legislative Council (FCR(2020-21)52) at its meeting held on 14 July 2020. Hon KWONG Chun-yu requested the Government to provide the following information:

The public money and number of plants involved in the removal of the planted vegetation due to various reasons since the implementation of projects under the GMPs.

2. The Government’s reply is at the **Annex**.

Development Bureau
September 2020

Legislative Council Finance Committee

Greening master plans for the New Territories

**The Government's reply to the question raised by
Hon KWONG Chun-yu**

The Civil Engineering and Development Department (“CEDD”) has planted about 29 000 trees and 7.8 million shrubs under the completed Greening Master Plans (“GMPs”) (including those for the urban areas and Southeast and Northwest New Territories areas). The greening works completed under the GMPs for urban areas and Southeast and Northwest New Territories were handed over to relevant departments (mainly the Leisure and Cultural Services Department) for maintenance in 2013 and 2018 respectively.

2. Newly planted vegetation needs to adapt to the new planting environment, such as trees require more time to become established and their health conditions are affected by the surroundings and are susceptible to diseases, pests and other problems. Furthermore, extreme weather exacerbated by climate change has induced more frequent and severe threats, including damages to trees. Up to July 2020, about 1 076 trees (about 3.8% of total trees planted) and shrubs of about 1 034m² (about 0.6% of total shrubs planted) planted under the GMPs for urban areas and Southeast and Northwest New Territories have been removed. A majority of the removal cases were due to emerging tree health and structural problems, and tree failure after inclement weather or typhoons (about 72% of all cases). In addition, the urban environment is constantly developing and changing, and hence the land situation, public opinion, social demand, etc. may also change, such as installing barrier-free access facilities and meeting the increasing traffic demand. A small number of trees/shrubs have been removed unavoidably to cater for the latest district development.

3. In taking forward the GMPs for Southwest and Northeast New Territories, the CEDD has implemented a series of improvement measures in light of the experience gained from the previous GMPs, so as to prevent the removal of newly planted vegetation in future.