

(Translation)

**Director of Audit's Report No. 75**

**Chapter 2: Government's efforts in tackling shoreline refuse**

**Public Accounts Committee (Public Hearing)**

**12 March 2021**

**Speech by the Director of Environmental Protection**

Mr Chairman,

The Audit Report pointed out that in the 2018 Policy Address, the Government pledged to put in more efforts in enhancing shoreline surveillance and clean-up work in a territorial scale. In this connection, the Government has stepped up its efforts in shoreline surveillance and clean-up work since 2018. The Audit Report also pointed out that according to the inspection data from 2015 up to now, the cleanliness conditions of priority coastal sites have been greatly improved.

2. The Environmental Protection Department will continue to assess the effectiveness of the clean-up work of various departments using a shoreline cleanliness grading system; report the inspection results timely for follow-up by departments and the Inter-departmental Working Group on Marine Environmental Management; and consolidate the inspection experience for close supervision and monitoring of the contractors' inspection of coastal sites.

3. In response to the recommendations in the Audit Report, the Environmental Protection Department has implemented the following improvement measures.

4. Regarding the recommendation to disseminate the information on the cleanliness condition of coastal sites, the Environmental Protection Department has already uploaded the annual average cleanliness grading of the priority sites to the thematic website "Clean Shorelines".

5. As for the recommendation to update the list of coastal sites in the shoreline cleanliness monitoring programme, the Environmental Protection Department will update the surveillance list in the shoreline cleanliness monitoring programme when the on-site monitoring contract expires in April this year based on the changes in cleanliness conditions and other circumstances of individual sites.

6. Regarding the recommendation to make use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) inspections, the Environmental Protection Department will continue to put UAS on trial, and review the results so as to flexibly adopt on-site inspection, UAS inspection, or a hybrid approach for making continuous improvement in the cleanliness monitoring strategies of individual coastal sites.

7. As for the recommendation to update the Protocol for Handling Surge of Marine Refuse in Hong Kong (the Protocol), the Environmental Protection Department has already updated the Protocol.

8. Finally, regarding the recommendation to gauge public views on shoreline cleanliness, the Environmental Protection Department will continue to strengthen publicity and public participation efforts through the Clean Shorelines Liaison Platform which operates under a cross-media and interactive mode, with a view to gathering public views on shoreline cleanliness and other related issues. The Environmental Protection Department will also organise public engagement sessions and coastal cleanup activities again at a future opportune time, during which public views on shoreline cleanliness will be collected.

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