

**The Legislative Council Public Accounts Committee's  
Public Hearing on Chapter 2 of  
the Director of Audit's Report No. 75 on 27 March 2021**

**Speech by Mr Vincent LIU Ming-kwong, JP,  
Director of Leisure and Cultural Services**

Chairman and Members,

First of all, I would like to thank the Audit Commission for the value for money audit and recommendations on the Government's efforts in tackling shoreline refuse, shedding light on areas which can be improved. I would also like to thank the Legislative Council Public Accounts Committee for giving us a chance to give an account of the work of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) on removal of shoreline refuse at gazetted beaches.

As LCSD is responsible for the management of 41 gazetted beaches, we are committed to keeping the beaches clean by deploying contractor workers to carry out cleansing work at beaches each day and closely monitoring the cleanliness condition of beaches. When extraordinary surge of marine refuse is identified at gazetted beach, we will notify the concerned departments, and deploy additional manpower for clearance as soon as practicable and minimise the inconvenience caused to beach users. Apart from maintaining the cleanliness and hygiene conditions of beaches, LCSD also provides more than 200 water dispensers at its gazetted beaches and water sports centres, etc. for members of the public to drink water after exercising. Apart from providing better recreational facilities, the provision of water dispensers can also promote environmental awareness.

LCSD is one of the members of the Inter-departmental Working Group on Marine Environmental Management, which reviews and updates strategies on a regular basis through the work of the Task Force on Marine Refuse to continuously enhance the Government's efforts on marine environmental management, including the work on tackling marine refuse problem, strengthening its capability and preparedness on emergency response to marine environmental incidents arising from and in connection with various pollution sources.

LCSD agrees with and accepts the recommendations made in Chapter 2 of the Director of Audit's Report No. 75 and will follow up on the various improvement measures. Measures implemented include incorporating into the cleansing contracts

performance standards on cleanliness condition of beaches, ensuring that the results of special cleansing operations are reported to the Inter-departmental Working Group on Marine Environmental Management and the Task Force on Marine Refuse, reviewing the method adopted for counting the number of the special cleansing operations so as to provide an accurate number of the operations, tightening controls on the provision of additional workers for cleansing work of beaches, improving the accuracy of shoreline refuse data, stepping up enforcement actions against marine littering. We will also expedite the installation of water dispensers in gazetted beaches and complete implementing the recommendations made in the Director of Audit's report as soon as practicable.

Thank you.