

Bills Committee on Urban Renewal Authority Bill

Concerns raised at the meeting on 10 June 2000

Members requested the Administration -

- (a) to consider setting up an independent audit team within the future Urban Renewal Authority (URA) and making available the report prepared by the audit team to the Legislative Council for inspection;
- (b) to lay down on paper the policy intention that the non-executive directors would not be held personally liable for any decision made in the name of the URA Board and the costs of proceedings arising thereof;
- (c) to delete "by way of development" in clause 6(1);
- (d) to add "preserve or restore" in clause 6(2)(e) similar to section 5 of the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53);
- (e) to add "subject to section 25" in clause 6(2)(k) to clarify that prior approval must be granted by the Chief Executive in Council before any disposal of land resumed under the Lands Resumption Ordinance (Cap.124);
- (f) to add "license" in clause 6(2)(k);
- (g) to review the drafting of clauses 7(3) and (4). Some members consider that a specified period may need to be provided in relation to the entry of a declaration of interests of a member of the URA Board in the register and the release of the register for public inspection;
- (h) to consider uploading the register of declared interests and the records on attendance of meetings of members of the URA Board on the Internet;
- (i) to revise clause 7(5) along the line of a relevant provision in the Land Development Corporation Ordinance (Cap. 15). Members are of the view that a member of the URA Board who is in any way directly or indirectly interested in a contract made or proposed to be made by URA shall not take part in the discussion or vote on any question concerning that contract; and

- (j) to review clause 7(7). Some members are concerned that where the Board makes a decision on a matter without knowing the interest of a member therein, a person feels aggrieved should have recourse to challenge the validity of that decision.

Legislative Council Secretariat

12 June 2000

