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Urgent by Fax
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Clerk to Panel,
Legislative Council,
Legislative Council Building,
8 Jackson Road,
Hong Kong.
(Attn.: Ms Sarah Yuen)

Dear Ms Yuen,

Panel on Planning, Lands and Works

Further to my letter dated 29.9.03, I enclose herewith the updates for the item on Foreshore, Sea-bed and Roads (Amendment) Bill 2003, in both English and Chinese for your further action please.

Yours sincerely,

(K M Bok)
for Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works

c.c. CAS(W)2

Foreshore, Sea-bed and Roads (Amendment) Bill 2003

The original intention of the Bill was to speed up the delivery of public works projects by implementing legislative amendments, coupled with internal administrative procedures, to shorten the periods for raising and resolving public objections. In view of the concerns expressed by the Bills Committee and some interested parties on the proposed legislative amendments, we decided to concentrate first on speeding up the administrative procedures and to assess the effectiveness of the expedited procedures before deciding on the way forward of the Bill.

We promulgated on 30 April 2003 a set of administrative procedures requiring Works Departments to enhance the consultation and notification of projects and to expedite the resolution of objections. Since 30 May 2003, we have also started including the information on projects under gazettal in the ETWB's Internet web page. As gazettal of projects and resolution of objections involve rather lengthy periods, we need time to gather sufficient statistics to enable a meaningful assessment of the effectiveness of the administrative measures. It is unlikely therefore that we would be able to come to a decision and resume the work on the Bill in the current LegCo session.

Members can rest assured that the Administration will consult the Panel again if and when it has decided to revive the Bill either in its previous or revised form.

《2003年前濱、海床及道路（修訂）條例草案》

制訂上述條例草案的原意，是要藉着修訂法例配合內部行政程序，縮短公眾提出反對意見和政府處理這些意見的時間，從而加快公共工程的推展。鑑於條例草案委員會和若干關注團體就這些修訂建議提出的意見，政府當局決定首先致力於加快行政程序，並評估成效，然後才決定條例草案的未來路向。

政府當局已於2003年4月30日頒布一套行政程序，指令工務部門加強公共工程的諮詢和通布工作，並加速處理公眾所提出的反對意見。自2003年5月30日開始，我們更在環境運輸及工務局的互聯網頁，加入有關憲報所載公共工程計劃的資料。由於工程刊憲和處理反對意見需時，我們要在收集到足夠的統計資料後，始可對行政措施的成效作出有意義的評估。因此，政府大抵不可能在本立法年度內，就條例草案作出決定，並恢復審議工作。

不論是恢復原來的條例草案，或是提出另議草案，政府都會在有了決定後再次諮詢立法會規劃地政及工程事務委員會，還請各位議員放心。