

LC Paper No. CB(1)2239/03-04(01)

Ref : CB1/BC/3/02

## Paper for the House Committee meeting on 25 June 2004

# **Report of the Bills Committee on Land Titles Bill**

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## Follow-up actions to be taken by the Administration

120. As mentioned in paragraph 23 above, the Bills Committee has no objection to the Administration's proposal that LTO be commenced two years after its enactment so as to allow sufficient time for putting in place the relevant regulations and finalizing the guidance notes for legal practitioners and members of the public. At the request of members, the Administration has undertaken that:

- (a) the list of regulations set out in **Appendix V** will be put in place before the commencement of LTO;
- (b) a review of LTO will be conducted during the two-year period between its enactment and commencement; and
- (c) the LegCo Panel on Planning, Lands and Works will be consulted in due course on the proposed commencement date of LTO before the commencement notice for the Ordinance is published in the Gazette.

The Administration also agrees that the commencement notice should be subsidiary legislation subject to the vetting of LegCo.

121. At the request of the Law Society, the Administration has <u>been asked to</u> <u>undertake also undertaken</u>:

- (a) to work with the Law Society so as to address any subsisting points of concern and any issues that emerge on further consideration of the drafting of LTO before its implementation; and
- (b) not to implement LTO pending the review of the Solicitors (Professional Indemnity) Rules and the Professional Indemnity Scheme by the Law Society on the issue of double payment from the Solicitors Indemnity Fund in respect of any claim arising from LTO and to effect any consequential amendments in this regard.

122. The Administration has also undertaken to take the follow-up actions set out in **Appendix VI**.

## **Committee Stage amendments**

123. A full set of the draft CSAs to be moved by SHPL is in **Appendix VII**. The Bills Committee supports the draft CSAs.

124. At the conclusion of the last Bills Committee meeting on 21 June 2004, no members indicated that they would move any CSAs to the Bill.

## Recommendation

125. Subject to the undertakings mentioned in paragraphs 120 and 121 being given by the Administration, Tthe Bills Committee supports the Administration's proposal that the Second Reading debate on the Bill be resumed on 7 July 2004.

## Advice sought

126. Members are invited to support the recommendation of the Bills Committee in paragraph 125 above.

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