

ETWB (CR)(W) 65/39 (2003) Pt 4

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25 April 2003

The Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, GBS, JP
Chairman, Bills Committee on
Foreshore, Sea-bed and Roads (Amendment) Bill 2003
Room 509, West Wing
Central Government Offices
Hong Kong

Dear Mrs Chow,

**Bills Committee on
Foreshore, Sea-bed and Roads (Amendment) Bill 2003**

I refer to the first meeting of the Bills Committee on Foreshore, Sea-bed and Roads (Amendment) Bill 2003 held on 1 April 2003.

We have carefully considered the comments made by Honourable Members during the discussion of the Bill at the meeting. We note in particular the concern expressed about the proposed curtailment of the period available for the public to raise objections to proposed public works and the adequacy of public consultation under the revised procedures set out in the Bill. Having regard to the sentiments expressed by Honourable Members and interested parties, we are prepared to reconsider the way forward which will address the concerns. Our current thinking is to concentrate on the speeding up the administrative procedures in handling public objections and expediting other pre-construction activities, and not to proceed with the legislative amendments in the near future. This arrangement will enable us to fully assess the effectiveness of the expedited procedures without affecting the provisions for raising objections by members of the public and the processing of objections under the existing Ordinances.

I shall be grateful for an opportunity to explain our latest proposals with you and members of the Bills Committee.

Yours sincerely,

(K K Kwok)
for Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works