

NOTE FOR PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

Supplementary information on Tree-felling and/or planting proposals for works items considered at the PWSC meeting on 25 June 2003

INTRODUCTION

At the Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC) meeting held on 25 June 2003, Members requested the Administration to provide supplementary information on tree-felling and/or planting proposals associated with public works projects. The required information should cover –

- (a) the tree-felling information for each project, with details on the number and species of trees affected;
- (b) the number of trees with height exceeding 5 metres and diameter exceeding 0.8 metre which would be hewed down under each project; and
- (c) compensatory planting arrangements for the loss of woodland/trees, including transplanting, if any.

2. Members also requested the Administration to provide guidelines for Government's greening policies on tree preservation applicable to public works projects.

THE ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE

Tree-felling and/or planting proposals

3. As part of project planning, the Administration conducts tree surveys for public works projects. A tree survey normally covers the species, size, form and

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amenity value of trees which will be affected by implementation of a particular project. Assessment of tree felling application and/or transplanting requirement depends mainly on the species, tree trunk diameter (age) and tree form. The names of tree species, diameters and heights of trees will be highlighted if they meet the criteria of "Very Important Tree" (VIT) (please refer to Enclosure 1 for definition).

4. We will incorporate tree-felling and/or planting proposals of public works projects in future PWSC submissions. Information regarding six of the eight projects (other than the two on the enhancement of infectious diseases control facilities in nine hospitals which do not involve tree felling) which were considered by PWSC at the meeting on 2 July 2003 has been provided in the information paper No. PWSCI (2003-04)10 circulated to Members before the meeting. Information regarding the 14 projects which were considered by PWSC at the meeting on 25 June 2003 is set out at Enclosure 1.

5. Nine VITs will be affected by implementation of the project **718TH** "Improvement to Tung Chung Road between Lung Tseng Tau and Cheung Sha". A summary of VITs involved is provided at Enclosure 2.

Greening Policy – Tree Preservation

6. The existing policy for public works project is that no trees should be unnecessarily lopped or felled. Notwithstanding engineering and financial constraints, project proponents should take into consideration the need for tree preservation during the planning and design stages of projects.

Tree-felling application

7. For public works projects requiring felling of trees, works departments are required to submit a tree felling application to Lands Department for approval before commencement of the works. Project proponents should submit a tree survey plan and a tree schedule, together with photographs of the tree(s) in their tree felling application. Tree survey plans are drawings which show to scale the accurate location of trees to be retained, transplanted and felled, and their heights, trunk diameters and tree spreads. They also cover other information such as the trees in the vicinity of the site to enable complete assessment of the impact of the proposed development on existing trees. Compensatory landscaping or replanting plans are also included in tree survey plans. Tree schedules describe in detail the species, heights, trunk diameters, tree spreads, and conditions of each of the affected trees.

8. Tree felling applications are vetted independently by Leisure and Cultural Services Department and/or Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, which will advise Lands Department as to whether the application should be approved. Sensitive cases will also be referred to District Lands Conference for consideration. Permission to remove trees will only be granted when it is fully justified.

Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau
July 2003

PWP item no.	Project title	Tree-felling proposal								Compensatory planting or soft landscape proposal to be implemented		
		No. of trees affected		No. of trees to be felled		No. of trees to be transplanted ¹		No. of trees to be replanted ²		Total no.		
		VIT ³	Ordinary	VIT	Ordinary	VIT	Ordinary	VIT	Ordinary	Trees	Shrubs	Annuals
151TB	Installation of air-conditioning system at the Lo Wu Cross Boundary Footbridge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
788TH	New boundary bridge between Lok Ma Chau and Huanggang	0	450	0	445	0	5	0	0	600	600	4 000
718TH	Improvement to Tung Chung Road between Lung Tseng Tau and Cheung Sha	9	4 350	9	4 335	0	15	0	0	132 900	4 600	0
242LP	Marine Police Outer Waters District Headquarters and Marine Police North Division at Ma Liu Shui, Sha Tin	0	97	0	61	0	0	0	36	61	12/m ² @	0
70DR	Low-level radioactive waste storage facility	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0
571CL	Site formation at Lung Wah Street	0	159	0	135	0	18	0	6	1 485	24 800	0

* The exact number of trees affected will be subject to the detailed design proposal by the design and build contractor and the final approval of the compensatory planting/soft landscaping proposal by relevant authorities.

@ The total number of trees/shrubs/perennials for landscaping is subject to the finalisation of the detailed design.

Note: ¹ Transplanting of affected trees to any sites other than the original project sites.

² Replanting of affected trees back to the original project sites.

³ VIT – Very important tree refers to (a) trees of over 100 years old;
 (b) trees of cultural, historical or memorable significance;
 (c) trees of rare species;
 (d) trees of outstanding form; or
 (e) trees with trunk diameter exceeding 0.8metre (measured at 1 metre above ground level).

**Summary of “very important trees” involved in
718TH – Improvement to Tung Chung Road between Lung Tseng Tau and Cheung Sha**

Tree ref. no.	Tree species		Tree size			Form (Good/Fair/Poor)	Survival rate after transplanting (High/Med/Low)	Amenity Value (High/Med/Low)	Recommendation (Retain/Transplant/Fell)	Remarks
	Botanical name	Chinese name	Overall height (metres)	Trunk diameter (mm)	Average crown spread (metres)					
2601-T26	<i>Ficus variegata</i> <i>var. chlorocarpa</i>	青果榕	7	1 000	5	Poor	Low	Low	Fell	Tree crown was covered by vine
2611-T6822	<i>Acacia confusa</i>	台灣相思	8	800	11	Fair	Low	Med	Fell	
2611-T6823	<i>Acacia confusa</i>	台灣相思	9	800	10	Fair	Low	Med	Fell	
2611-T6824	<i>Acacia confusa</i>	台灣相思	9	1 000	14	Fair	Low	Med	Fell	
2611-T6826	<i>Acacia confusa</i>	台灣相思	8	1 000	10	Fair	Low	Med	Fell	
2611-T6827	<i>Acacia confusa</i>	台灣相思	9	800	12	Fair	Low	Med	Fell	
2611-T6828	<i>Acacia confusa</i>	台灣相思	9	900	13	Fair	Low	Med	Fell	
2611-T6829	<i>Acacia confusa</i>	台灣相思	9	800	12	Fair	Low	Low	Fell	
2611-T6838	<i>Acacia confusa</i>	台灣相思	10	800	8	Fair	Low	Med	Fell	