香港特別行政區政府

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

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9 January 2003

Mr Colin Chui Clerk, Public Accounts Committee Legislative Council Building 8 Jackson Road Central Hong Kong

Dear Mr Chui,

The Public Accounts Committee's consideration of The Director of Audit's Report No. 28

Beneficial use of construction waste for reclamation

Thank you for your letter of 20 December.

Landfill charging is an essential component of our waste management strategy as it provides an economic incentive for waste producers to reduce waste and carry out sorting to facilitate reuse/recycling, thereby helping to slow down the depletion of the limited landfill capacity. We plan to adopt a phased approach and will introduce the landfill charge for the disposal of construction waste in the first phase. In May and June 2002, we consulted the Council's Panel on Environmental Affairs on the framework of the charging scheme. The paper setting out our proposal is LC Paper No. CB(1)1811/01-02(07).

We are now working on the associated arrangements and the detailed legislative proposal to effect the charging scheme. We will brief the Panel on the details in the coming months once they have been finalized. We aim to introduce the relevant Bill to the Council in mid-2003 and implement the charging scheme in 2004.

Yours sincerely,

(Ms Annie Choi)

for Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

c.c. Director of Audit