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**Public Works Subcommittee of the Finance Committee
of the Legislative Council**

**Minutes of the 14th meeting
held in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex
on Tuesday, 2 July 2013, at 8:30 am**

Members present:

Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, BBS, MH, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, BBS, MH
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Hon CHAN Hak-kan, JP
Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau
Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP
Hon NG Leung-sing, SBS, JP
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming
Hon WU Chi-wai, MH
Hon Gary FAN Kwok-wai
Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP
Hon Charles Peter MOK
Hon CHAN Han-pan
Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, SBS, JP
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP

Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, JP
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Hon SIN Chung-kai, SBS, JP
Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, JP
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP
Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun, BBS, MH, JP
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen

Member absent:

Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP

Public officers attending:

Mr YEUNG Tak-keung	Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) ³
Mr WAI Chi-sing, JP	Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)
Mr Thomas CHAN Chung-ching	Permanent Secretary for Development (Planning and Lands)
Ms Anissa WONG, JP	Permanent Secretary for the Environment
Ms Jasmine CHOI Suet-yung	Principal Assistant Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) (Works) (Acting)
Mr WONG Kam-sing, JP	Secretary for the Environment
Mr Albert LAM Kai-chung, JP	Deputy Director (2) Environmental Protection Department
Dr Ellen CHAN Ying-lung, JP	Assistant Director (Environmental Infrastructure)
Mr Lawrence LAU Ming-ching	Environmental Protection Department Principal Environmental Protection Officer (Waste Facilities) Environmental Protection Department

Clerk in attendance:

Ms Annette LAM	Chief Council Secretary (1) ³
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Staff in attendance:

Mr Andy LAU	Assistant Secretary General 1
Ms Connie HO	Senior Council Secretary (1)3
Mr Daniel SIN	Senior Council Secretary (1)7
Mr Ken WOO	Council Secretary (1)5
Mr Frankie WOO	Senior Legislative Assistant (1)3
Ms Christy YAU	Legislative Assistant (1)7

Action

The Chairman said that the meeting was held to deal with the two unfinished items carried over from the meeting on 26 June 2013.

2. The Chairman then reminded members that in accordance with Rule 83A of the Rules of Procedure (RoP) of the Legislative Council (LegCo), they should disclose the nature of any direct or indirect pecuniary interests relating to any items under discussion at the meeting before they spoke on the items. He also drew members' attention to Rule 84 of RoP on not voting or withdrawal in case of direct pecuniary interest.

Head 705 – Civil Engineering

PWSC(2013-14)20	163DR	Northeast New Territories Landfill Extension
PWSC(2013-14)21	165DR	West New Territories Landfill Extension

3. The Chairman said that as the proposals in PWSC(2013-14)20 and PWSC(2013-14)21 were related to landfill extension projects, discussion would follow the approach adopted in the last meeting, i.e. discussion of the two items would be combined but each of the two items would be voted on separately. Members agreed.

4. The Chairman advised that the proposal of PWSC(2013-14)20 was to upgrade 163DR to Category A at an estimated cost of \$7,026.9 million in money-of-the-day (MOD) prices for the proposed Northeast New Territories (NENT) Landfill Extension project. The proposal of PWSC(2013-14)21 was to upgrade part of 165DR to Category A at an estimated cost of \$35.1 million in MOD prices for engaging consultants to commission a study and undertaking tasks to make preparations necessary for the West New Territories (WENT) Landfill Extension project.

5. The Chairman advised that at the last meeting, 22 Subcommittee members and one non-Subcommittee member had spoken for the first time and a Subcommittee member had requested to speak for the second time. Members should register their intention to speak by pressing the EVS button and non-Subcommittee members by raising their hands. He should call upon members and non-members to speak in turn, having regard to the order in which they had pressed the button or raised their hands.

6. Miss CHAN Yuen-han asked whether the two items would be put to vote at this meeting. The Chairman advised that he would conduct the meeting in accordance with the Public Works Subcommittee Procedure and the RoP of LegCo and allow members to raise their questions before putting the proposals to vote.

Briefing by the Secretary for the Environment

7. Secretary for the Environment (SEN) informed the meeting that the Environment Bureau (ENB) had been implementing various initiatives to reduce waste and would continue to work on the initiatives during the summer recess, including public consultation on waste charging by weight, various producer responsibility schemes and the work on food waste reduction, such as the Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign. The Hong Kong Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources (2013-2022) published earlier had stated that the ratio of landfilled waste would be substantially reduced from the current 52% to 22%. To pursue this more aggressive objective of reducing pressure on landfills, a more robust recycling industry would be required and the Administration would adopt a proactive approach to take forward the matter. SEN said that the operation of the recycling industry involved different areas, including environmental hygiene, district administration, housing, land, planning, manpower, government procurement, etc. and the Administration would enhance coordination among various bureaux and departments to achieve the policy objective. For support in this regard, the Chief Secretary for Administration (CS) would soon set up a Steering Committee to promote the sustainable development of the recycling industry. The Steering Committee would co-ordinate relevant bureaux in studying and formulating policies and initiatives to better support the long-term development of the recycling industry and increase green collar jobs. Having taken into account the overall cost-effectiveness to the society, the Steering Committee would also study how to implement measures such as a recurrent subsidy scheme for the recycling industry. As a preliminary measure, the Administration would consider making use of the existing Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) to subsidize the promotion of the development plans of the recycling industry, e.g. subsidizing non-government

organizations (NGOs) to conduct recycling programmes in various housing estates in Hong Kong. In the long run, the Administration would not rule out the possibility of setting up a dedicated recycling fund to promote the sustainable development of the recycling industry. Towards this end, the Administration would also provide professional support in the areas of environmental economy and circular economy.

8. SEN further elaborated that the Administration was planning to set up community green stations in five districts, which would have a complementary effect in supporting the recycling industry. The community green stations would support the community in recycling materials of a low value but of environmental significance, such as waste electrical and electronic equipment and waste glass bottles. Through enhanced public education and publicity efforts, these stations could help foster the culture of reducing waste and encouraging sustainable use of resources. The Administration aimed to gradually promote this concept with a view to establishing community green stations in all 18 districts. He added that the above measures to reduce waste and develop the recycling industry would help push up Hong Kong's recycling rate further. The Administration hoped to go further than the target set in the Blueprint to increase the recycling rate from 48% at present to 55%. This, coupled with the implementation of waste-to-energy modern incineration facilities in future, would significantly reduce the landfilling rate as a whole.

9. On the reduction of food waste which accounted for about 40% of the landfilled waste, SEN explained that according to the Blueprint, a series of initiatives, including the Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign would be implemented. The aim was to reduce food waste by about 10%, i.e. over 300 tonnes of food waste every day. Two Organic Waste Treatment Facilities (OWTF) were expected to be commissioned in 2016 and 2017 respectively. The Administration had also granted approval for a fish meal factory which used food waste as raw materials to be established in the EcoPark. All three facilities above would achieve a reduction of over 600 tonnes of food waste originally to be landfilled per day. In addition, the ECF had subsidized dozens of housing estates and NGOs to implement on-site food waste recycling projects in various places and meal portioning projects in schools, which would help reduce food waste significantly. These initiatives had altogether reduced about 25% of food waste to be landfilled. As the Administration had plans to build more OWTFs in future, the current target of reducing landfilling of food waste by 25% could be exceeded.

10. As regards the WENT Landfill Extension project, SEN pointed out that the Government and the Tuen Mun District Council (TMDC) had set up

the Tuen Mun Development Liaison Working Group in 2009. The Working Group had achieved some results in its proposed projects, such as establishment of an air monitoring station in Tuen Mun Town Centre, greening and optimizing the Tuen Mun vicinity, as well as revitalizing the Sam Shing Seafood Market in Castle Peak Bay. Having listened to the views of the Working Group, the Administration recognized the need to study the upgrading or widening of Nim Wan Road. In examining this project, the Administration would not only take traffic flow as a major consideration, but would also attach weight to the advantages of opening up a separate access road to the landfill and the neighbouring facilities as perceived by the local residents. It would enhance the link between Tuen Mun and Yuen Long and relieve the bearing capacity of the local residents. The Administration would conduct a separate study on it. The Working Group would also continue to follow up on other discussion items. As this involved the jurisdiction of various departments, CS had promised that she, SEN and the other relevant major officials would also increase visits to the district to exchange views with the local residents. SEN hoped that the various local improvement measures in Tuen Mun could be taken forward under the coordination of CS in the next two years when the consultancy study for the WENT landfill extension was being carried out.

Landfill Extension Projects

11. Mr NG Leung-sing considered the extension of the two landfills pragmatic given the imminence in waste management and the fact that incineration could not be introduced shortly due to the judicial review in progress. Regarding the location of landfill site, he considered that the two landfill sites in the Papers were already quite far away from urban areas. Mr NG further suggested that advanced technologies, such as air blowing and artificial raining, could be introduced to further prevent dispersion of odour and dust particles by winds to areas adjacent to the landfills. He also urged the Administration to speed up waste reduction at source, and to start the preparatory work for the incineration facilities. SEN responded that the Administration would strengthen its work to reduce waste at source and work towards the provision of large-scale waste-to-energy facilities with a view to reducing the reliance on landfill disposal from 52% at present to 22% and even lower.

12. Pointing out that refuse transfer stations (RTSs) processed waste by means of compaction and could also reduce environmental nuisances associated with the transportation of waste to landfills, Mr James TO asked whether the charging level of RTSs could be lowered to provide more incentives for waste collectors to use the service of RTSs. SEN advised that the Administration would review the measures for optimizing the utilization

of RTSs, including the charging level. In response to Mr TO's question on why the review was not conducted prior to the submission of the present funding proposals, SEN explained that the utilization of RTSs was quite good at this moment and it was the Administration's plan to take forward the strategies as outlined in the Blueprint by extending the existing three landfill sites first. As the volume of waste received by RTSs in future would depend on the implementation of the landfill extension projects, the Administration would conduct a review on the utilization of RTSs after the funding approval for landfill extension projects.

13. Mr James TO relayed the concerns expressed by residents of Tuen Mun that the Government might not be active in pursuing its commitment on promoting the reduction of waste at source anymore if the WENT Landfill Extension project, covering some 200 hectares of land, was endorsed. He asked whether the Administration would reduce the project size to around 50 hectares instead with a view to giving itself more pressure on the pursuit of waste reduction targets. SEN advised that the Administration's target to reduce landfill disposal from 52% to 22% was already an aggressive one. He pointed out that in overseas countries such as South Korea and Singapore, the capacity of landfill would be maintained to be sufficient for at least 40 years, even with incineration facilities in place and waste reduction measures in force.

14. Mr Albert CHAN said that he was strongly opposed to the WENT Landfill Extension project as it would further aggravate the environmental and traffic nuisance caused to residents of Lung Kwu Tan Village. He pointed out that the proposed reclamation in Lung Kwu Tan for residential development would be a repetition of the planning blunder in Tseung Kwan O. He strongly urged the Administration to relocate the Lung Kwu Tan Village and requested the Administration to provide information regarding financial assessment on the relocation of the Lung Kwu Tan Village and the long-term economic impact of the proposed West New Territories Landfill extension on the new developments in the area in the light of the possible reclamation at Lung Kwu Tan.

15. SEN responded that the Administration would consider increasing the percentage of waste transported by marine vessels to the WENT Landfill instead of relying on road-based transport.

16. SEN assured members that bureaux and departments would collaborate closely to address issues of interest and concern to the community. He said that the decision regarding the relocation of the Lung Kwu Tan Village would have to be arrived through a process of thorough discussion. The Administration had not received such request from the previous

discussion with the villagers. More time would be required for discussion between the Administration and the villagers to arrive at a consensus on the way forward.

17. Miss Alice MAK said that the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions (FTU) had all along requested the Administration to set up a green fund for developing local recycling industry and creating employment opportunities for the green collar.

18. Pointing out that TMDC would have a meeting this morning to discuss the WENT Landfill Extension project, Miss Alice MAK considered that the funding proposals should be deferred to a later meeting. She also asked the Administration to take heed of local views. SEN responded that there was an urgent need for the Administration to take forward the related projects and the Administration would continue to maintain close communication with the local residents.

19. While acknowledging the Government's effort on launching campaigns that promoted environmental protection awareness over the years, Mr SIN Chung-kai opined that the billions of dollars spent on those campaigns could in fact be better spent on investing in the green industries which in his view could hardly make a profit without Government subsidies. He urged the Administration to implement concrete measures to assist the recycling industries. Consideration could be given to setting up government-owned enterprises to promote the development of the local waste recycling industry. SEN took note of the view and said that the steering committee chaired by CS would look into the related matters and put forward measures to assist the recycling industry.

20. Mr WU Chi-wai asked when the proposed steering committee would be established. He was concerned that it might be the Government's another tactic to drag on its work. SEN advised that the Administration sought to set up the steering committee as soon as possible in a few months' time. Mr WU asked whether the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) was actually opposed to the rezoning of the site in Tseung Kwan O for residential development of the LOHAS Park in the past. Assistant Director (Environmental Infrastructure), Environmental Protection Department (AD(EI), EPD) referred members to the Administration's supplementary information paper submitted to the Panel on Environmental Affairs (the Panel) after the Panel meetings on 27 May 2013 and 1 June 2013 which provided the background information on the planning of the residential development at Tseung Kwan O Area 86. Noting that the proposed development in Ping Che under the NENT development project and the reclamation project near Lung Kwu Tan would be adjacent to the landfills, Mr WU said that he was

worried that the above developments would repeat the planning blunder of Tseung Kwan O. He questioned whether the Administration had learnt from past mistakes and he also asked whether there was coordination between bureaux and departments on the planning and distribution of waste management facilities to avoid repeating the previous town planning blunders such as locating residential areas closed to landfills. SEN advised that there was a planning mechanism in Hong Kong and meetings were held among SEN, Secretary for Transport and Housing, and Secretary for Development to enable close discussion among bureaux on major issues.

21. Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok said that the Business and Professionals Alliance for Hong Kong was of the view that the multi-pronged approach to waste management including waste reduction, recovery and proper disposal was of paramount importance in light of the imminent waste management challenge. However, he was concerned about the slow progress in the related work. He also expressed grave concern about the impediments to landfill extension projects due to political debates. Pointing out that the extension of WENT Landfill together with the Ecopark project might create pressure on road network in Tuen Mun, he recommended that the Administration should study the impacts carefully and implement suitable mitigation measures. SEN advised that the impact of the WENT Landfill Extension project on the road traffic in Tuen Mun would be reduced by delivering more waste to the landfill by marine transport. SEN said that the Administration would also study the provision of a new, separate access road for transport of waste generated from the north-western part of the territory with a view to minimizing the need for transport through the Tuen Mun town centre.

22. Citing the constraints and huge costs incurred in recycling plastics as an example, Mr TAM Yiu-chung said that the development of the local waste recycling industry would be very difficult without Government subsidy. SEN advised that the Administration was aware of the impact on the operations of the local recycling industry brought about by the recent change of policies in the Mainland. The Administration would examine measures to facilitate the development of the industry.

23. Mr TAM Yiu-chung said that he agreed with the Administration's proposal to study the improvements to the Nim Wan Road and the provision of a new access road leading to the WENT Landfill, and strengthen the delivery of waste to the landfill by marine transport. He concurred with the Administration's initiative for CS to chair a steering committee to co-ordinate relevant bureaux, and urged the Administration to engage in dialogue with the relevant stakeholders, including TMDC and Yuen Long District Council (YLDC), in taking forward the WENT Landfill Extension project. SEN explained that the present funding proposal for the WENT Landfill Extension

was to commission a consultancy study and the Administration pledged to maintain close communication with Tuen Mun and Yuen Long residents in the course of conducting the study.

24. Mr Frankie YICK said that the Liberal Party would support the proposals having regard to the imminent waste management problem. He said that, as revealed by the trade, because the waste collectors would take longer distances to transport waste to the other two landfills after the SENT Landfill ceased to receive municipal solid waste (MSW), the costs of waste collection and disposal would be increased significantly. He urged the Administration to increase the provision of RTSs and to deliver more waste by marine transport in order to minimize nuisance and relieve pressure on road network associated with transportation of waste by RCVs. He reiterated Liberal Party's views that the Administration should take forward preparatory works relevant to the provision of incineration facilities, actively plan for waste reduction and recovery initiatives and render assistance to the recycling industry. He further urged the Administration to speed up the progress on setting up the proposed New Territories East Cross-District Community Cultural Centre which the local community had long called for.

25. Dr Fernando CHEUNG said that he had visited Wo Keng Shan Tsuen near the NENT Landfill on 22 June 2013 where he noted the outflow of odorous water to the stream which he suspected was originated from the NENT Landfill. After he raised the issue at the last PWSC meeting on 26 June 2013, he visited the stream again with staff of EPD on 28 June 2013 for another inspection. He was shocked to note that the odorous effluent disappeared and that the long grass on the vehicular access leading to the stream had been removed. Citing EPD's response at the scene that EPD had only cleared the grass and nothing had been done to the stream, Dr CHEUNG requested the Administration to inform the meeting whether it had taken any actions on the stream after 22 June 2013. Assistant Director (Environmental Infrastructure), Environmental Protection Department (AD(EI), EPD) responded that Wo Keng Shan fell into a water catchment area for Ping Yuen River, the stream mentioned by Dr CHEUNG. However, the NENT Landfill was not in the catchment area of the stream and the runoff from the NENT Landfill would flow towards the opposite direction to another stream, Kong Yiu River. Principal Environmental Protection Officer (Waste Facilities), Environmental Protection Department added that the pollution location as referred to by Dr CHEUNG was close to a water quality monitoring point of the NENT Landfill and EPD had from time to time removed the grass there to facilitate vehicular access to the monitoring point. During the period between 22 and 28 June 2013, EPD had only cleared the grass and taken a water sample from the stream. It should be noted that the water samples taken from the stream had all along met the required standard.

26. Ms Cyd HO asked the Administration to explain the source of pollution of the rivers in North District, and whether the pollution was originated from the NENT Landfill. Mr CHAN Hak-kan also sought clarification from the Administration about the source of the pollution to the adjacent rivers and water courses.

27. SEN explained that the runoff from the NENT Landfill would flow to the northwest direction. As the concerned river was at the south to the NENT Landfill, the reported case of pollution should not be related to the NENT Landfill. AD(EI), EPD said that EPD staff had conducted investigation on the source of the pollution at Ping Yuen River, nearby Wo Keng Shan Village. She explained that the runoff from the NENT Landfill flowed northwards and would not affect Ping Yuen River, which was on the south side. Water samples had been collected for more detailed examination. She added that rusty-coloured materials often seen in water courses could be natural substances and not pollutants. At the request of Dr CHEUNG and Mr CHAN Hak-kan, the Administration agreed to provide the water quality monitoring reports of water samples taken from the monitoring point in the past three years for members' reference before the relevant FC meeting. Dr CHEUNG informed the meeting that he had received a submission from residents of Ta Kwu Ling expressing concerns on the pollution arising from the operation of the NENT Landfill and he would forward the submission to the Administration after the meeting.

28. Mr LEUNG Che-cheung opined that the improvement measures as announced by the Administration should have been introduced a long time ago to address the concern of residents in Tuen Mun and Yuen Long on the impact of landfill operations. He was concerned that the Administration might not take forward the proposed measures once the funding was secured for the WENT Landfill Extension proposal. He also considered it procedurally inappropriate for the Administration to seek funding from LegCo prior to consulting TMDC and YLDC on the WENT Landfill Extension project.

29. Referring to Mr Albert CHAN's proposal for village resite for residents of Lung Kwu Tan Village, Mr LEUNG Che-cheung asked whether the Administration had spoken with the residents concerned about the proposal. AD(EI), EPD explained that the Administration had maintained communications with Ha Pak Nai Village, Ha Tsuen and Lung Kwu Tan Village on the projects. She noted that some villagers at Ha Pak Nai wanted resiting but some villagers did not want to. However, she had not heard of any views to resite the Lung Kwu Tan Village. She recalled that the previous discussions with Lung Kwu Tan villagers were on improvement

measures to reduce the nuisance associated with road transportation of waste by RCVs. In response to Mr LEUNG's further questions on the scope of the proposed consultancy study, SEN advised that the scope of the proposed consultancy did not include studying the upgrading or widening of Nim Wan Road. The Administration would undertake the proposed road improvement works under a separate item.

30. Ms Cyd HO criticized the Administration for failing to implement immediate measures to tackle the pressing waste management issues. She said that the Labour Party demanded that the Administration should set a target of not disposing more than 5% of MSW at landfills; and that the Administration should commit \$2 billion in recurrent spending on supporting local recycling industry to create jobs. Ms HO said that if the Financial Secretary was able to amend the annual Budget and earmark more than \$30 billion for the implementation of the "Scheme \$6,000" within weeks following the introduction of the Appropriate Bill, it was not impossible for the Administration to accede to her request of allocating \$2 billion recurrent resources to support the recycling industry.

31. Ms Cyd HO said that she could only support the proposed extension of the NENT Landfill and WENT Landfill after the Administration had pledged to commit \$2 billion recurrent expenditure to support the waste recycling industry. On the other hand, she would not oppose to the proposed landfill extension projects in view of the urgency in implementing measures to deal with the waste problem, and would therefore abstain from voting on the two items.

32. SEN said that the Administration shared the view that the various waste problems should be tackled through a basket of measures. Regarding the amount of resources to be spent on the proposed recycling fund, SEN responded that more discussion in the society should be conducted. The new Steering Committee to be chaired by CS would look into the various comments received (including, for example, the proposed establishment of an environment fund), and would maintain close consultation with relevant sectors of the community. Before the establishment of the proposed recycling fund, the Administration would also explore the opportunity to fully utilize the existing ECF to provide immediate support.

33. Mr CHAN Hak-kan said that the Administration should expeditiously implement effective measures to improve the waste management situation, or else Members would have difficulties in endorsing the Administration's future proposals on extension of landfills. He said that the Administration had explained at the last meeting that as a lot of MSW would be handled by RTs, the net traffic impact on the road network in Ta Kwu Ling area when the

SENT Landfill ceased accepting MSW should not be too great. However, noting that the waste handling charges of RTS was quite high, Mr CHAN queried whether many RCVs would really use the service of RTSs instead of transporting the waste to the NENT landfill directly. In response, SEN said that the Administration would conduct a review to maximize the utilization of RTS which could reduce the impact on the road network.

34. Ms Emily LAU noted that the TMDC would hold a meeting in the morning to discuss the proposed WENT Landfill Extension. She criticized the Administration for pre-empting the views of the TMDC by putting the WENT Landfill Extension proposal to PWSC before consultation with the TMDC was completed. She said the Administration's approach ran contrary to its claim that it had maintained close communication with the local community in Tuen Mun. Referring to the Administration's assessment that the WENT Landfill would be full by 2019 and that the landfill should be extended by 200 hectares, Ms LAU said that local residents found the scale of extension unpalatable and they considered it unfair that the Tuen Mun District had to bear a disproportionate burden of the whole territory on waste disposal. She queried whether the proposed scale of extension was a consensus reached with the local community, and whether the proposed consultancy study would examine alternative options of landfill extension by 150, 100 or 50 hectares instead of 200 hectares.

35. SEN said that the WENT Landfill had the geographical advantage of being accessible by sea. Extending the capacity of the WENT Landfill and by utilizing marine transport could reduce the traffic impact on the road network arising from the transportation of waste by RCVs. The proposed consultancy study would review the potential impacts of the landfill extension. During the study, the Administration would maintain close communication with the District Councils and local residents and would actively listen to their views. On the scale of extension, AD(EI), EPD explained that the total area of extension of the WENT Landfill was 200 hectares and the Administration intended to implement the project by phases, with the first two phases of extension involving 65 hectares only. AD(EI), EPD added that the consultancy study would review whether the distribution and phasing as proposed in the earlier technical feasibility study was appropriate; and whether the works schedule should be fine tuned.

36. Mr Michael TIEN supported Mr Albert CHAN's suggestion to relocate the Lung Kwu Tan Village as requested by the villagers. He said that he was disappointed that some PWSC members had changed their stance towards the landfill extension proposals once the Administration withdrew the item in respect of the SENT Landfill. He opined that the disposal of MSW was a territory-wide responsibility and every individual who had

contributed to waste generation should pay his share. Mr TIEN said that as the NENT, WENT and SENT Landfill Extension proposals were not bundled together for decision, he would vote against the proposed two items.

37. Mr Michael TIEN was not convinced about the urgency of the proposed landfill extension. He said that source separation of waste should not be difficult to implement, as evidenced from overseas experience. In his view, RTS facilities could be constructed and commissioned within a relatively short time while new legislation on the requirements of better designs of RCVs could also be introduced within a year's time. Mr TIEN estimated that the number of RCVs using the approach roads to SENT Landfill would be reduced from 1 000 to 500 trips per day once the SENT Landfill was no longer accepting MWS. He opined that all these measures taken together, the community would be able to see considerable improvement, and by then the public would be more receptive towards the Administration's proposals to extend the landfills. Mr TIEN said that hence there was no pressing need to rush the items for PWSC's endorsement and the FC for funding approval at this stage. He suggested that the Administration should withdraw all the items and resubmit them in twelve months' time. Pointing out that the current charges of using the RTS service was relatively expensive as compared with disposing of waste directly at landfill, Mr TIEN criticized that the charging policy was contrary to the Administration's intention of encouraging the use of RTS.

38. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan said that environmental industry in Hong Kong could be viable if there were suitable support measures being implemented by the Administration. She asked what support measures to the environmental industry were available, and whether the Administration had implemented a green procurement policy. Noting that the Administration was seeking \$35 million for consultancy fees in respect of the proposed WENT Landfill extension, she asked whether the study would cover adopting new environmental technology or examine measures to minimize the impact of landfill operations on the neighbourhood.

39. SEN said that the Administration had provided land at reasonable cost at the EcoPark to support the environmental industry and recycling operators could also make use of land under short term tenancy agreements. The Administration had also adopted a green procurement policy to support different environmentally friendly products. SEN added that a review was being conducted with a view to enhancing green procurement practice within the Government. AD(EI), EPD referred members to para 11(a) of the paper PWSC (2013-14)21 which illustrated the improvement measures to be introduced in the landfill extension project under the proposed consultancy study.

40. Mr James TO said that falling objects from RCVs were often the subject of complaint. He asked if the Administration had closely monitored the carriage of MSW by RCVs at fixed locations in the approaches to landfills, and whether heavy penalties could be imposed on RCV operators for breaching the statutory requirements.

41. AD(EI), EPD said that there was legislation against spilling of leachate and dropping of refuse from RCVs. Unannounced blitz enforcement action would be carried out in conjunction with the Police and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. A recent joint enforcement exercise was conducted in the previous month at Tuen Mun resulting in one prosecution taken.

42. Mr James TO said that the environmental nuisance caused by RCVs and waste-carrying vehicles was observed to be more serious by local residents than described by the Administration. He said that the Administration should step up law enforcement, set-up fixed surveillance points and impose heavier penalty against RCV operators who had breached the statutory requirements.

43. Mr WU Chi-wai commented that the Administration's papers did not explore the possibility of utilizing the landfill gas as an energy source and questioned whether the consultancy study would examine the use of landfill gas. He said that the power plant near to the WENT Landfill could use landfill gas so as to reduce consumption of natural gas, and asked if landfill gas from the NENT Landfill could be transmitted to the Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited (Towngas Company) as fuel for its operation. Mr CHAN Han-pan also asked how the Administration would utilize landfill gas generated from the three existing landfills.

44. AD(EI), EPD said that landfill gas was rich in methane. She clarified that the Administration had been utilizing part of the landfill gas to generate electricity for site uses at landfills. Also, landfill gas generated from the NENT landfill was piped via a 19 km pipeline to the Towngas Company's plant at Tai Po Industrial Estate to be used as fuel replacement of naphtha in the production of towngas. For the SENT Landfill, the landfill gas utilization scheme with the Towngas Company was at the final stage of development; whereas for the WENT Landfill, the Administration was actively exploring with the Towngas Company on the opportunities to utilize landfill gas.

45. Dr Fernando CHEUNG said that the Administration's target to dispose of 22% of MSW in landfills was on the high side as the ratio was far lower in

many other places such as Taiwan or Germany. He opined that the Administration should not have submitted proposals to extend the three landfills before it had any plans or timetable to subsidize or support the recycling industry. It was unfair that the residents of Tuen Mun, North and Tseung Kwan O areas had to bear the full environmental impact of landfills despite the Administration's claim that the responsibility of waste disposal should be equally shared among all districts. Dr CHEUNG said that he could not support the proposals until the Administration had come up with a convincing strategy to reduce the amount of waste at source, support recovery and recycling industry and reduce significantly the ratio of waste to be disposed of at landfills to less than 5%.

46. Ms Emily LAU said that now that the Administration proposed to subsidize RCV operators to improve the design of RCVs, consideration should also be given to requiring other waste trucks to be covered to prevent waste or other refuse from falling along the road and causing environmental nuisance. She further asked if the Administration would introduce additional legislative measures to require all vehicles carrying refuse to be fully enclosed. AD(EI), EPD said that there were different types of vehicles carrying wastes to landfills. These vehicles should be covered and the operators should also fasten any bulky materials to their vehicles. The Administration would seek cooperation from the trade, and would also step up law enforcement. AD(EI), EPD said that appropriate legislative proposals were being formulated which would forbid RCVs that had not been fitted with cover and leachate storage tank from entering landfills. Ms Emily LAU criticized that these measures did not go far enough to prevent environmental nuisance on streets.

47. Mr Alan LEONG said that the waste management problem had not changed much over the past nine years since he was first elected into the LegCo. Members of the Civic Party would object to the Administration's proposal to extend landfills because once the items were approved, the Administration would have no motivation to implement measures such as source separation of waste, supporting recycling industries or development of new waste incineration facilities expeditiously as identified in the Blueprint. Mr LEONG said that blocking the landfill extension proposals would put pressure on the Administration to achieve at least intermediate progress towards these objectives and avoid exactly the same dispute to recur in a few years' time.

48. Miss CHAN Yuen-han urged the Administration to expedite measures to remove nuisance caused by RCVs without further delay. She also urged the Administration to introduce legislation as early as possible to regulate RCV operation so as to ameliorate odour problem and other environmental

nuisances. AD(EI), EPD confirmed that the Administration had decided to subsidize the RCV operators to install a cover and leachate storage tank. The trade was aware of the Administration's policy and discussion would be held with the trade shortly on implementation details. AD(EI), EPD added that apart from the subsidy scheme, the Administration would also implement necessary legislative control and the relevant legislative proposals would be introduced to the LegCo later.

49. Mr Gary FAN said that the South Korean authorities had introduced waste disposal charges on food wastes and MSW, implemented producer responsibility policies and set up a legislative framework to control disposal of commercial wastes. Referring to the action plan outlined under the Administration's Blueprint, Mr FAN expressed concern that while the Administration would introduce charging on domestic waste disposal in 2013, the consultation on the charging of construction waste would only be conducted between 2013 and 2015. Mr FAN said that as the amount of commercial and industrial waste had increased by 100% between 2001 and 2011, the charging on commercial, construction and domestic wastes should be introduced simultaneously.

50. SEN said that the Administration would release a consultation paper in the summer to invite views on waste disposal charging. The charging policy would apply equally on domestic as well as commercial and industrial wastes. As regards charging of construction waste, he said that the existing charging scheme introduced in 2006 was very successful and resulted at some 50% reduction of construction waste disposed of at landfills. As the charging rate was fixed many years ago, the proposed public consultation was to review the scheme, with an aim to increase the disposal charges for promoting higher reuse and recycling rate, hence further reducing the amount of construction waste requiring disposal.

51. Mr CHAN Han-pan enquired about the proportion of waste that would be transported to the three landfills by sea routes, and whether the Government could commit to marine transport of waste so as to reduce the environmental nuisance on the road network arising from RCV operations. AD(EI), EPD responded that only the WENT Landfill could be accessed by marine transport, while the NENT Landfill was in a valley and was not accessible by sea. Currently, 72% of the MSW delivered to the WENT Landfill was via marine transport. The total number of waste vehicles going to the WENT Landfill by road was only about 270 per day. She further explained that the RTSs in Shatin and West Kowloon had almost reached their capacities and new RTSs would be required, in particular at east Kowloon and the eastern part of the New Territories. Should the SENT Landfill be closed or not receiving MSW, new RTSs and the associated

facilities would be required to handle the extra waste load.

52. The Chairman said that Members' comments reflected the general concerns on the environmental impacts arising from waste management operations. He asked the Administration to follow-up the related issues with members at the meetings of the Panel on Environmental Affairs.

53. Mr CHAN Hak-kan said that residents in Tuen Mun and Ta Kwu Ling had contributed more than their fair share in bearing the burden of waste disposal. He asked whether the Administration would compensate these people by exempting them from future waste disposal charges, electricity charges or rates so as to reduce their resistance towards the landfill extension proposals. SEN responded that the Administration would keep an open mind to Mr CHAN's suggestions and would be willing to discuss appropriate measures. He said that the Administration would shortly invite views on waste charging scheme. The public could submit their suggestions regarding compensatory measures through that exercise.

54. Mr James TO asked if the Administration would immediately trigger an alert system to monitor and track a waste truck or RCV that was denied access to the landfill due to overloading. AD(EI), EPD replied that the particulars of the vehicles would be recorded for taking follow-up action if there were persistent overloading. PEPO, EPD added that EPD would carry out ad-hoc enforcement activities and track these vehicles as necessary.

55. Dr Elizabeth QUAT commented that the Administration should tackle the environmental problems arising from the operation of RCVs regardless of whether the landfills would be extended. She said that many RCVs or waste trucks, which were turned away from landfills due to overloading, had dumped the refuse illegally. The situation was quite serious especially in certain black spots. She queried how the Administration intended to tackle the problem.

56. AD(EI), EPD said that in addition to taking law enforcement action against overloading and maintaining a dialogue with the trade sector, the Administration also planned to install CCTVs at black spots to increase deterrent effects. The Administration had made a pledge to Tseung Kwan O residents that the equipment would be installed before 2014. SEN said that the Administration would liaise with the respective District Councils and work out the details on stepping up enforcement actions in the known black spots as early as possible. SEN added that the Administration would also maintain close liaison with the trade sector to improve the design and installation of all RCVs to minimize the environmental nuisances. AD(EI), EPD said that necessary legislation would be introduced to ensure

that RCVs would be installed with the required cover and leachate storage tank, and enforcement actions would be taken against operators who did not comply with the requirements or did not use the cover when operating the RCVs. AD(EI), EPD said that the trade sector had reflected that they were willing to use the cover to enclose the refuse when the necessary legislation was in force.

57. Dr Elizabeth QUAT asked if there was a timetable by which the Administration would commence using marine transport to transfer waste to the SENT Landfill, if found feasible. AD(EI), EPD said that there was no designated pier for the transfer of municipal waste to the SENT Landfill. EPD was exploring with the Civil Engineering and Development Department to make arrangements for more public fill materials to be transferred by marine access, which would help reduce the traffic pressure on Wan Po Road.

58. Mr WU Chi-wai reiterated the stance of the Democratic Party (DP) that Members belonging to DP would vote against the two items. He explained that many of the waste management issues highlighted during the discussions still required further investigation, planning, and consultation with the community before implementation. He said that the Administration had not performed well in co-ordinating efforts within the Government in tackling the problems or in introducing or enforcing the relevant legislation. He said that it was necessary to maintain the pressure on the Administration so that it would act more decisively to address the waste management problems and make waste disposal a community-wide responsibility.

59. Mr IP Kwok-him commented that the Administration's practice of submitting the landfill extension proposals to PWSC before the consultation with the District Council had been completed was undesirable and should not be repeated. He said that the views of the local District Councils should be made available to the PWSC members as a reference for deliberation. In the case of TMDC, the Administration could have made arrangement with the TMDC to hold a special meeting to seek their views before submitting the proposal to the PWSC. Mr IP further said that the Administration should also indicate its position on the long term development of the modern waste incinerator as this would facilitate members' deliberation on the current proposals.

60. SEN said that the Administration noted members' comments that it should maintain close liaison with the local District Councils and the local community in implementing any waste management measures. SEN said that the Blueprint had set the target of reducing the proportion of wastes to be disposed of in landfills from 52% to 22% within 10 years through the combined efforts of waste reduction at source and modern waste incineration.

Preliminary investigation on the development of a modern waste incineration facility had commenced. The Administration hoped to proceed with the next stage of implementation work once the judicial review on the incineration facility was concluded. SEN said that the Administration was also working on consultation strategy to amass support from local community that would be affected by the proposed incineration facility.

61. At 10:30 am, the Chairman extended the meeting by 15 minutes.

62. Ms Emily LAU criticized the Administration's arrangement to seek PWSC's endorsement of the extension of the WENT Landfill before the TMDC had considered the matter. She commented that such arrangement reflected the Administration did not respect the views of the District Council. SEN responded that the Administration was concerned about the impact of waste management facilities on the local community. The proposed consultancy study for the WENT Landfill Extension would examine further the impact on traffic and other areas so that appropriate mitigation measures would be devised and introduced to address the community concerns.

63. There being no further questions on the two items, the Chairman put the item PWSC(2013-14)20 to vote. At the request of Ms Emily LAU, the Chairman ordered a division. Of the 29 members present, 28 members voted, and 18 voted for and 10 voted against the proposal. One member abstained from voting. The voting results of individual members were as follows:

For:

Mr TAM Yiu-chung
Mr CHAN Hak-kan
Mr IP Kwok-him
Mr Frankie YICK Chi-ming
Mr Charles Peter MOK
Miss CHAN Yuen-han
Miss Alice MAK Mei-kuen
Dr CHIANG Lai-wan
Mr Christopher CHUNG
Shu-kun
(18 members)

Mr WONG Kwok-hing
Dr LEUNG Ka-lau
Mr NG Leung-sing
Mr MA Fung-kwok
Mr CHAN Han-pan
Mr LEUNG Che-cheung
Dr Elizabeth QUAT
Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok
Mr Tony TSE Wai-chuen

Against:

Mr James TO Kun-sun
Mr Alan LEONG Kah-kit
Mr Michael TIEN Puk-sun
Mr Gary FAN Kwok-wai

Ms Emily LAU Wai-hing
Mr Albert CHAN Wai-yip
Mr WU Chi-wai
Dr Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok

Dr Fernando CHEUNG
Chiu-hung
(10 members)

Mr SIN Chung-kai

Abstain

Ms Cyd HO Sau-lan
(1 member)

64. The Chairman declared that the Subcommittee approved the item.

65. The Chairman put the item PWSC(2013-14)21 to vote. At the request of Ms Emily LAU, the Chairman ordered a division. Of the 29 members present, 28 members voted, and 15 voted for and 13 voted against the item. One member abstained from voting. The voting results were as follows:

For:

Mr TAM Yiu-chung
Dr LEUNG Ka-lau
Mr NG Leung-sing
Mr MA Fung-kwok
Mr CHAN Han-pan
Dr Elizabeth QUAT
Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok
Mr Tony TSE Wai-chuen
(15 members)

Mr CHAN Hak-kan
Mr IP Kwok-him
Mr Frankie YICK Chi-ming
Mr Charles Peter MOK
Mr LEUNG Che-cheung
Dr CHIANG Lai-wan
Mr Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun

Against:

Mr James TO Kun-sun
Mr WONG Kwok-hing
Mr Albert CHAN Wai-yip
Mr WU Chi-wai
Dr Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok
Miss Alice MAK Mei-kuen
Mr SIN Chung-kai
(13 members)

Ms Emily LAU Wai-hing
Mr Alan LEONG Kah-kit
Mr Michael TIEN Puk-sun
Mr Gary FAN Kwok-wai
Miss CHAN Yuen-han
Dr Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung

Abstain

Ms Cyd HO Sau-lan
(1 member)

66. The Chairman declared that the Subcommittee approved the item.

67. The Chairman asked if members would request the two items be put for separate discussion and voting at the relevant FC meeting. Mr Albert CHAN and Ms Emily LAU requested the two items be put for separate voting at the FC meeting scheduled for 12 July 2013.

Any other business

68. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
11 July 2013