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8 December 2017

Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex,
1 Legislative Council Road,
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn: Mr Keith Wong)

Dear Mr Wong,

Establishment Subcommittee
Follow-up to the Meeting on 8 November 2017

Thank you for your letter of 9 November 2017. Our response to the motion moved by Hon YUNG Hoi-yan, which was carried at the meeting of the Establishment Subcommittee on 8 November 2017 is set out in the following paragraphs.

The Government accepts the motion and is committed to uplifting the effectiveness of our tree management work. The Government established the Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section (GLTMS) under the Development Bureau in 2010. The GLTMS is underpinned by the Greening and Landscape Office (GLO) and the Tree Management Office (TMO). The GLO is responsible for central co-ordination of policy matters and departmental efforts on greening and landscape planning and design, while the TMO promotes a quality-led approach to tree management and oversees its implementation across tree management departments and in the community. All TMO officers have professional Certified Arborist qualification awarded by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). They also possess other professional arboricultural

qualifications, such as Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) awarded by the ISA in the USA, Certificate in Professional Tree Inspection awarded by the LANTRA Awards in the UK, or professional membership of the Arboricultural Association in the UK. Apart from arboricultural qualifications, they also have extensive knowledge in tree science (e.g. integrated plant pest and disease management, plant geography, ecological category study, and greenhouse cultivation and propagation management) and practical experience in various areas, including tree risk assessment, Brown Root Rot Disease management and tree care.

Since its inception, the TMO has put in place systematic arrangements for tree risk assessment and management to assess tree risks and undertake proper tree care. To enhance the system, in 2015, a triage system was introduced to prioritise trees with major structural defects or health problems for timely mitigation and care.

For trees on private land, the TMO promulgated a Handbook on Tree Management in April 2016 to provide private property owners with guidelines and standards of good practice on tree management. The TMO is working with the Home Affairs Department to incorporate the Handbook into the Code of Practice under the Building Management Ordinance (Cap. 344). The TMO also encourages private property owners to carry out regular tree inspections and maintenance, and organises seminars and field demonstrations to equip them with the know-how.

In the days ahead, we will continue to uplift the quality of tree management and explore how advanced technology can help in managing our valuable tree assets. We will keep the resources requirements under review, and seek additional resources, if needed, through the established mechanism in due course.

Please let me know if you require further information. I can be reached by phone at 3509 8272 or by e-mail at joeylam@devb.gov.hk.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Joey Lam', with a stylized, cursive script.

(Joey Lam)

for Secretary for Development