

Hong Kong, December 23, 2018

Honorable Ma Fung-kwok, SBS, JP
Chairman
Bills Committee on Waste Disposal (Charging for Municipal Solid Waste)
(Amendment) Bill 2018

c/o Clerk to Bills Committee
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Chairman and Members,

Bills Committee on Waste Disposal (Charging for Municipal Solid Waste)
(Amendment) Bill 2018

Thank you for your invitation to Swire Pacific Limited to attend the Bills Committee meeting on the WASTE DISPOSAL (CHARGING FOR MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2018. I represent Swire Pacific Limited and will attend the meeting. Below is the oral submission which I intend to make.

Honourable Chairman and Honourable Members, Swire Pacific Limited is grateful for this opportunity to express its support for the WASTE DISPOSAL (CHARGING FOR MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2018. We support quantity-based charging for municipal solid waste and we support designated garbage bags and the proposed gate fee as means of achieving such charging. We also support the future consideration of fair and transparent producer responsibility schemes.

But we think that charging for municipal waste is not enough. The 2013 Hong Kong Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources needs to be updated. Hong Kong needs to adopt a more holistic approach to waste management. In particular, we need to increase radically the amount of waste that is recycled. This is a key way of reducing municipal solid waste, leaving less to be subject to charging.

To increase the potential for recycling, all waste should be separated by households, offices and other commercial enterprises at source. We appreciate that this can only be done in stages in Hong Kong. Investment in material recovery facilities must come first. Waste transfer stations need to be redesigned accordingly. Only when recyclable materials have been recovered can they be sent for recycling and only then can their value be realized.

We strongly encourage the government to be fully transparent about and to invest the money generated by municipal solid waste charging (and money generated by any waste producer responsibility schemes which the government puts in place) in additional facilities for the collection, sorting and recycling of waste. In our view, this



would be best achieved by establishing a waste authority, as has been successfully done elsewhere in the world. A waste authority would deal with all aspects of municipal solid waste – collection, reduction, sorting, recycling, charging and disposal in landfills or by incineration. The authority could be formed by combining the waste and recycling operations of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Environmental Protection Department. It would make waste management more efficient and would facilitate the reduction in municipal solid waste envisaged by the Blueprint for the Sustainable Use of Resources which I referred to earlier.

Signed

Mark Harper

23 December 2018