

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
PANEL ON DEVELOPMENT**

**Studies related to Artificial Islands in the Central Waters,
Lantau Conservation Fund and
Work Progress of the Sustainable Lantau Office**

**Follow-up actions arising from special meeting of
Panel on Development on 27 April 2019**

In the special meeting of the Panel on Development (the Panel) on 27 April 2019, the Panel requested the Administration to provide the following information:

- (i) the average annual cost incurred by the Government to transport the surplus public fill generated locally to Taishan in the Mainland for reclamation; and
- (ii) the specific details of the fisheries impact assessment to be conducted under the proposed Studies related to Artificial Islands in the Central Waters (Study) (e.g. the government department(s) responsible for conducting the assessment, and how the assessment would be conducted).

2. For the two items above, having consulted the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), the Development Bureau's reply is as follows:

- (i) The Hong Kong construction industry generates a large quantity of inert construction and demolition material (also known as public fill) annually. Part of the public fill is transported to appropriate local works projects for direct reuse while the remaining public fill is transported to the temporary fill banks for storage so as to be reused in the future in reclamation or earth filling works projects.

As local works are unable to absorb all the public fill generated in Hong Kong in recent years, and the capacities of temporary fill banks are limited, since 2007 the Government has been transporting surplus public fill to Taishan in the Guangdong Province for disposal. Based on the information from CEDD, the quantities of public fill received

at the temporary fill banks and the surplus public fill transported from the temporary fill banks to Taishan for disposal in the past 3 years are tabulated in **Table 1**, and the Government's expenditures on the management of public fill in the past 3 financial years are tabulated in **Table 2**.

Table 1

Year	Public Fill Received at the Temporary Fill Banks (million tonnes)	Quantity of Surplus Public Fill Transported from Temporary Fill Banks to Taishan for Disposal (million tonnes)
2016	15.0	13.6
2017	13.3	13.5
2018	14.6*	10.0*

*Provisional actual figures may be subject to adjustment

Table 2

Financial Year	Expenditure on the Management of Public Fill (\$ million)
2016-17	1,175.3 (actual)
2017-18	1,032.2 (actual)
2018-19	949.3 (estimate)

The expenditures above mainly cover the operation and maintenance costs of temporary fill banks, transportation costs of surplus public fill to the Mainland, the associated staff costs and administrative expenses. As the transportation of surplus public fill to the Mainland as well as the operation and maintenance of the temporary fill banks are undertaken by a single contractor, there is no breakdown of the costs for individual operations in the relevant contract.

- (ii) EPD stated that the proposed Study would involve designated projects as stipulated under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO) (Cap. 499). CEDD should apply for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study Brief in accordance with EIAO, and carry out assessments according to the requirements in the said Study Brief on EIA on fisheries and other aspects. The EIAO has also stipulated procedures for members of the public to provide their views. If comments regarding fisheries impact assessment are received, EPD jointly with AFCD, will only decide on the relevant content of the EIA

Study Brief after having carefully considered the relevant views.

Detailed scope of the fisheries impact assessment can only be determined after obtaining the EIA Study Brief. In accordance with Annex 17 of the Technical Memorandum of the EIA process (TM), CEDD shall include the following in the fisheries impact assessment of the proposed works projects:

- (a) **Provision of Fisheries related Baseline Information** — review and verify the existing baseline information, and carry out fishery field survey as necessary to ensure that there is adequate and accurate baseline information for conducting fisheries impact assessment.
- (b) **Prediction and Evaluation of Potential Fisheries Impacts** — predict the potential fishery impacts (including aquaculture and capture fisheries) of the project, and describe the nature of the impacts and quantify its extent, with reference to the criteria listed out in the TM and based on the general situation of the proposed works project and the gathered fisheries baseline information.
- (c) **Recommendation of cost-effective and practical mitigation measures** — based on the requirements of TM, consider appropriate options (such as adjustment of design and construction method) to avoid any potential impacts as far as possible where reasonable and practicable. In addition, propose appropriate mitigation measures to minimise the adverse impact as far as possible through consulting relevant stakeholders, AFCD and the relevant government departments.
- (d) **Recommendation of appropriate monitoring programme** — verify the accuracy of the predictions of the fisheries impact assessment study and monitor the effectiveness of the mitigation measures through monitoring programme.

In summary, CEDD will predict and evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed works on fisheries based on the requirement in the TM to, and will fully consider the concerns and views of the relevant stakeholders and relevant government departments to ensure the sustainable development of the fisheries industry.

Development Bureau
May 2019