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19 March 2019

Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong  
(Attn.: Ms Angel SHEK)  
(By e-mail)

Dear Ms. Shek,

**Enhanced management of wild pigs**

I refer to your letter of 29 January 2019, addressed to the Secretary for the Environment regarding the motion passed at the meeting of the Panel on Environmental Affairs on 28 January 2019 under the agenda item on enhanced management of wild pigs. I am authorised to reply as follows.

At present, there are two civilian hunting teams formed by volunteers in Hong Kong. Members of the teams must be granted the special permit issued by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) under the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170) and the arms licence issued by Hong Kong Police Force before they can conduct hunting operations. Under the existing mechanism, upon verification of reports on wild pig nuisance received by the police, district offices or AFCD, and after the preventive or other measures adopted are found ineffective, then the civilian hunting teams would be considered to be called in to conduct hunting operations, with a view to minimising the threats to personal safety and property posed by wild pig nuisance. In order to have better control on the number of wild pigs in Hong Kong and to minimise the conflicts between the general public and wild pigs, AFCD has conducted a comprehensive review on the wild pig management strategy and measures. It has been decided to suspend the hunting operations since 2017. After the review, having considered public safety and other factors, AFCD has no plan to resume hunting operations by

the civilian hunting teams at this stage.

To alleviate the nuisance of wild pigs in a safer and more effective way, AFCD is adopting a multipronged approach, namely managing wild pig's nuisance, reducing food attraction, educating the public not to feed wild animals and reviewing the effectiveness of the management strategy regularly. In this connection, AFCD has started exploring the Capture and Contraception/Relocation Programme (CCRP) since 2017 as a pilot scheme to address persistent wild pig nuisance. In CCRP, AFCD will capture the wild pigs causing nuisance for contraception and/or relocation to remote countryside areas to alleviate the nuisance with immediate effect. In addition, AFCD will euthanise wild pigs which might pose imminent risks to the public with a view to safeguarding public safety.

Since 2017, AFCD has established a task force to tackle the nuisance of wild pigs. The task force comprises six officers, including one Forestry Officer, two Field Officers II and three Field Assistants. To deal with the nuisance of wild pigs more effectively, AFCD will deploy more resources and manpower to tackle wild pigs matters, including stepping up the efforts on CCRP, so as to reduce the nuisance of wild pigs.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Thebe NG', written in a cursive style.

( Ms Thebe NG )

for the Director of Environmental Protection

c.c.

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Attn: Mr CHEUNG Ka-shing)