

(Translation)

Our Ref : FH CR 1/1/2526/12  
Your Ref : CB2/PL/FE

Tel : 3509 8927  
Fax : 2136 3281

Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong  
(Attn: Miss Josephine SO)  
(Fax No: 2509 9055)

4 March 2019

Dear Miss So,

**Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene –  
Follow-up Actions**

Our responses to the items for follow-up actions pursuant to the Panel meeting held on 8 January are as follows.

To consider the initial boundary and major infrastructure support of the Agricultural Park (“Agri-Park”), the Civil and Engineering and Development Department (“CEDD”) commissioned an independent consultant to conduct an engineering feasibility study (“EFS”) in 2016. Considering that one of the purposes of establishing the Agri-Park is to increase the productivity and output of local agriculture, the scope of the EFS also covered the need for road(s). The consultant was asked to examine the need to construct road(s) within the Agri-Park having regard to (1) the long-term operational needs of the Agri-Park; (2) technical feasibility; (3) road design standards; and (4) impacts on nearby private land, structures and the environment. For the purpose of tendering, we provided in the consultancy brief for the EFS a conceptual plan of a road along Tam Shui Hang river for exploring the feasibility of road construction.

Noting that the road in the conceptual plan was far away from the central part of the Agri-Park, the EFS found that, if the approach of the conceptual plan were to be followed in the road design, more feeder roads of

greater length would be required to link up with the farmland to the west, resulting in the construction of more feeder roads and affecting operational efficiency. Moreover, there are environmental limitations in designing a road along the convoluted Tam Shui Hang river that could meet the Rural Road type standard under the Transport Department's Transport Planning and Design Manual. Therefore, the EFS recommended the construction of a single two-lane carriageway of 7.3 m wide to cover the East-West directions of the Agri-Park Phase 1, which could provide a more suitable transport infrastructure and at the same time meet the said Rural Road type standard of the Transport Department.

Subsequently in 2017, CEDD engaged another consultant to carry out the detailed design and site investigation work ("detailed design consultancy") for the infrastructure support of the Agri-Park. The detailed design consultancy affirmed the road alignment recommended in the EFS. The Government conducted public consultations on the proposed road, including its necessity, alignment and design, from July to October 2017. After carefully examining views gathered during the consultation period, the technical feasibility and constraints, CEDD refined the design of the road through modifying the alignment to further reduce the impacts on existing structures, private land and active farmland. The current alignment was supported by representatives of the agricultural sector and the North District Council.

During the consultation period, the Government received a number of alignment proposals that were, upon site inspection and examination, found to be unable to meet the development needs of the Agri-Park. Some proposals were not taken on board as they would require the resumption of more private land that would impact on more existing structures, and/or cause extra construction time and costs from changing the river crossing point.

About 50 hectares of existing fallow farmland in the Agri-Park would be rehabilitated upon full commissioning of the Agri-Park, resulting in a substantial increase in arable farmland and higher traffic demand compared with the present. The Government adopts the recommendation of both the EFS and detailed design consultancy to construct a single two-lane carriageway of 7.3 m wide to connect the Agri-Park with Tsiu Keung Road and Fan Kam Road in order to meet the long-term operational objectives and road safety needs of the Agri-Park. Upon commissioning of Phase 2, this new road will form part of the road network within the Agri-Park. The road will service tenants in both Phases, and open for the public and visitors to participate in farming-related educational activities, sharing sessions and experiential activities.

The Agri-Park will cover both Government and private land. In deciding the scope of land resumption, the Government follows the principle of minimum land resumption necessary for the proposed works. The proposed road will affect about 1 hectare of active farmland and a dozen or so farmers.



Affected farmers will be arranged to relocate to other areas within the Agri-Park for operation. The Agri-Park Phase 1 will provide about 7 hectares of farmland, which will be made available for tenancy application with priority given to existing farmers operating within the area of the Agri-Park prior to its establishment. The Government will endeavour to relocate farmers affected by the road works to other part in the Agri-Park for continued farming, before starting the road and other construction works, thereby minimising the impact on them. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will also provide technical support to help displaced farmers resume operation as soon as possible.

As for the environment, long-term environmental impacts of the proposed works, including air quality, water quality, ecology, landscape, noise and waste management etc., will be controlled to within established standards. During construction, the contractor will implement mitigation measures to control noise, dust and site run-off nuisances to within established standards.

Yours sincerely,

( Bill WONG )  
for Secretary for Food and Health

cc:

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Attn: Mr Stephen LAI) Fax: 2736 5393

Civil Engineering and Development Department North Development Office  
(Attn: Ms Teresa MA) Fax: 3743 0260