

**For discussion  
on 12 November 2019**

**Legislative Council Panel on  
Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene**

**Construction of the Animal Management and Animal Welfare  
Building Complex in Kai Tak Development**

**Purpose**

This paper briefs members on the proposed construction of the Animal Management and Animal Welfare Building Complex (the Complex) in Kai Tak Development (KTD).

**Background**

2. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) operates four Animal Management Centres (AMCs) across the territory, which provide services relating to vaccination and licensing of dogs, and temporarily housing imported animals during their quarantine periods, stray animals for owners to reclaim as well as animals surrendered by owners before they are arranged for adoption. The AMC in Kowloon (AMC(K)) is located in To Kwa Wan with a site area of around 1 130 square metres (m<sup>2</sup>). It is also one of Hong Kong's two statutory quarantine centres for imported animals under the Rabies Ordinance (Cap. 421).

3. Site 3A1 in KTD has been identified for the construction of a new Complex for both re-provisioning AMC(K) and providing additional space and facilities to meet the operational needs of animal management. The site area is about 2 344 m<sup>2</sup>.

**Justifications**

*Release of the existing site for public housing development*

4. The relocation of AMC(K) is necessary for the release of the existing site in To Kwa Wan, which has been planned for building about 600 units of public housing.

### *Re-provisioning of AMC(K) with improved facilities*

5. Developing the Complex in KTD will provide AFCD with the essential hardware to enhance its services. The workload of AMC(K) is very heavy<sup>1</sup>, yet it is the smallest AMC. The building has been in operation since the 1960s, and facilities inside have become insufficient. Some animal welfare organisations have also asked the Government to provide more animal keeping facilities at the AMCs. AMC(K) now has only one inoculation room for dog vaccination, resulting in a long queue at the waiting area; and one interview room for providing public services, which include taking prosecution statements and handling public enquiries and complaints. If the room is occupied, some of these tasks will have to be performed at the waiting areas or corridors. In addition, not all rooms are temperature-regulated. With its structural constraints, room for improvement works at AMC(K) is limited.

6. The Complex will provide more than double the current number of animal keeping facilities for dogs, cats and other small animals<sup>2</sup>. AFCD will then be able to receive more stray animals or animals given by owners and extend the housing period of these animals where necessary, with a view to enhancing their chance of being adopted. This could also shorten the waiting time of the importers for booking AFCD's quarantine facilities.

7. In addition, two inoculation rooms for dog vaccination and a larger waiting area, as well as six individual multi-purpose rooms will be provided in the Complex. The temperature and humidity of the Complex can be regulated, making it more comfortable for the animals. Other new and improved facilities will include a detention room, isolation wards for infectious or debilitated animals, a surgical room and a recovery room for injured animals after surgical treatment. These will help improve the health conditions of the animals.

### *New publicity and public education facilities*

8. Dedicated facilities for publicity and public education will be available at the Complex. This will go a long way in enhancing animal welfare in Hong Kong. Currently, there are no library, classroom and exhibition facilities in AFCD premises for organising classes, seminars and

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<sup>1</sup> In 2018, AMC(K) handles around 45% of the total complaint cases received by the four AMCs.

<sup>2</sup> The number of animal keeping facilities to be provided will increase from around 120 to around 270.

programmes on responsible pet ownership and animal welfare<sup>3</sup>. The dedicated facilities mentioned above will enable AFCD to launch more varieties of publicity and provide more opportunities for participants to see and handle animals first-hand. All units of AFCD's Animal Management (Development) Division (AMDD)<sup>4</sup>, now scattered at different locations, will be co-located to enhance synergy and efficiency in the department's operations.

#### *Office space for the Veterinary Surgeons Board*

9. The Complex will provide a stand-alone office and disciplinary inquiry related facilities for the Veterinary Surgeons Board (VSB)<sup>5</sup>. The VSB Secretariat is now relying on shared office space, equipment and conference facilities in the AFCD headquarters at the Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices which is already overcrowded. Furthermore, members of the public may visit the Secretariat from time to time to make statutory declarations for complaint cases or submit documents for registration. Given the increasing number of registered veterinary surgeons in Hong Kong<sup>6</sup>, we see an upsurge in workload arising from the registration, and regulating the practice of veterinary surgery.

#### *Additional veterinary laboratory space*

10. The Complex will also provide much needed additional veterinary laboratory space. AFCD's Tai Lung Veterinary Laboratory (TLVL) is the only government veterinary laboratory responsible for diagnostic testing of animal diseases and chemical residual testing in order to safeguard public and animal health in Hong Kong. At present, there is no spare capacity at TLVL for antimicrobial resistance (AMR) tests on local food animals and equine disease tests<sup>7</sup>. The Complex will help relieve the shortage of space in this regard.

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<sup>3</sup> The current channels used by AFCD include roving exhibitions, school and estate seminars, adoption days, the production of announcement of public interests and videos for display at different locations, production of leaflets and posters and a thematic website.

<sup>4</sup> AMDD comprises an Education Team (managing publicity and public education related to animal welfare), a Task Force (combating illegal animal trading and boarding on the internet) and a Licensing and Inspection Unit (carrying out licensing and regulatory duties under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Trading and Breeding) regulation (Cap. 139B)).

<sup>5</sup> The VSB is an independent statutory authority established under the Veterinary Surgeons Registration Ordinance (Cap. 529). It exercises registration and regulatory functions for the veterinary profession in Hong Kong.

<sup>6</sup> The number of registered veterinary surgeons has grown from around 150 in 1998 to more than 1 000 as at mid-October 2019.

<sup>7</sup> In July 2017, the Government announced a five-year strategy and plan to combat the growing threat of AMR, and AFCD's Veterinary Laboratory Division needs new laboratory facilities to

## **Project Scope**

11. The project comprises –

- (a) construction of a new 15-storey complex for –
  - (i) re-provisioning of AMC(K) currently located at To Kwa Wan;
  - (ii) provision of offices and facilities for AMDD, Equine Disease Division, Veterinary Laboratory Division, AMR Surveillance Section and Avian Influenza Surveillance Section of Animal Health Division and the Secretariat of the VSB;
  - (iii) provision of other related ancillary facilities; and
- (b) demolition of the existing AMC(K).

12. A site and location plan and an artist's impression of the Complex are at **Enclosures 1** and **2**.

13. The estimated project cost is about \$900 million in money-of-the-day prices.

## **Public Consultation**

14. The Kowloon City District Council was consulted on 21 March 2019. Members supported the project and were assured that the facility would not cause environmental nuisances, public health concerns and traffic congestion in the nearby area. The Task Force on Kai Tak Harbourfront Development, when consulted on 15 January 2019, considered that all in all, the project was in line with the Harbour Planning Principles and Guidelines and had no adverse impact on the Harbour. Animal welfare groups in general welcomed the project and urged for its early implementation.

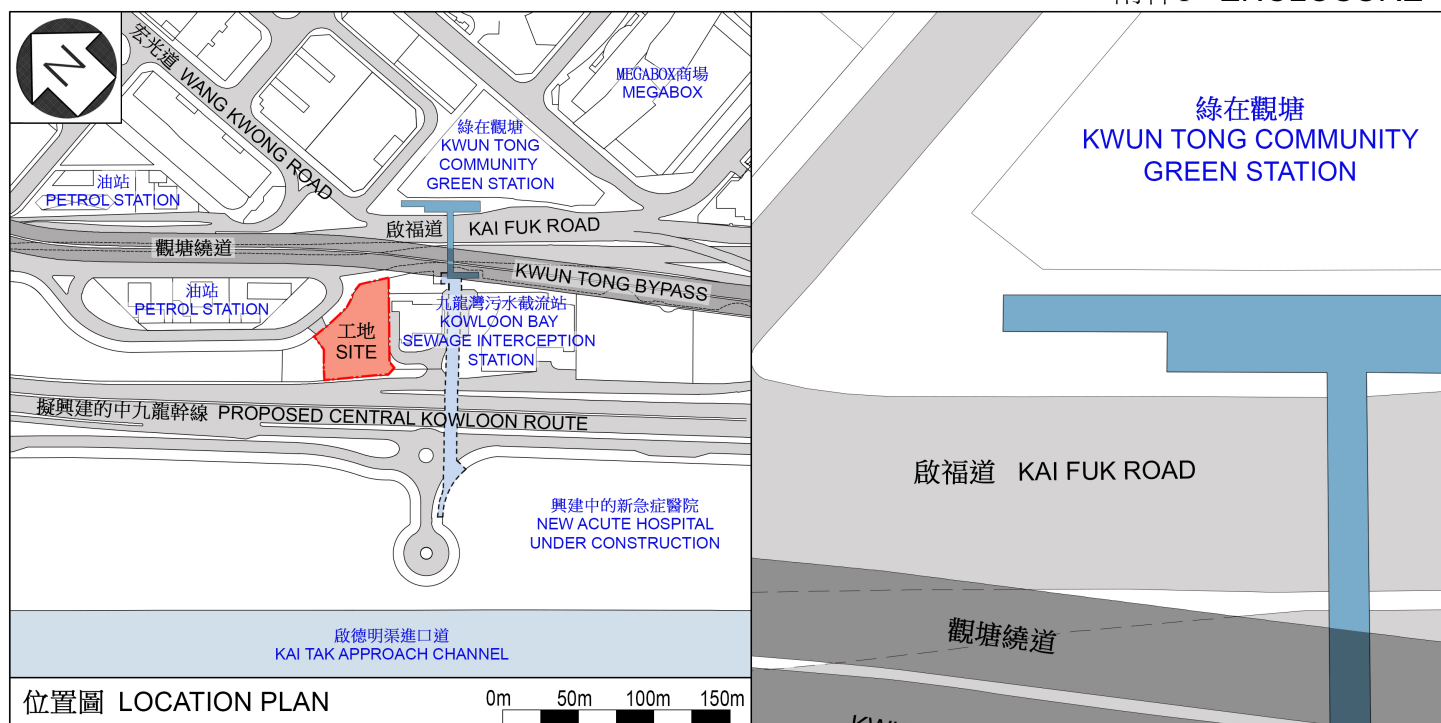
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conduct AMR tests on local food animals. In addition, with the commissioning of the Conghua Racecourse in August last year, it is anticipated that there would be an increased demand for the Equine Disease Division to conduct equine disease tests to facilitate the frequent horse movement between Hong Kong and Conghua. Moreover, to achieve synergy, the AMR Surveillance Section set up in 2017 under Animal Health Division on surveillance and testing on local food animals and its Avian Influenza Surveillance Section will also be relocated to the Complex.

## **Implementation Plan**

15. We next plan to seek the endorsement from the Public Works Subcommittee and funding approval from the Finance Committee (FC). Subject to FC's approval, our target is to commence the construction works in the second quarter of 2020 for completion in the fourth quarter of 2023.

**Food and Health Bureau**  
**Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department**  
**November 2019**



圖例 LEGEND

- |                                |  |  |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| --- 工地界線<br>SITE BOUNDARY      | ■ 地面綠化<br>AT-GRADE GREENING                              | ➡ 車輛出入口<br>VEHICULAR INGRESS / EGRESS    |
| --- 垂直綠化<br>VERTICAL GREENING  | ■ 天台綠化<br>LANDSCAPED ROOF                                | ➡ 行人出入口<br>PEDESTRIAN ENTRANCE / EXIT    |
| ■ 太陽能光伏板<br>PHOTOVOLTAIC PANEL | ■ 現有行人天橋<br>EXISTING FOOTBRIDGE                          | ➡ 無障礙出入口<br>BARRIER-FREE ENTRANCE / EXIT |
|                                | --- 擬興建行人天橋 (由其他工程承造)<br>PROPOSED FOOTBRIDGE (BY OTHERS) |  |

工地平面圖  
SITE PLAN

187GK  
啟德發展區的動物管理及動物福利綜合大樓  
ANIMAL MANAGEMENT AND ANIMAL WELFARE  
BUILDING COMPLEX IN KAI TAK DEVELOPMENT



ARCHITECTURAL  
SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT 建築署



從西北面望向大樓的構思透視圖  
PERSPECTIVE VIEW FROM NORTHWEST DIRECTION

構思圖  
 ARTIST'S  
 IMPRESSION

187GK  
 啟德發展區的動物管理及動物福利綜合大樓  
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