

18 February 2021

Clerk to Bills Committee  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex  
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Central, Hong Kong  
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Dear Chairman and Committee Members,

**Bills Committee Formed on 16 October 2020 to Study the  
Waste Disposal (Charging for Municipal Solid Waste) (Amendment) Bill 2018**

**Views from Swire Properties Limited**

In 2018/19 Swire Properties Limited supported the initial submission of the Bill by the Bills Committee by written submission, and the Government continues to have our full support for the Waste Disposal (Charging for Municipal Solid Waste) (Amendment) Bill 2018.

We are in support of the Government's plan to establish a quantity-based charging scheme to encourage waste reduction at source and relieve the burden on landfills. We have supported five MSW Charging Trial Projects since 2017 to prepare our F&B, mall and office tenants for this extensive Government initiative. We believe that the proposed scheme will provide financial incentive and legislative imperative to collectively deepen waste reduction strategies and support the city's transition to a circular economy.

**Enhancing Hong Kong's Waste Management System**

The Government has proposed to use MSW charging revenue to fund waste reduction and recycling initiatives. Swire Properties welcomes plans to use these additional resources to enhance the waste management system in Hong Kong, such as providing more collection points for recyclables and educating citizens to recycle properly.

We ask that the Government should proactively identify secured outlets to sort, reuse or recycle more types of waste, such as polyfoam, Tetra Pak, non-regulated electrical equipment (non-REE), textiles, used furniture and wood. Community-based networks, such as Green @ Community, could be better utilised to facilitate recyclables collection.

From now until the implementation of MSW charging, we also welcome efforts to intensify public education in order to encourage waste reduction and separation at source as well as to minimise poor behaviour such as fly-tipping and the mixing of non-recyclables into recyclable waste. In addition, the Government may launch community engagement projects, conduct

trial schemes and provide targeted briefings to frontline cleaners, recyclers and property management companies (PMCs).

### **Collection Service for Food Waste and Waste Plastics**

Food waste and waste plastics account for 35% and 21% of MSW disposed of at landfills in 2016. Both types of waste have the potential to be recycled and converted into valuable resources. The waste reduction impact of MSW charging will be closely tied to further measures to promote and support food and plastic waste collection and recycling.

For Swire Properties, our food waste recycling journey began in 2005 when we installed our first food decomposer in one of our shopping malls. In 2015, we began to work with food waste recyclers to convert food waste collected from tenants into fish feed. Since July 2018, we have been sending collected food waste to the Government's first Organic Resources Recovery Centre (O · PARK1). We believe that the Government's plan to develop a series of O · PARK and to provide territory-wide free collection service for food waste will help promote food waste recycling in Hong Kong.

Food waste separation has to be done at source, i.e. where food is prepared or served. Therefore, in addition to enhancing treatment capacity, the F&B industry and the property management sector would also benefit from more support to adapt their operations to separate food waste at source and coordinate to deliver food waste to O · PARK. For example, the "Source Separation Programme of Food Waste for the Food & Beverage (F&B) Trade", funded by the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF), has helped equip our F&B tenants with food waste bins and bags in their kitchens. We also welcome more opportunities to exchange best practices as well as incentives for F&B outlets to allocate manpower, time and space for waste separation in their daily operations.

With waste plastics now becoming a global crisis, the Government's proposed initiatives to address the high costs of waste plastics collection, separation, storage and transportation are timely.

Growing the capacity of the local recycling industry should go hand-in-hand with efforts to boost the collection of waste plastics. The Government should support local recyclers to operate and sustain state-of-the-art recycling facilities and gradually expand the types of waste plastics that can be collected and processed locally.

### **The Role of Property Management Companies (PMCs)**

As a PMC, our waste management efforts rely on broad-based collaboration and engagement. In addition to handling daily MSW disposal, we facilitate the recycling of more than 20 types of waste produced by our office and retail tenants, hotel guests and occupants of our residences. Our recycling programmes not only help achieve Swire Properties' waste diversion targets, but also offer convenience to our tenants and the wider community.

We believe that with MSW charging enforced, we will be able to collect more recyclables and help divert more waste from landfills. We propose that the Government should consider review the existing building regulations around waste management and incentives to allocate more space for recycling in both existing and new buildings. District-wide collection services and shared collection areas for bulky recyclables may also be considered to assist PMCs.

Based on successful experiences of MSW charging in the region, namely in Taipei City and South Korea, MSW charging is a proven means to drive behavioural change and achieve waste reduction. We expect that it may take time to cultivate the necessary behavioural change. Poor compliance, such as fly-tipping in public areas and the mixing of MSW into recyclables, may cause a burden to PMCs and local recyclers initially. Proactive support from the Government will help PMCs, cleaning contractors and recyclers to prepare the surveillance capacity, manpower and knowledge required to effectively contribute to the implementation of MSW charging.

### **Conclusion**

In summary, Swire Properties supports MSW charging as proposed in the Waste Disposal (Charging for Municipal Solid Waste) (Amendment) Bill 2018. The passage of the MSW charging bill will be a critical step towards achieving the Government's new vision of "Waste Reduction • Resources Circulation • Zero Landfill" in the new Waste Blueprint for Hong Kong 2035 (which was publicly released on 8 February 2021) and the Government's target to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. Ultimately, the Hong Kong's businesses and citizens will benefit from the transition to a more circular, low-carbon, and sustainable environment.

Please contact us by email at [sustainabledevelopment@swireproperties.com](mailto:sustainabledevelopment@swireproperties.com) for any queries related to this submission.

Yours faithfully,  
Swire Properties Limited