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20 November 2020

Legislative Council Finance Committee Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong

(Attn: Ms Angel SHEK)

Dear Ms SHEK,

**Re: Legislative Council Paper No. FCR(2019-20)27**

I refer to your email of 6 November 2020 to the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau, relaying the enquiries about the subject matter. Having consulted the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, the Development Bureau hereby provides our consolidated response as enclosed.

Yours sincerely,



(Jacky WU)

for Secretary for Development

c.c.

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Attn: Ms HO Ching-yee)

Director of Planning (Attn: Mr NG Kim-wai)

Director of Civil Engineering and Development (Attn: Mr Raymond IP)

## **Re: Legislative Council Paper No. FCR(2019-20)27**

Regarding the email from the Legislative Council Secretariat on 6 November 2020 and the paper attached therein regarding the subject, after consulting the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), the Development Bureau hereby provides the responses.

### **Studies related to artificial islands in the Central Waters**

The Studies related to artificial islands in the Central Waters (the Study) will focus on the artificial islands around Kau Yi Chau of about 1 000 hectares. When carrying out detailed engineering study for it, we will conduct environmental impact assessments, which covers ecological impact, under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance and propose corresponding mitigation measures, thereby ensuring that the works will comply with the relevant statutory requirements. In addition, to avoid affecting the ecology of the adjacent islands, we will retain the existing natural shorelines as far as possible and establish eco-shorelines at the artificial islands where practicable.

As for the artificial islands near Hei Ling Chau, there is no specific implementation timetable at the moment. The Study will collect basic information, which mainly includes the preliminary ecological, environmental and geological conditions, on waters within and in the vicinity of the possible artificial islands near Hei Ling Chau for reference in long-term planning.

### **Ecological Surveys on Sunshine Island and Hei Ling Chau**

The following is the information provided by AFCD.

1. During the period from 2015 to 2019, AFCD conducted ecological surveys on Bogadek's Burrowing Lizard and White-bellied Sea Eagle on Sunshine Island every year. AFCD did not undertake any ecological surveys on Hei Ling Chau during this period.

The number of ecological surveys conducted on Sunshine Island are set out in the table below:

Year	Number of Surveys	
	Bogadek's Burrowing Lizard	White-bellied Sea Eagle*
2015	4	6
2016	2	5
2017	5	7
2018	2	6
2019	1	7

\* The survey on White-bellied Sea Eagle on Sunshine Island was part of a wider survey in the southern waters of Hong Kong and separate from the survey on Bogadek's Burrowing Lizard.

2. The concerned ecological surveys conducted by AFCD targeted on Bogadek's Burrowing Lizard and White-bellied Sea Eagle specifically, but not other species. The Bogadek's Burrowing Lizard was recorded in 2017 and 2019, while the White-bellied Sea Eagle was recorded throughout the period from 2015 to 2019.
3. The annual number of individuals of the two species recorded from the above surveys on Sunshine Island are set out in the table below:

Year	Number of Individuals	
	Bogadek's Burrowing Lizard	White-bellied Sea Eagle
2015	0	1
2016	0	2
2017	1	2
2018	0	2
2019	1	2