

**Legislative Council  
Panel on Development**

**Preservation of the Sham Shui Po  
Fresh Water Break Pressure Tank**

Our response to the concerns expressed by Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai and Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun on the preservation of the Sham Shui Po Fresh Water Break Pressure Tank (“BPT”) is set out below.

2. The prevailing system for grading historic buildings is devised to assess the heritage value of usual buildings and structures. After deliberation at its meeting held in March 2017, the Antiquities Advisory Board (“AAB”) decided to put those items that do not fall under the usual category of buildings / structures, such as cemetery and stone tablet, into the “List of Items Not Falling Under the Usual Category of Buildings / Structures”. Grading assessment would not be conducted for items falling into this list for the time being such that AAB could focus on the study of other items. This list includes a water tank of an earlier period which is movable and not suitable for grading assessment. Since the March 2017 meeting, AAB and the Antiquities and Monuments Office (“AMO”) have been handling items of the same nature as those on the list in the same manner in accordance with AAB’s decision mentioned above.

3. In April 2017, the Water Supplies Department (“WSD”) consulted the AMO on the site works of the BPT. AMO considered at the time that no follow-up action was required on the understanding that the water facilities in the site is a “water tank”, based on the information provided then as well as its communication with WSD, and in accordance with AAB’s decision in March 2017.

4. The Government attaches great importance to heritage conservation, and fully understands the recent public concerns regarding the BPT. WSD has promptly suspended site works, and has commenced the temporary strengthening and tidying up works for the BPT, with a view to facilitating inspection by relevant staff inside the BPT in a safe manner for future rehabilitation and conservation. The major temporary strengthening works include support for those local concrete roof slabs

which may have potential to loosen, brick arches and other structures with potential danger to ensure the structural integrity of the tank and to enhance site safety. The temporary tidying up works include the provision of secured temporary access for staff to conduct inspection; temporary drainage measures to discharge rainwater so as to prevent flooding; sorting and protection of broken brickworks taken down earlier for future rehabilitation; as well as the provision of temporary cover on the opening of the roof slab to prevent the internal structures from exposure to sunlight and other weathering effect.

5. AMO has also commenced an in-depth research on the heritage value of the BPT, including carrying out the study of this item with reference to the six prevailing assessment criteria, namely historical interest, architectural merit, group value, social value and local interest, authenticity and rarity. To this end, AMO will conduct site inspections, photographic recording and an extensive sourcing and analysis of first-hand information, drawn from local and overseas archives as well as from WSD. It will also comprehensively review secondary sources such as the relevant researches, journal articles and publications. Upon completion of the in-depth research, AMO will submit the appraisal to the independent Historic Buildings Assessment Panel (“Assessment Panel”) for examination and recommendation of a proposed grading for the BPT against the aforesaid six assessment criteria. AMO is striving submit the appraisal and the Assessment Panel’s proposed grading to AAB for consideration and grading assessment in the first quarter of 2021. When AAB endorses the proposed grading of the BPT, the relevant information and proposed grading of this item will be uploaded to the website of the AAB for a one-month public consultation. AAB will take into account all information and views received during the public consultation before confirming the proposed grading. In parallel, the Development Bureau will also look into the options of conserving and revitalising the BPT with a view to enabling the people of Hong Kong to enjoy this place.

**Development Bureau**  
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