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31 December 2020

Ms. Angel SHEK
Council Business Division
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(via email: cb1@legco.gov.hk)

Dear Ms SHEK,

Panel on Environmental Affairs
Follow-up issues

The Panel on Environmental Affairs discussed “Management of restored landfills” at the meeting of 23 November 2020. Members requested the Administration to provide supplementary information on “the Administration’s plan to set up more campsites and build more infrastructures in country parks to enhance public enjoyment of country parks”. Relevant information is set out in **Annex**.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the undersigned at 3151 7190.

Yours sincerely,

(Ms Thebe NG)

for the Director of Environmental Protection

c.c. Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (Attn.: Mr Patrick Lai)

Supplementary Information on Setting up More Campsites and Building More Infrastructure in Country Parks

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) completed the Consultancy Study for enhancing the recreation and education potential of Country Parks and Special Areas in 2019 and formulated the related enhancement proposals. AFCD consulted the Panel on Environmental Affairs on 27 April 2020 on the results of the study and the enhancement proposals, which was supported by Members.

2. The detailed progress of setting up more campsites and other infrastructure in country parks is as follows:

(a) Setting up more campsites and enhancement of campsite facilities

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In order to meet the increasing public demands for campsites, AFCD will continue to identify suitable locations for setting up new campsites and expanding existing camping areas if suitable, including the demolition of existing barbeque pits and fences for conversion into camping space. AFCD has completed the conversion works at the Wong Shek Campsite, and is planning to carry out similar works at the Hok Tau Campsite and the Chung Pui Campsite.

Furthermore, AFCD is installing camping platforms at the Twisk Campsite, the Shek Pik Campsite and the Nam Shan Campsite to enhance the comfortability of camping activities. The enhancement works at the Twisk Campsite is expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2021, together with the launch of the pilot scheme for advance campsite booking for public enjoyment.

(b) Providing more new viewing platforms –

AFCD has already opened six new viewing platforms in 2019 and 2020 for public appreciation of the beautiful scenery, including the Reservoir Island Viewpoint, the Biu Tsim Kok Viewing Point (Sai Kung), the High West Viewing Point (Hong Kong Island), the Dragon's Back Viewing Point (Hong Kong Island), the Sham Tseng Picnic Site Viewing Point, and the Sunset Peak Viewing Platform (No. 1). AFCD will continue to construct new viewing platforms at suitable locations in country parks.

(c) **Installing water-filling stations –**

AFCD has installed 19 new water-filling stations in country parks in the last two years in order to encourage the public to bring their own bottle and reduce use of single-use plastic bottled water. AFCD will continue to install water-filling stations at suitable recreation sites in country parks.

(d) **Enhancement of country parks public toilet services –**

AFCD has been gradually improving the mobile toilets in country parks since 2018, including the installation of facilities such as solar-powered exhaust fans, lighting systems, and flushing water pumps as well as the strengthening of regular cleansing services. AFCD is also planning to construct new public toilets at suitable locations within country parks (e.g. the To Tei Wan trailhead towards Dragon's Back).

(e) **Ngong Ping Nature Centre –**

AFCD commenced renovation of the Ngong Ping Nature Centre in December 2020 with a view to providing public service with a brand new image and enhancing provision of information on nearby country parks and guided tour services for promotion of green tourism. The Centre is expected to reopen in the second quarter of 2021 upon completion of the renovation works.

(f) **Developing Pak Tam Chung into a green tourism hub –**

In April 2020, AFCD commissioned a consultant to conduct a planning study to investigate the hiking service need of visitors at Pak Tam Chung, with a view to re-designing the supporting facilities for green tourism in the Pak Tam Chung area, and turning the site into an important gateway to the Sai Kung Country Parks, Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park and Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark. The consultant has conducted a series of public engagement activities to gather public views. The study is expected to be completed by the first quarter of 2021.