

**Business Environment Council Limited
Submission for LegCo special meeting on 22 March 2014**

Business Environment Council Limited (“BEC”) has long been a strong advocate for sustainable waste management. BEC would like to declare that we are a membership organisation, with about 180 member companies that span across major companies and conglomerates in Hong Kong, to small and medium-sized enterprises. Some of our member companies are involved in businesses related to waste management. Views put forward in this submission have emerged as our collective response and represent the views of BEC as a whole, and may not necessarily correlate with the views of individual members.

The increased generation of municipal solid waste and reduced recycling rate as published in “Monitoring of Solid Waste in Hong Kong 2012” is a very unsatisfactory situation. Therefore, BEC supports Government’s policies and regulations that encourage the sustainable use of resources. We recognize that there is an urgent need to reduce waste, increase resource recovery and improve waste management infrastructure. As stated in BEC’s submission on the 2014 Policy Address, we consider all the policies and initiatives outlines in the “Hong Kong Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources 2013-2022” (“Action Blueprint”) are essential for achieving the Government disposal targets set for 2022. BEC expects the Government to implement all the policies and initiatives laid down under the Action Blueprint within a clear timeframe and the necessary waste management infrastructure must be in place to prioritize waste reduction.

BEC has performed an independent analysis to estimate remaining landfill capacity from 2013 to 2022 according to anticipated quantities of waste generated over this time period. Based on this analysis remaining landfill capacity will start to run out in 2017 if existing landfills are NOT extended. This is in fact 2 years earlier than the most recent Government estimates published in the Blueprint, further highlighting the state of our current waste crisis. The reality of the imminent waste crisis makes the need of landfill extension the only practical option in the short term.

Furthermore, the reality of the imminent waste crisis makes the need of infrastructures proposed in the Paper CB(1)931/13-14(01) on Environmental Infrastructure Projects for SENT, WENT and SENT Landfills as well as Integrated Waste Management Facilities (IWMF) a practical option as part of the waste management strategies. According to Paper CB(1)931/13-14(01), even if waste reduction targets are achieved with measures and facilities taken forward as planned, there will be still about 10,000 tonnes of waste requiring disposal every day by 2017. The urgency of the waste problem as exemplified by the exhaustion of the three existing landfills calls for timely action regarding the introduction of the Integrated Waste Management Facilities (“IWMF”).

BEC agrees that the timely provision of adequate waste treatment and disposal infrastructure is indispensable. As mentioned in BEC’s submission on the 2014 Policy Address, we consider that IWMF is the most important component amongst the waste reduction activities outlined in the Action Blueprint. And according to BEC’s landfill capacity forecast prepared for the submission on the 2014 Policy Address, the early commission of IWMF is critical in relieving landfill pressure in Hong Kong as a whole.

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