

06 April 2018

Mr. CHAN Hok-fung, MH, JP

Chairperson

Working Group on the Central & Western District Harbourfront.

Central & Western District Council

11/F, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road,

Central, Hong Kong

Dear Mr. Chan,

**Proposed Short-term Use at the Three Berths Released from
Western District Public Cargo Working Area (WDPCWA)**

Further to the meeting of Working Group on the Central & Western District Harbourfront on 22 March 2018, the Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects (HKILA) is pleased to provide our views regarding the proposed short-term use at Berths 1-3 of Western District Public Cargo Working Area (WDPCWA) in Paper No. 05/2018 and the long term use of the WDPCWA as follows:-

1. The HKILA is of the opinion that the long term use of the WDPCWA should be dedicated to public space and any short term use proposal should take such planning intention into account. Technical Study on Transport Infrastructure at Kennedy Town for Connecting to East Lantau Metropolis – Feasibility Study promulgated by CEDD in November 2017 had revealed a possibility that a significant part of the WDPCWA, including Berths 1-3, would be turned into roads and associated transport infrastructures. This would be highly undesirable from walkability, promotion of quality public environment, safeguarding our waterfront for public amenity, and promotion of Hong Kong as a world city point of view. This location is critical in defining the extent of the Victoria Harbour. Its popular usage in the past indicates the citizen's appreciation that from this location, one can truly appreciate why Hong Kong is unique. To give this location over to transport corridors, to cars, would diminish the value we place on the Victoria Harbour. We urge CEDD's reconsidering of the importance of this area as a piece of public space, for enjoyment by present and future generations of Hong Kong people.

2. Taking into consideration the limited open space provision in the district, the proposal would be highly undesirable from the landscape planning point of view, in conflict with the government policy for the need of “a new mindset in taking forward harbourfront enhancement” and may not be in the best interest of the public.
3. The WPCWA has noticeably presented a unique urban landscape quality with the space being widely celebrated and appropriated by the public despite the area is technically not zoned as “Open Space”. The HKILA believes that a typical maintenance-driven design and management scheme may not be able to maintain the essence of the space and achieve a good landscape design. A more creative participatory design scheme should be explored.
4. The HKILA considers that Berths 1-3 might not be the best location to promote leisure farm. One of the main benefits of urban farming is to build up the connection and relationship within the local community. However, the relatively remote site context of Berths 1-3 and recent public debate have not promoted a favourable atmosphere for such intention.
5. The HKILA is aware that the government has consulted District Council, Harbourfront Commission and various local concern groups regarding the proposed short-term land use at Berths 1-3. However, we believe that a successful place-making scheme would require more creative formats in carrying out public engagement throughout the design and planning process. Any construction actions should not be proceeded without a general consensus formed among various stakeholders.

As a professional institute, the HKILA is committed to promote a more liveable, inclusive and resilient Hong Kong. It is our initiatives to furnish you with our professional views on matters related to public space, urban greenery and other landscape issues which would be beneficial to the public.

Thank you for your attention.



Yours sincerely,

Tak WONG
President
The Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects

cc.

Chairman of Central and Western District Council

Chairman of Harbourfront Commission

Permanent Secretary for Development (Planning and Lands)

Director of Civil Engineering and Development Department