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**Development Bureau Government Secretariat** West Wing, Central Government Offices, 2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong

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**By Post and E-mail** (info@hkescm.com)

12 April 2021

Mr MAN Chi Sum Environmental Strategy, Conservation and Management Company Limited Unit 1701, 17/F, Prosperity Millennia Plaza, 663 King's Road, North Point, Hong Kong

Dear Mr MAN,

## Handling of Trees of Undesirable Species, Leucaena leucocephala (銀合歡), in Tree Preservation and Removal Proposals

Thank you for your letter dated 4 February 2021 regarding the above subject. Subsequent to our interim reply dated 24 February 2021 and our telephone conversation (KO/MAN) dated 29 March 2021, we provide the substantive reply below.

We note the different requirements in handling compensatory replanting for Leucaena leucocephala removed in government projects under DEVB TC(W) No. 4/2020 and in private projects under LAO Practice Note No. 2/2020. As a general principle according to paragraph 25 and Appendix C of DEVB TC(W) No. 4/2020, removal of undesirable species does not require a Tree Preservation and Removal Proposal in government projects and arboriculture maintenance and the number of compensatory trees onsite and offsite should not be lower than that of the number of trees removed including dead trees, but excluding trees of undesirable species. Nevertheless, the need to maintain an appropriate coverage

of greenery after compensatory replanting at a particular site has to be considered on a case by case basis. If the removal of *Leucaena leucocephala* contributes to a significant loss of greenery, compensatory replanting for the *Leucaena leucocephala* removed may be required to replenish adequate greenery at the site. Public expectation should also be duly considered.

We have been liaising with the Lands Department (LandsD) to align the requirements in handling compensatory replanting for *Leucaena leucocephala* removed in government projects and in private projects. It is expected that the LandsD would update its compensatory replanting requirement regarding removal of undesirable species in private projects by the third quarter of 2021. In the interim, the LandsD would act on our advice in considering each compensatory tree planting proposal in connection with tree felling proposal of private projects that involve removal of *Leucaena leucocephala* as and when necessary.

Should you need more information, please call me at 3509-8327 or e-mail to florenceko@devb.gov.hk.

Yours sincerely,

nere

(Florence KO) for Secretary for Development

<u>c.c.</u>

Director of Lands (Attn.: Ms Karen NG) - by e-mail to slalt@landsd.gov.hk