

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2797)

Head: (39) Drainage Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): Not specified

Programme: (1) Stormwater Drainage

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (Alice PANG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Infrastructure Standards for Northern Metropolis

According to a Public Works Subcommittee paper, funding approval is being sought from the Legislative Council for the design planning, advance works, etc of various development zones in the Northern Metropolis. Regarding the infrastructure standards for the metropolis serving as a new core of development, would the Government inform this Committee of the following?

1. Take drainage works for example - according to government officials' reply, the flood protection standard for works related to Yuen Long Nullah is 1-in-200-year return period while the one for Project No. 4173CD in the North District is a mere 1-in-10-year return period, even though the area around Yuen Long Nullah has a population of 170 000 while the site concerned in the North District will have 6 MTR stations and a projected population of at least 300 000. Why are infrastructure standards in the Metropolis inconsistent? And why is a lower flood protection standard of 1-in-10-year return period is set for a district expected to have a huge population in the future?
2. According to government officials, the Special Administrative Region is deeply concerned about climate change and will update its drainage works standards from time to time in line with the United Nations' standards. That being the case, will the infrastructure standards in the Northern Metropolis be made consistent? In general, how often will the technical guidelines for the infrastructure concerned be updated?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yuet-ming (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

Generally speaking, the design of drainage system for public works projects (including those related to the Northern Metropolis) shall be in compliance with the standards set out in the Stormwater Drainage Manual published by the Drainage Services Department (DSD). According to the Manual, trunk drains in new development zones are designed to withstand floods with a return period of 1 in 200 years, while branch drains are designed to withstand floods with a return period of 1 in 50 years. Further, the DSD has been keeping a close watch on the impact of climate change, as well as reviewing and updating the design requirements for stormwater drainage systems having regard to the latest assessment reports published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) of the United Nations.

In 2022, the DSD updated the Stormwater Drainage Manual in line with the latest sixth assessment report published by the IPCC.

Regarding Project No. 4173CD “Drainage Improvement Works in Ta Kwu Ling”, the proposed system is designed in accordance with the latest Stormwater Drainage Manual to withstand floods with a return period of 1 in 50 years. Upon completion of the project, the flood prevention capacity for the areas in and around Ta Kwu Ling will be greatly enhanced.

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