

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)221**

**(Question Serial No. 4907)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

It is mentioned in the Policy Address that on the construction of public columbaria, the Government consulted the North District Council and the Eastern District Council on the sites at Sandy Ridge and Chai Wan respectively last year. The two sites are expected to provide a total of about 225 000 new niches. Please advise on the details of the plans, as well as the locations, areas, transport arrangements, estimated construction costs, manpower arrangements and completion dates with respect to the columbaria concerned.

Please also advise on the views of the North District Council and the Eastern District Council, as well as the number of objections or favourable responses received by the Department so far.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. 159)

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) consulted and obtained the support of the relevant District Councils in 2014 on the construction of 200 000 niches and 25 000 niches at the Sandy Ridge Cemetery and Chai Wan (a site on Cape Collinson Road opposite the Chai Wan Chinese Permanent Cemetery Columbarium and next to Wan Tsui Estate Park) respectively. The traffic impact assessment studies conducted for each of the two sites concluded that the additional traffic / pedestrian volume arising from the operation of these columbaria during the peak grave-sweeping season will be manageable with the implementation of special traffic and transport management measures.

The Department is currently conducting site investigation and detailed design for site formation and associated infrastructural works for the development of columbarium, crematorium and related facilities at the Sandy Ridge Cemetery, covering an area of about 25 hectares. The total estimated cost for conducting the said site investigation and detailed design work is \$66.4 million.

As for the Chai Wan columbarium site which covers an area of 3 800 square metres, the Department will further consult the relevant District Council on the design of the columbarium when ready. The Department will also work closely with the relevant departments to arrange for the necessary rezoning, road junction improvement works and land allocation matters.

As the estimated cost for developing new columbarium facilities can only be ascertained upon finalisation of design details, the estimated cost for developing the columbarium facilities at these two sites is not yet available. There is no separate breakdown on the manpower resources involved in taking forward plans and projects to provide more columbarium facilities.

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