

Enhancement of the Notification System on Archaeological Discoveries

Purpose

The Development Bureau and the Antiquities and Monuments Office (“AMO”) have reviewed the notification system on archaeological discoveries for early announcement of such discoveries. This paper briefs Members on the enhancement to the proposed notification system.

Previous Practice

2. The AMO has been reporting archaeological discoveries to the Antiquities Advisory Board (“AAB”) as follows:

- (a) Reporting the progress of archaeological works to AAB at AAB meetings under the agenda item “Matters Arising and Progress Report”;
- (b) Reporting findings to AAB under a dedicated agenda item if there are important archaeological findings; and
- (c) Arranging site visits for AAB if important archaeological findings are discovered or there are public concerns.

Enhanced System

3. Under the enhanced notification system, the AMO will continue the previous practice as set out in paragraph 2 above with the following enhancements:

- (a) Submit those sections relevant to archaeology in environmental impact assessment reports (which is a public document) to AAB; and
- (b) Inform AAB once the AMO has been notified of archaeological discoveries and has completed preliminary assessment on the heritage value of such discoveries and before AMO informed the project proponent / archaeologist concerned of the agreed preservation method.