



WATER-FRIENDLY CULTURE AND ACTIVITIES - OPPORTUNITIES FOR WATER SPORT IN HONG KONG

**HOME AFFAIRS BUREAU
MAY 2015**

2015 POLICY ADDRESS

Water-friendly culture discussed in paragraphs –

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 178 | There has been a marked improvement in the water quality of Victoria Harbour. On completion of the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme Stage 2A this year, water quality in our harbour is expected to improve further. I have instructed relevant bureaux to explore the feasibility of organising water sports activities in Victoria Harbour. |
| 179 | The Government will commission a study this year on how to improve the problem of pollution and odour nuisance caused by the discharge of urban residual pollutants into urban coastal waters, so as to provide venues for water activities along waterfront areas in Kowloon West, Wan Chai and Central. |
| 180 | Beyond Victoria Harbour, Hong Kong waters cover a large area, which can be used for promoting water recreational and sports activities and a water-friendly culture. Relevant bureaux and departments will continue to identify desirable locations to build new water sports centres. |

WATER SPORTS FACILITIES AND EVENTS IN HONG KONG - SUMMARY

- An initial stock-take shows that LCSD, other government departments, non-government organisations, “national sports associations”(NSAs) and private sports clubs together operate more than 60 water sports facilities (not including the 41 gazetted beaches)
- Popular water sports include swimming, rowing, dragon boating, canoeing, windsurfing, water-skiing and sailing
- Water sports events take place in the Harbour and in the outer waters on a regular basis.

EXISTING MAJOR WATER SPORTS EVENTS

Cross-harbour Swimming Race

- HK Amateur Swimming Association
- October each year since 2011
- 1,800 competitors



EXISTING MAJOR WATER SPORTS EVENTS

International Dragon Boat Races

- HK Dragon Boat Association and HK Tourism Board
- June/July each year
- 3,600 competitors; 200,000 spectators

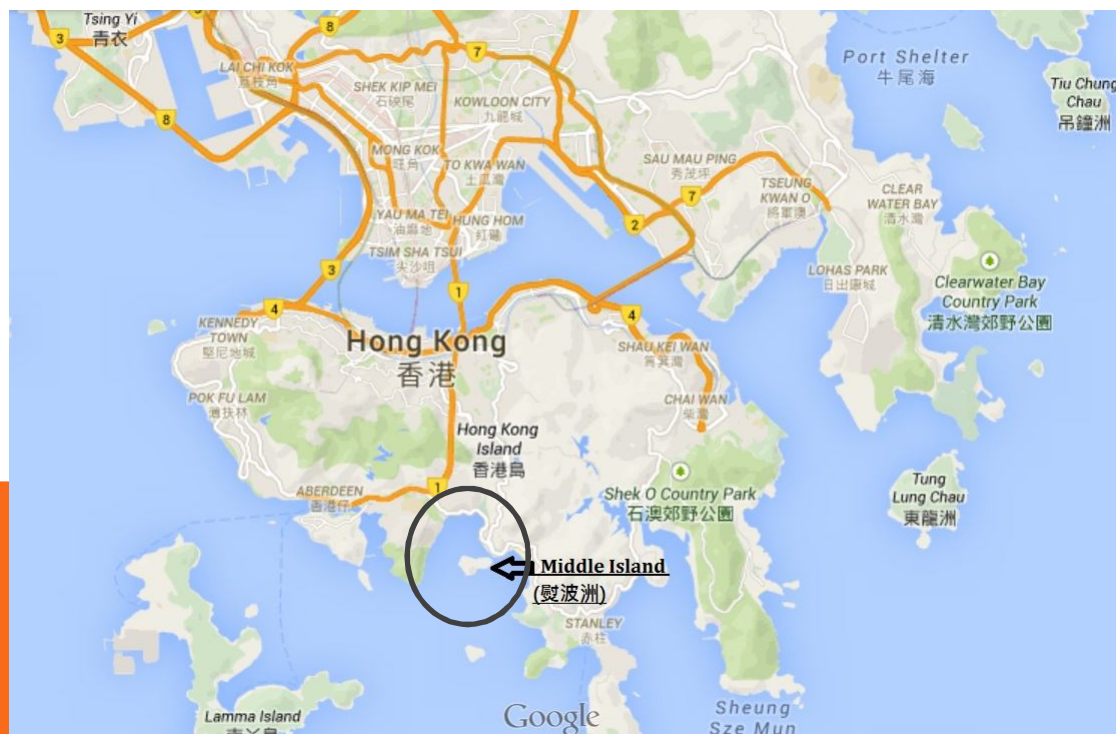


Pictures/photos from Internet

EXISTING MAJOR WATER SPORTS EVENTS

Hong Kong Race Week

- HK Sailing Federation and the Royal HK Yacht Club
- Latest event in Feb 2015



Pictures/photos from Internet

EXISTING MAJOR WATER SPORTS EVENTS

The Hebe Haven 24-hour Charity Dinghy Race

- Hebe Haven Yacht Club
- Annual event



Pictures/photos from Internet

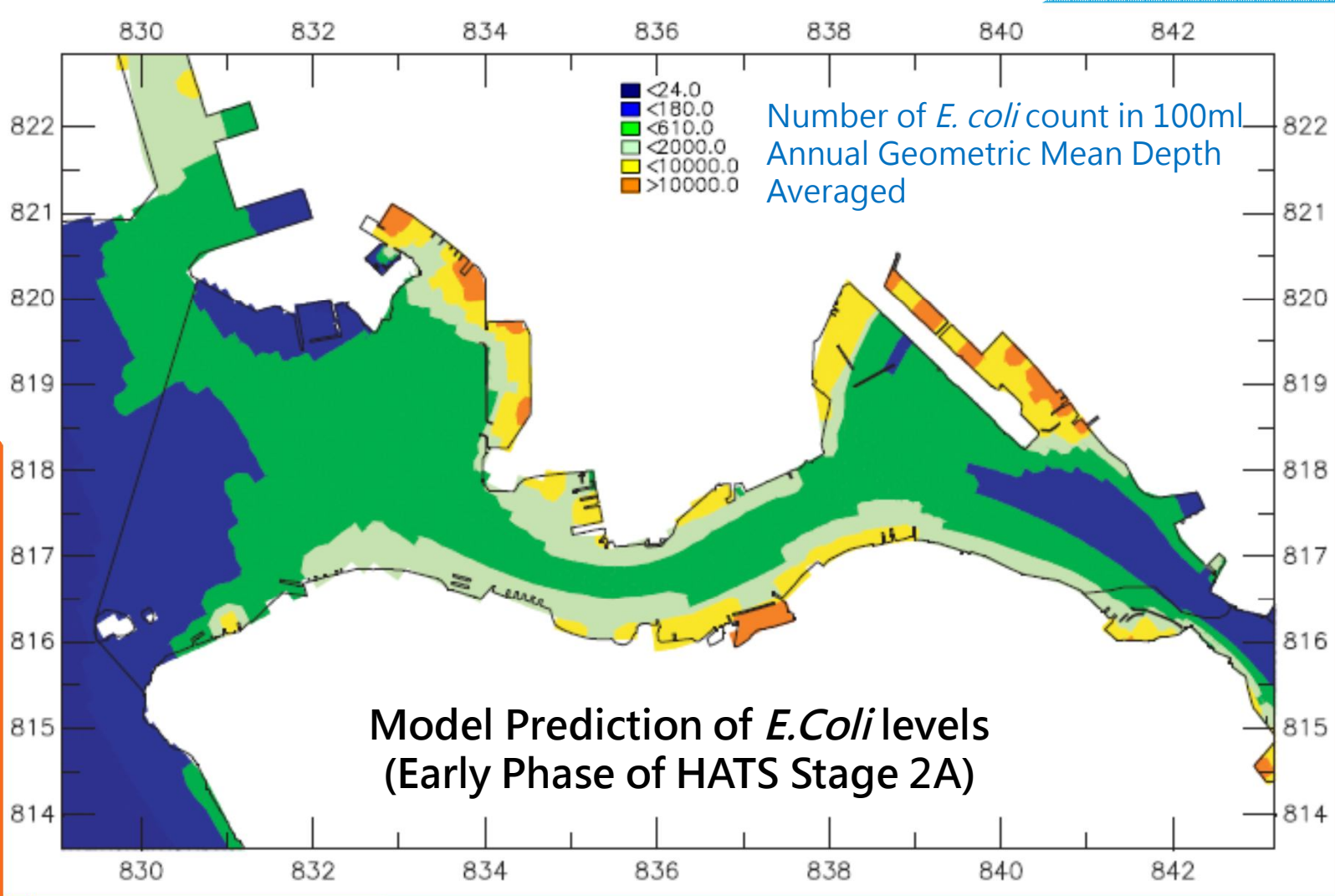
KEY FACTORS AFFECTING USE OF THE HARBOUR FOR WATER SPORTS EVENTS

(A) Water Quality

- The water quality objective uses an annual geometric mean E. coli level for assessing the water quality at designated bathing beaches and secondary contact recreation sub-zones.

Usage	E-Coli level not to exceed
Designated bathing beach	180 cfu/100 ml
Secondary contact recreation subzones (e.g., for rowing)	610 cfu/100 ml

E. coli Levels in Harbour Water Control Zone



Note: EPD does not have monitoring stations in KTAC and KTTS at present. Therefore, the *E-coli* level there on the above graph does not represent the current situation. Water quality of KTAC and KTTS is monitored by CEDD and is presented separately in the next slide.

***E. coli* Levels in the Kai Tak Approach Channel and Kwun Tong Typhoon Shelter**



- Water quality in the Kai Tak Approach Channel (KTAC) is currently not acceptable for secondary contact recreation activities
- Water quality in the Kwun Tong Typhoon Shelter (KTTS) is marginally acceptable for secondary contact recreation activities

Measures to improve *E. coli* Levels in Harbour Water Control Zone

- EPD will continue to monitor the water quality in the Harbour after commissioning Stage 2A of the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme - scheduled for 3rd quarter 2015
- EPD plans to commission a study later this year on how to reduce pollution and odour nuisance due to discharge of urban residual pollutants into urban coastal waters
- CEDD has been studying measures to improve the water quality of the Kai Tak Approach Channel and Kwun Tong Typhoon Shelter. Results are expected to be available in around end 2015

KEY FACTORS AFFECTING USE OF THE HARBOUR FOR WATER SPORTS EVENTS

(B) Marine Traffic



- For one-off events in the Harbour, the Marine Dept. will study their feasibility on a case-by-case basis, with particular consideration for the measures required to ensure maritime safety.
- Marine Dept. advise that the Kwun Tong Typhoon Shelter can be used water sports and related events, as long as these do not compromise the principal function of the shelter; vessels engaged in water sports events must observe the laws relating to typhoon shelters, for example speed limits and length restrictions.

KEY FACTORS AFFECTING USE OF THE HARBOUR FOR WATER SPORTS EVENTS

(C) Land-based support facilities

- Suitable access (e.g., landing steps for swimming and canoeing; ramps for sailing, rowing and dragon-boating) and ancillary facilities such as changing rooms, shower facilities and storage space for boats are essential
- Facilities such as spectator stands and structures for event “villages” can be erected on a temporary basis, allowing the space to be used for other purposes during non-event times

KEY FACTORS AFFECTING USE OF THE HARBOUR FOR WATER SPORTS EVENTS

(D) Current and wind conditions

- Different types of water sport have specific requirements with regard to current and wind conditions. Some may require calm waters whilst others prefer areas with suitable winds.
- The concerned NSAs can provide advice on the suitability of particular locations for their respective sports during different times of the year.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW WATER SPORTS FACILITIES

Short-term	<p>In the Harbour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Temporary water sports centre at Kai Tak
Longer term	<p>In the Harbour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Permanent water sports centre at Kai Tak• New Central Harbour-front• Wan Chai North Harbour-front <p>Outer waters (water sports centres)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tseung Kwan O (near Lohas Park)• Ma On Shan (Whitehead)

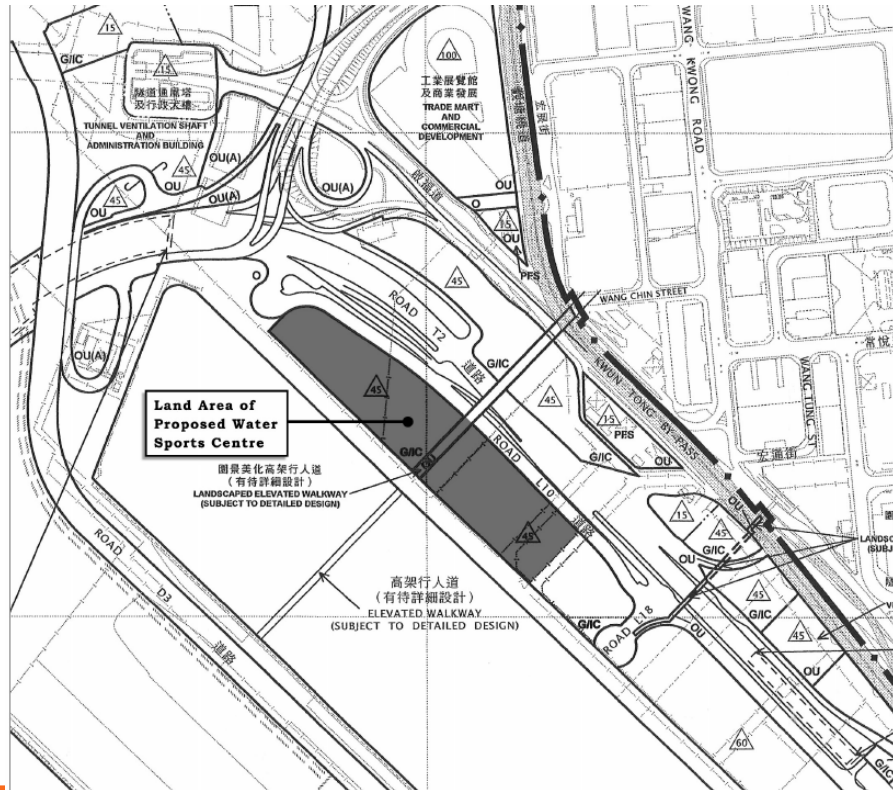
HKWSC'S PROPOSED TEMPORARY WATER SPORTS CENTRE AT KAI TAK



HKWSC'S PROPOSED TEMPORARY WATER SPORTS CENTRE AT KAI TAK

- Water quality in the Kwun Tong Typhoon Shelter is marginally acceptable for secondary contact recreation activities such as rowing, dragon-boating, kayaking and sailing
- Lands Department is processing an application from the Hong Kong Water Sports Council for an STT to allow it to establish a water sports centre on the former runway facing the KTTS
- Subject to approval, the Hong Kong Water Sports Council plans to open the centre in late 2015

HKWSC'S PROPOSED PERMANENT WATER SPORTS CENTRE AT KAI TAK



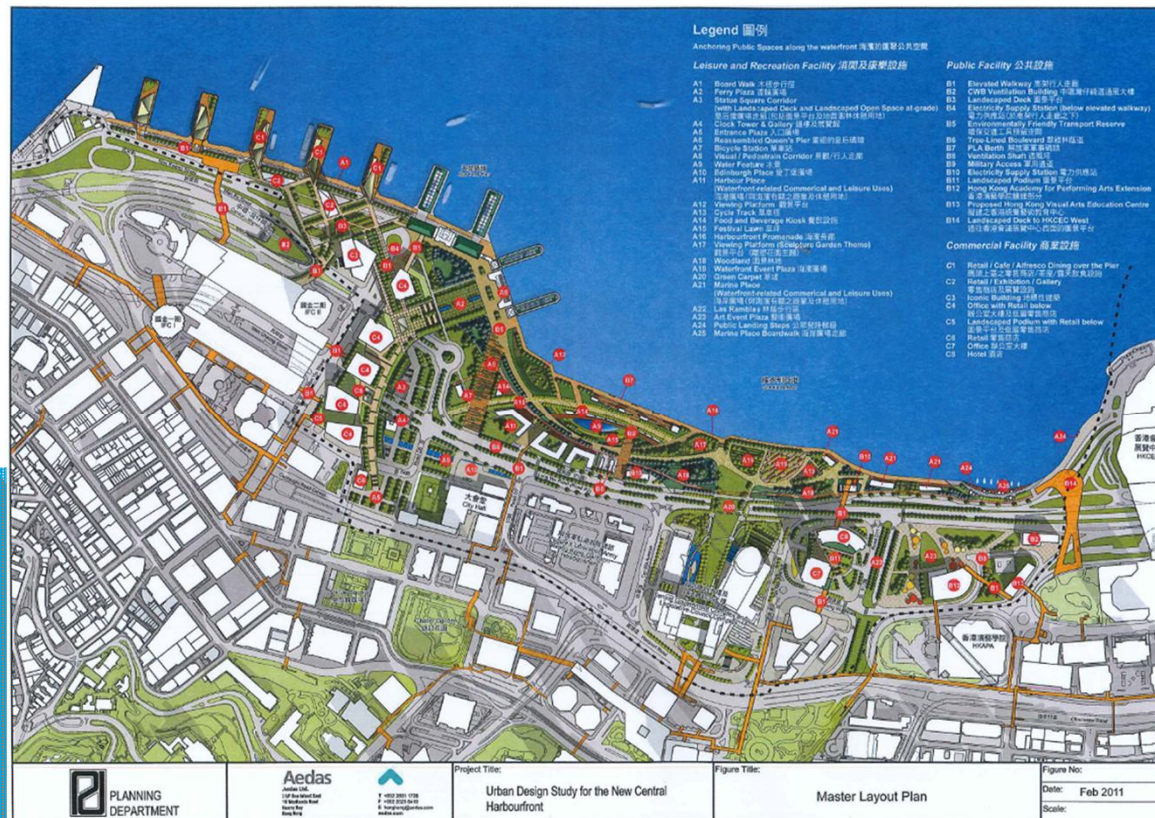
Extracted from HKWSC's proposal featured in Task Force on Kai Tak Harbourfront Development paper TFKT/06/2012 in November 2012

HKWSC'S PROPOSED PERMANENT WATER SPORTS CENTRE AT KAI TAK

- Water quality in the Kai Tak Approach Channel is currently not acceptable for secondary contact recreation activities
- HKWSC's proposals require the use of a number of sites currently zoned for "Open Space" and "G/IC" use on the Kai Tak Outline Zoning plan (OZP) as support facilities for such a venue
- The Administration has completed reviewing and conducted public consultation on the future land use in Kai Tak for a number of sites, including the proposal of rezoning the "G/IC" site where the HKWSC proposes to locate permanent water sports facilities into "Commercial" site

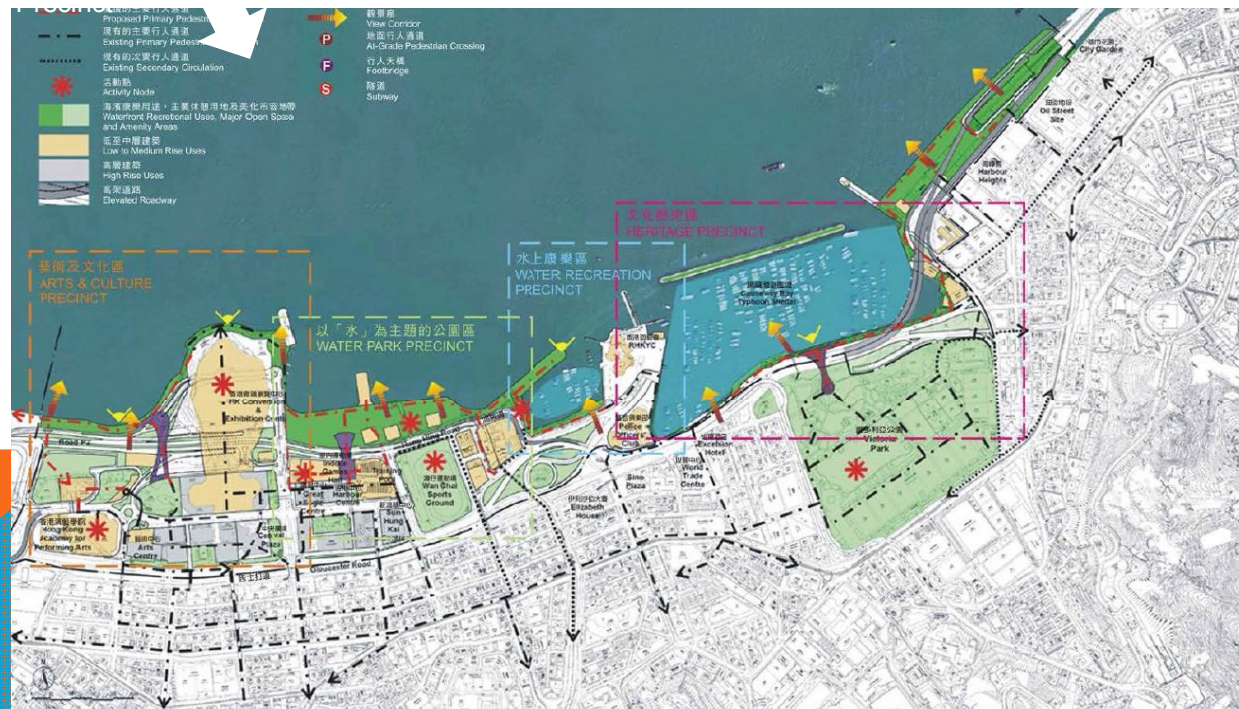
NEW CENTRAL HARBOUR-FRONT

Planning Dept.'s Urban Design Study for the New Central Harbour-front completed in 2011 suggests that the waterfront extending from the HK Convention and Exhibition Centre towards Tamar should provide dining and leisure facilities to add vibrancy to the harbour-front. The provision of new landing steps could create a strong land-water connectivity at the waterfront



WAN CHAI NORTH WATERFRONT

The urban design framework under the Wan Chai Development Phase II – Planning and Engineering Review completed in 2008 proposes two water-related “character precincts” along the Wan Chai North waterfront. Planning is currently conducting another urban design study to guide the future of the Wan Chai North and North Point harbour-front Areas



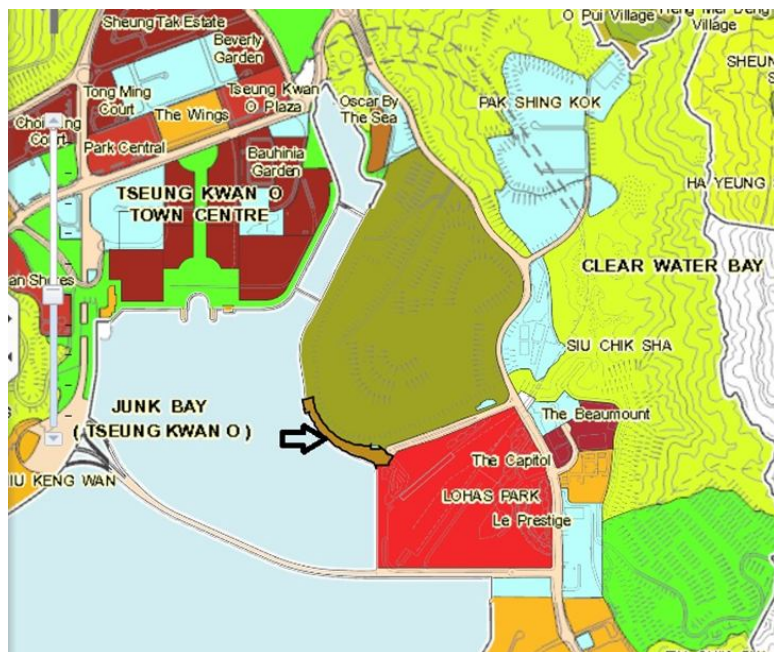
Wan Chai Development Phase II Planning and Engineering Review
Character Precincts and Urban Design Plan

Plan 3

CENTRAL AND WAN CHAI NORTH HARBOUR-FRONT

- These harbour-front sites will be available in phases from 2018 after completion of the current infrastructure works
- Water quality in the immediate vicinity is however not yet acceptable for secondary contact uses
- Maritime safety needs to be further considered
- We will consult NSAs on the scope for suitable types of water sport and the required on-shore support facilities at an appropriate time

NEW WATER SPORTS CENTRES IN OUTER WATERS



LCSD is planning two projects involving water sports facilities: in Area 77, Tseung Kwan O; and at Whitehead, Ma On Shan. These are now at the preliminary planning stage.

WAY FORWARD

- With the support of EPD, the Marine Dept. and other departments, we will encourage interested NSAs to consider organising **more water-related events** as the water quality improves
- The proposed temporary and permanent water sports centres at **Kai Tak** will provide more opportunities for regular water sports events and recreational use in the Harbour, and the proposed new centres at **Tseung Kwan O** and **Ma On Shan** will increase the level of public water-sports facilities available in outer waters.
- In the longer term, the development of the new Central Harbour-front and the Wan Chai North waterfront should allow us to explore **more elements of “water-friendly culture”** as the water quality improves – we will review the need for on-shore facilities during the detailed planning process, in consultation with NSAs



THANK YOU