

# '\$12m study on reclamation

By TAD STONER

RECLAMATION plans in Victoria Harbour advanced yesterday with the announcement of a \$12 million study to determine the time-table for incorporating Green Island into Hongkong Island.

The 15-month study will examine the engineering of the project, and the use of the 186 hectares it will create at the western end of the harbour.

Announcing the scheme, the Director of New Territories Development, Mr Kenneth Kwok, said: "The primary objective of the reclamation is to provide land for housing and community needs, and to make up the existing short-falls in open space and community facilities in the Western district."

The reclamation is expected to house 200,000 people on a triangular area extending from the Kennedy Town anchorage, along a new waterfront north of both Green Island and its smaller neighbour, North Green Island. The reclamation will turn sharply south at the harbour limit, brush the west coast of Green Island and terminate around the corner of Hongkong Island.

Mr Kwok said the project would cost \$3 billion and be

completed by "the mid-to-late 1990s".

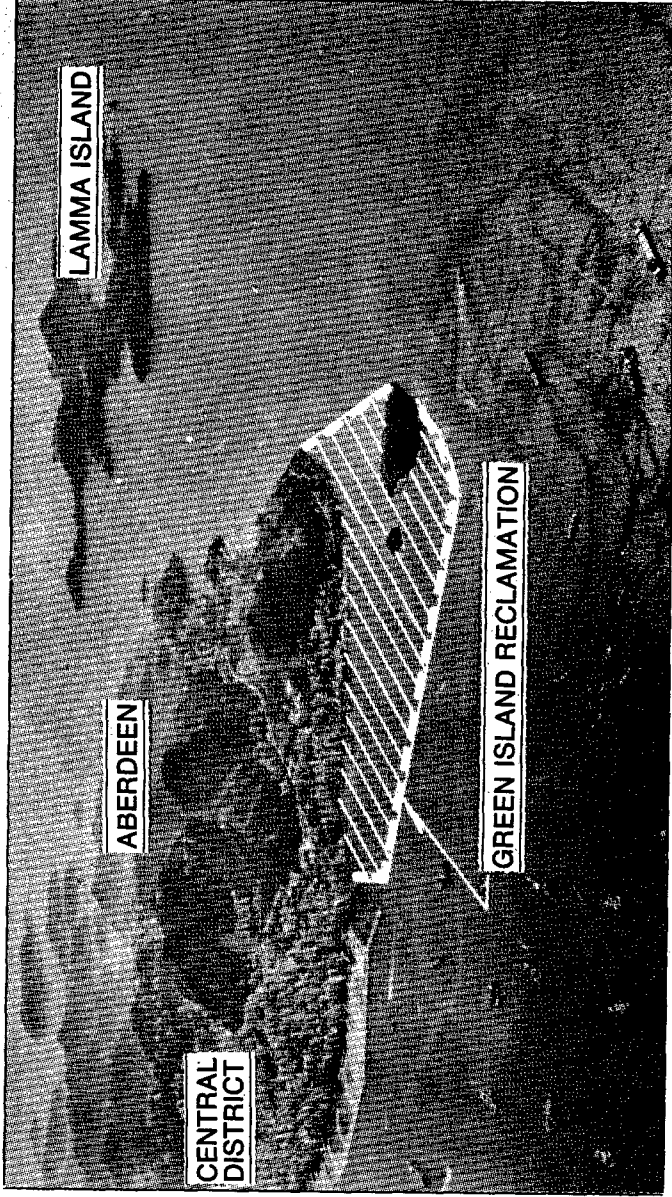
Two consultants have been employed for the study — Peter Y.S. Pun and Associates and Ove Arup and Partners, who previously helped in the construction of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank headquarters.

"The study is in two parts," Mr Kwok said. "The planning will explore the uses of the land, what will happen to existing waterfront users and the provision of community facilities to the older urban areas so they do not become sub-standard to new town developments.

"The second part is the engineering feasibility. This is the infrastructure, drainage, transport implications and the effect on nearby districts," he added.

"It's been a long time since we produced a new development scheme in the urban areas," he said. "We now have three: west Kowloon, the Central-Wan Chai reclamation and this one."

However, Mr Kwok called the Green Island reclamation "a drop in the bucket" of the larger urban redevelopment Metroplan, the long-running Port and Airport Development Scheme (PADS) and the Government's second Com-



LAMMA ISLAND

ABERDEEN

CENTRAL DISTRICT

GREEN ISLAND RECLAMATION

A line-screen indicates the area to be reclaimed to join Green Island with Hongkong Island.

prehensive Transport Study (CTSII). The various projects seek to predict long-term requirements and recommend responses to the territory's development through 2000.

"Metroplan is an unfortunate name because it gives the idea that it is a single plan, and no more. Actually, it is a process, and the Green Island scheme is part of it," Mr Kwok said.

"It will be input to 'metro-planning' and is also being done with reference to PADS.

"We have a big interface problem with all these studies and investigations going on in parallel," he said. "We must have complete coordination between all of them to avoid duplication.

"Part of the investigation here is to see the feasibility of westward to the suggested

Kau Yi Chau breakwater at any time. The Executive Council has already approved a Mass Transit Railway extension to Kennedy Town, and has reserved the required land.

A network of streets would provide access to relocated abattoirs, factories and go-downs on the new waterfront, while Green Island itself would be preserved and expanded as a green belt.