

21 May 1990

## ~~\$116m to be paid to project consultants~~

THE Government plans to pay consultants \$116 million for a detailed design and site investigation of part of the Central and Wan Chai reclamation project.

The Territory Development Department recommended appointing consultants because Government staff were not available to undertake the studies on the phase covering Sheung Wan to Central, comprising 18 hectares of reclamation.

The entire Central and Wan Chai reclamation project will create 108 hectares of land along the waterfront from Sheung Wan to Causeway Bay.

Preliminary proposals consist of four development packages, with details being subject to further study.

In order to meet the commissioning date of the proposed airport railway in early 1997, the Government plans to start the main works of the project in mid-1991.

Therefore, the site investigation and detailed design of the part of first package covering Sheung Wan and Central will have to start by the middle of the year.

Legislators will be asked to approve the sum at the Finance Committee meeting tomorrow.

Works on the first phase, with an estimated cost of \$3.33 billion, will involve the construction of seawalls, piers, roads and drains, re-provisioning of existing waterfront buildings and other facilities.

It will also include civil work for the Hongkong terminus of the airport railway.

As the proposed reclamation will affect the capacity of the existing storm water drainage system, work to upgrade some of the drains in the catchment area behind the proposed reclamation has to be carried out towards the end of 1990 before reclamation work starts.