

CHAPTER 3

THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Section 1 : The Consultation Period and Public Forum

3.1 In compliance with the requirement of section 19 of the EACO, the Commission conducted a public consultation exercise on its provisional recommendations from 15 July to 13 August 2003 for a period of 30 days. During this period, members of the public might send in their representations, in writing, to the Commission to express their views on the provisional recommendations on the delineation and names of the GCs.

3.2 A list of the provisionally recommended GCs, together with the component districts and DCCAs, and maps showing the boundaries of GCs were exhibited for public inspection at District Offices, public housing estate offices, post offices, public libraries and the REO during the consultation period.

3.3 To enable the public to understand the statutory criteria and working principles adopted by the Commission in delineating LCCAs, an open letter from the Chairman of the EAC was attached to each set of consultation document to explain the criteria and principles used. This new practice is adopted in response to the fact that a number of representations outside the jurisdiction of the Commission were received in the demarcation exercise for the 2000 LegCo Elections, and the Commission then considered

that avenues should be explored to ensure that the public understood the statutory criteria for delineating LCCAs.

3.4 The public consultation was widely publicised through the electronic and print media as well as the EAC's website on the Internet and the government gazette.

3.5 On the first day of the consultation period, ie 15 July 2003, the Commission held a press conference to launch the public consultation exercise and invited the public to give their views on the Commission's provisional recommendations. The Commission also appealed to the public that not only those who had opposing or different views should speak up, but also those who supported the provisional recommendations should do likewise. This was to enable the EAC to more accurately gauge the public's views and degree of acceptance of the provisional recommendations.

3.6 A public forum was held at 2:30 pm on 7 August 2003 at the Conference Room of the EAC in Wan Chai, where members of the public could personally attend and express their views verbally to the Commission direct. Audio-visual aids were used to facilitate understanding of the representations by making reference to maps.

Section 2 : Number of Representations Received

3.7 The EAC received one proposal from the public concerning the delineation exercise before commencement of the public consultation.

During the consultation period, the Commission received a total of 9 written representations. At the forum, 7 persons turned up and 5 of them expressed their views on the provisional recommendations. Among the representations received, there were 7 which supported the EAC's provisional recommendations.

3.8 The original texts of the written representations are contained in **Appendix V** of this volume. Summaries of the written and oral representations are shown in **Appendix VI** of this volume.