

**Confirmed Minutes of the 249th Meeting
of the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE)
on 11 October 2021 at 2:30 pm**

Present:

Mr Stanley WONG, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Prof Nora TAM, BBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Ms Carmen CHAN, BBS, JP
Ms Sylvia CHAN, MH
Ms Ada FUNG, BBS
Ir Samantha KONG
Ms LAM Chung-yan
Prof Alexis LAU, JP
Dr Winnie LAW
Prof Kenneth LEUNG, JP
Dr MA Kwan-ki
Dr Jeanne NG
Dr SUNG Yik-hei
Ms Christina TANG
Mr Simon WONG, BBS, JP
Dr WONG Kwok-yan, MH
Dr Raymond YAU
Mr Owin FUNG, JP (Secretary)

Absent with Apologies:

Prof LAU Chi-pang, BBS, JP
Ms Julia LAU
Mr Andrew LEE
Prof WONG Sze-chun, BBS, JP

In Attendance:

Ms Fanny HUI	Chief Information Officer, Environmental Protection Department (EPD)
Ms Maggie CHIN	Assistant Director of Planning / Technical Services (Acting), Planning Department (PlanD)
Ms Becky LAM	Chief Executive Officer (CBD), EPD
Miss Sally SHEK	Executive Officer (CBD) 1, EPD
Miss Ingrid SUEN	Executive Officer (CBD) 2, EPD

In Attendance for Item 1:

Mr WONG Kam-sing, GBS, JP Secretary for the Environment
Mr TSE Chin-wan, BBS, JP Under Secretary for the Environment
Mrs Millie NG, JP Permanent Secretary for the Environment (Acting)/
Director of Environmental Protection (Acting)/ Deputy
Secretary for the Environment
Ms Elaine LI Press Secretary to Secretary for the Environment

In Attendance for Item 4:

Dr Kenneth LEUNG Assistant Director (Air Policy) (Acting), EPD
Mr Brian LAU Principal Environmental Protection Officer (Air
Policy), EPD
Dr MAK Shing-tat Principal Environmental Protection Officer (Mobile
Source), EPD
Miss LAM I-ching Senior Administrative Officer (Air Policy), EPD

Action

The Chairman welcomed Members to the meeting and informed that apologies of absence had been received from Prof Lau Chi-pang, Ms Julia Lau, Mr Andrew Lee and Prof Wong Sze-chun.

Item 1: Briefing by the Secretary for the Environment on 2021 Policy Address – Policy Initiatives of Environment Bureau: Environmental Protection
(ACE Paper 16/2021)

Presentation cum Question-and-Answer Session (Open session)

2. The Chairman welcomed Mr Wong Kam-sing, Secretary for the Environment, Mr Tse Chin-wan, Under Secretary for the Environment and Mrs Millie Ng, Permanent Secretary for the Environment (Acting) / Director of Environmental Protection (Acting) / Deputy Secretary for the Environment, to the meeting.

3. With reference to the four Blueprints, i.e. Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2050, Clean Air Plan for Hong Kong 2035, Hong Kong Roadmap on Popularisation of Electric Vehicles and Waste Blueprint for Hong Kong 2035, Mr

Wong Kam-sing briefed Members on the key environmental initiatives in the Chief Executive's 2021 Policy Address.

Decarbonisation

4. A Member was concerned whether the carbon emissions generated by the development of the Northern Metropolis and East Lantau Metropolis had been taken into account when devising the target of achieving carbon neutrality before 2050. Mr Wong Kam-sing advised that the target of achieving carbon neutrality would not be compromised by urban development. The Government would take the opportunity to build low-carbon / carbon-neutral communities in new development areas through the adoption of green design in buildings to reduce energy consumption, installation of charging networks for electric vehicles (EVs), providing the public with green mobility options such as walking and cycling and setting up waste separation and recycling facilities.

5. A Member went on to ask for the estimated carbon emissions for the construction and operation of the two metropolises. Mr Wong Kam-sing replied that the Development Bureau (DEVB) would work out an estimate of carbon emissions with a view to complementing the target of achieving carbon neutrality. Mr Tse Chin-wan supplemented that calculation standard of the United Nations (UN) would be adopted in the assessment of carbon emissions. As the medium-term target was to reduce Hong Kong's total carbon emissions from the 2005 levels by half before 2035, the Environment Bureau (ENB) would maintain close collaboration with DEVB to support decarbonisation in urban development projects.

6. In response to a Member's enquiry on Hong Kong's progress on decarbonisation in comparison with other economies, Mr Wong Kam-sing advised that the per capita carbon emissions of Hong Kong were similar to that of European countries. He supplemented that the targets of achieving carbon neutrality before 2050 and the cessation of new registration of fuel-propelled and hybrid private cars in 2035 or earlier compared well with European countries.

7. In reply to a Member's question on whether embodied carbon, i.e. carbon emissions associated with the construction process, would be taken into account in the assessment of carbon emissions, Mr Wong Kam-sing advised that in accordance with UN standards, only local carbon emissions generated within Hong Kong

would be taken into account.

8. As regards a Member's enquiry on the timeframe for reviewing the Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2050, Mr Wong Kam-sing advised that the Government would review the plan every five years to update the decarbonisation measures having regard to the latest development of various zero-carbon technologies.

9. A Member was concerned about overpopulation problems and enquired about the carrying capacity of the Hong Kong. Mr Wong Kam-sing advised that the relevant issues would be considered by the Planning Department in the relevant studies such as "Hong Kong 2030+: Towards a Planning Vision and Strategy Transcending 2030".

Energy Saving and Green Buildings

10. In response to the enquiry of two Members about the Government's measures, especially those mandatory by legislation or regulations, to reduce the electricity consumption. Mr Wong Kam-sing advised that the review for tightening up the statutory standards of Overall Thermal Transfer Value, with a view to reducing electricity consumption on air-conditioning for commercial buildings, would be completed before 2025. Moreover, smart meters were being installed by the two power companies for their customers to help them monitor and manage electricity consumption more effectively and hence encourage energy conservation.

11. Drawing reference from Singapore's first net-zero energy building, a Member suggested that Hong Kong should collaborate with universities to develop pilot projects for green buildings. Mr Wong Kam-sing said that the Government had maintained close collaborations with tertiary institutions on scientific research and nurturing talents.

12. A Member suggested setting more aggressive target for the reduction of electricity consumption in private buildings. Mr Wong Kam-sing said that while the energy saving targets were comparable with other countries, the Government would review the targets regularly.

13. With a view to reducing energy consumption in buildings, a Member

suggested the incorporation of passive building design, which would reduce the need for air-conditioning, in the Northern Metropolis. Mr Wong Kam-sing advised that the Government would spare no efforts in building carbon neutral communities in the new development areas through various measures which included the adoption of low-carbon design in buildings.

Electricity Generation

14. In reply to a Member's question on the detailed plan for increasing renewable energy (RE) in the fuel mix for electricity generation, Mr Wong Kam-sing explained that the Government aimed at increasing the share of RE in the fuel mix to 7.5% – 10% by 2035 through the development of wind energy, waste-to-energy facilities and solar energy. The technological advancement would increase the efficiency of wind energy and was expected to contribute for around 3.5% to 4% of the increase in RE. More advanced waste-to-energy facilities would be developed and the renewable electricity generated by these facilities would contribute for around 3% to 4% of Hong Kong's electricity demand. The Government would also encourage the installation of solar panels in open areas which was expected to contribute for around 1% to 2% increase in RE.

15. In response to a Member's enquiry on the Government's plan of using nuclear energy for electricity generation, Mr Wong Kam-sing remarked that a diversified fuel mix of electricity generation would be adopted to ensure a stable electricity supply. The Government would strive to achieve "net-zero electricity generation" before 2050 by phasing out coal in the power plants, developing RE as well as other new zero-carbon energy such as hydrogen. All practicable options including the use of nuclear energy in the fuel mix would be considered to achieve carbon neutrality. Mr Tse Chin-wan supplemented that reliability, stability and affordability of the energy should be considered in deciding the fuel mix of electricity generation. The Government could not rule out the possibility of increasing the use of nuclear energy in the fuel mix as part of the transition to achieve carbon neutrality and would explore different options including regional cooperation with neighbouring economies, for electricity generation.

Environmental Education

16. Two Members considered that environmental education for the younger generation should be strengthened. Mr Wong Kam-sing said that the major

environmental initiatives to combat climate change had been set out in the Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2050. A dedicated advisory committee on combating climate change would be established to encourage public participation including young people in climate actions. Mr Wong supplemented that the Environmental Campaign Committee would also implement publicity and education programmes related to the environment.

17. A Member suggested, with the support of another Member strengthening environmental education by mainstreaming in the schools' curriculum. Mr Wong Kam-sing advised that ENB would maintain collaboration with the Education Bureau (EDB) through the "Steering Committee on Climate Change and Carbon Neutrality", which was chaired by the Chief Executive to enhance and promote environmental education.

18. In response to a Member's suggestion to provide sufficient training for teachers on environmental education, Mr Wong Kam-sing explained that ENB would maintain dialogues with EDB and the education sector in strengthening environmental education.

Professionalism of Talents

19. A Member suggested that the Government should devise policies to attract and retain talents for environment-related industries. Mr Wong Kam-sing said that the various blueprints and initiatives would generate abundant job opportunities in the green industries, including green energy, recycling, EVs and new energy transport.

20. A Member suggested enhancing the professionalism for the green industry such as personnel involved in ecological survey and environmental impact assessment. Mr Wong Kam-sing thanked for her suggestion and would take it into consideration where appropriate.

Green Transport

21. A Member was concerned that the development of new energy vehicles might be in conflict with the popularisation of EVs as the associated infrastructure might be different. Mr Wong Kam-sing advised that apart from the development of EVs, the Government would also give impetus to the development of other

forms of new energy vehicles, such as hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. Mr Wong pointed out that the transition to new energy vehicles would be carried out by phases to achieve zero vehicular emissions before 2050.

Nature Conservation

22. A Member was of the view that the next Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Hong Kong (BSAP) should be formulated as soon as possible. Mr Wong Kam-sing replied that the Government would take into account the latest development of the global biodiversity framework to be discussed in the United Nations Biodiversity Conference for the next BSAP.

23. In response to a Member's question on the timeframe for the resumption of private wetlands and fish ponds, Mr Wong Kam-sing advised that a strategic consultancy study would first be conducted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department on the proposed setting up of wetland and nature parks. The construction of these parks and resumption of private wetlands and fish ponds with conservation value would be conducted in phases in the future.

24. A Member enquired about the strategies to enhance the effectiveness of the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Scheme under the New Nature Conservation Policy. Mr Wong Kam-sing advised that an additional option would be provided under the enhanced PPP for the land owners to surrender the Conservation Portion to the Government for proactive conservation and management. He supplemented that the development of the Northern Metropolis provided Hong Kong with an opportunity to conserve key wetlands through active conservation and restoration in the area.

25. A Member highlighted the importance to promote biodiversity mainstreaming in Hong Kong. Mr Wong Kam-sing agreed with the Member and said that the Government had given priority to mainstreaming through incorporating considerations on biodiversity conservation in various projects undertaken by different bureaux/departments (B/Ds).

Waste Reduction and Recycling

26. A Member suggested that the Government should encourage and enhance public participation in environmental protection initiatives such as the recycling of

food waste. Mr Wong Kam-sing advised that EPD would commence a trial to collect food waste from housing estates shortly. The Government would review the results of the trial and expand the scope to cover more housing estates. Meanwhile, the Government would conduct promotional activities at these participating housing estates to encourage public participation on food waste collection and recycling.

27. In response to a Member's enquiry on the plan to handle expanded polystyrene (EPS) waste plastics, Mr Wong Kam-sing advised that the Government planned to regulate the sale and provision of EPS tableware in catering premises through legislation. He supplemented that the Government would continue to support the recycling industry with a view to encouraging clean recycling.

Review of Environmental Impact Assessment Process

28. Considering that the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process, in particular the conduct of the ecological survey, required ample time, the Chairman and two Members were concerned that the streamlining of EIA process might adversely affect the quality of EIA report. Mr Tse Chin-wan advised that with a view to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the EIA Ordinance (EIAO) mechanism, EPD would comprehensively review the current process based on the experiences gathered. He assured that the quality of EIA work would not be compromised and ACE would be consulted shortly regarding the implementation of the review. Mr Wong Kam-sing added that the target was to carry out the EIA process in a more efficient manner while maintaining the quality and comprehensiveness of the assessment.

Conclusion

29. The Chairman thanked Mr Wong Kam-sing for his detailed explanations to address the questions raised by Members in the meeting. He concluded that Members were supportive of the environmental initiatives in the 2021 Policy Address. Mr Wong thanked Members for their valuable advice and appealed to Members for their continued support to the implementation of different environmental initiatives.

(Mr Wong Kam-sing and Mr Tse Chin-wan left the meeting at this juncture.)

Internal Discussion Session (Closed-door session)

Environmental Education

30. A Member observed that the environmental education varied in different schools and in different subjects. She considered that environmental education should be enhanced through mainstreaming in the curriculum for all schools. Another Member considered it undesirable for the schools' management to include environmental education or not. Another Member suggested that ENB and EDB should collaborate in enhancing environmental education. He shared that EDB was advocating the "STEAM" educational approach to learning with science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics. He considered that environmental studies might be a suitable subject that aligned with the "STEAM" educational approach.

31. Mrs Millie Ng responded that ENB would liaise with local universities and tertiary institutions to incorporate the education on climate change, low-carbon technologies and green finance to the relevant curricula. Mrs Ng added that ENB would liaise with EDB to enhance environmental education in primary schools and secondary schools as appropriate. Three Members considered that environmental education starting from kindergarten to secondary school should be sustained in order to effectively drive attitudinal and behavioural changes. A Member supplemented that additional resources should be provided to schools and teachers. Another Member shared her experience of promoting education support for non-Chinese Speaking students and the assistance from ENB would contribute to enhance the effectiveness of environmental education in schools. With reference to the success in the implementation of national security measures, another Member considered that the Government should be able to step up the efforts in environmental education.

32. Mrs Millie Ng advised that the Government had placed great emphasis on environmental education. For example, a new interdepartmental "Steering Committee on Climate Change and Carbon Neutrality" chaired by the Chief Executive had been set up to formulate the overall strategy and oversee work progress. The Council for Sustainable Development and EDB had collaborated to develop an E-Learning Platform on Decarbonisation and provided learning materials for students, teachers and the public. She assured that the Government would spare no efforts in environmental education.

Review of EIA Process

33. The Chairman considered that it was crucial to ensure each EIA project was thoroughly assessed and the quality of EIA report would not be compromised by the streamlining of the EIA process. A Member suggested that the Government should establish professional qualifications for personnel involved in EIA process, which might help enhance the quality of EIA work. Another Member urged EPD to speed up the on-going review of the Guidance Notes on Ecological Impact Assessment with a view to providing better guidance for the conduct of ecological surveys.

Carbon Neutrality

34. A Member suggested setting more aggressive goals to combat climate change such as the adoption of net zero carbon emission. Mrs Millie Ng clarified that according to the UN, carbon neutrality was essentially the same as net-zero emission. She remarked that the Government had set out a concrete and ambitious target by reducing the total carbon emissions from 40 million tonnes in 2005 to nearly 20 million tonnes in 2035.

Conclusion

35. The Chairman concluded the discussion and invited EPD to consider taking on board the views and suggestions made by Members during the discussion.

(Mrs Millie Ng left the meeting at this juncture.)

Item 2: Confirmation of the draft minutes of the 248th meeting held on 6 September 2021 (Closed-door session)

36. The draft minutes of the last meeting were confirmed without any proposed amendments.

Item 3 : Matters arising (Closed-door session)

37. There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

Item 4 : Clean Air Plan for Hong Kong 2035

(ACE Paper 17/2021)

38. The Chairman referred Members to *ACE Paper 17/2021* which briefed Members on the vision, targets, strategies and key measures of the Clean Air Plan for Hong Kong 2035.

39. At the invitation of the Chairman, a Member declared that he was involved in some study projects related to air quality with ENB. The Chairman agreed that the Member could continue to participate in the meeting and discussion of this item.

(The presentation team joined the meeting at this juncture.)

Presentation cum Question-and-Answer Session (Open session)

40. Dr Kenneth Leung made opening remarks and Mr Brian Lau, with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, briefed Members on the targets, challenges and six major areas of action for improving the air quality of Hong Kong.

Indoor Air Quality

41. While commending on the efforts of the Government in improving the overall air quality, a Member highlighted the importance of indoor air quality by drawing reference from the latest Global Air Quality Guidelines issued by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the experiences from COVID-19 pandemic. He opined that there was a lack of concrete plan for improving indoor air quality. Another Member further asked whether the indoor air quality would be affected by the ambient air quality. Dr Kenneth Leung advised that indoor air quality would be affected by the ambient air quality and thus priority should be accorded to the improvement of overall air quality in Hong Kong.

42. A Member suggested that the Government should promote the adoption of smart air quality monitoring system with integration to the ventilation system of buildings. Another Member suggested that the Government should consider incorporating such system in the assessment of Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) under the IAQ Certification Scheme. Another Member then shared the experience of his company in the adoption of a smart air quality monitoring system which received

positive feedback. He suggested that the Government should give more information on EPD's website on the recommended devices for measuring IAQ for the public's reference.

43. Dr Kenneth Leung thanked the three Members for their suggestions and aspired that air monitoring system would be more widely adopted should the equipment become more affordable in the future. Mr Brian Lau supplemented that the Government had launched the voluntary IAQ Certification Scheme for Offices and Public Places in 2003, which aimed to promote and raise public awareness on improving IAQ. For premises achieving "excellent class" and "good class" of IAQ, a certificate and a label would be given to the venue owners or management party as a token of recognition of their work. Mr Lau said that EPD would continue the efforts in encouraging more premises to participate in the IAQ Certification Scheme.

44. In response to a Member's enquiry on the scope of IAQ Certification Scheme and provision of assistance to schools in enhancing indoor air quality, Mr Brian Lau shared that EPD had been working with EDB on devising guidance notes for IAQ management in schools and would soon release the notes. After releasing the guidance notes, EPD would provide assistance to schools to practise IAQ management and consider selecting some schools for conducting pilot projects and share the experience with other schools.

45. The Chairman said that publicity efforts on the IAQ Certification Scheme should be further enhanced to raise public awareness of the scheme, and suggested that the Government should consider adopting diverse and creative promotion strategies in order to enhance the effectiveness of the scheme. Mr Brian Lau advised that the promotion of the IAQ Certification Scheme via various channels, such as MTR, buses and YouTube, had been carried out and the Government would continue with the publicity efforts to raise public awareness of the scheme.

Managing Ozone Level

46. In response to a Member's question about the targets and timetable for tackling ozone pollution, Dr Kenneth Leung advised that the target was to reach the peak level of ozone by 2025, which was in line with the targets set out in the National 14th Five-Year Plan.

47. A Member further enquired about Hong Kong's performance on ozone pollution as compared with other economies or international standards, and the mitigation measures for ozone pollution. Dr Kenneth Leung advised that the recommended limit of ozone set out in the WHO Air Quality Guidelines was 100 µg/m³ whereas the limit under the prevailing Air Quality Objectives (AQOs) of Hong Kong was 160 µg/m³. He explained that ozone level was subject to regional factors and would fluctuate with the weather. To improve the regional ozone pollution, the governments of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao had already launched a 3-year joint study to monitor air quality at sea, land and air for an in-depth understanding on the formation and transportation characteristics of ozone in the Greater Bay Area. The governments would formulate policies and mitigation measures based on the data obtained in this study. Dr Leung supplemented that the Government would tackle the ozone problem by reducing both nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) with the various measures on road transport, vessels, electricity generation and products containing VOCs.

48. A Member was concerned that the mitigation measures for reducing nitrogen oxides would cause an increase in the ozone level. Dr Kenneth Leung explained that since the reduction of nitrogen oxides alone would cause an increase in ozone, the Government would adopt comprehensive mitigation measures with a view to reducing various air pollutants as a whole.

49. A Member suggested that the government should regulate the import and sale of products containing VOCs. Dr Kenneth Leung advised that starting from 2022, advanced instruments and tools would be deployed to collect real-time data on the composition and concentration of VOCs. Data obtained would help identify the sources of VOCs and facilitate the formulation of corresponding policies to tackle the ozone pollution problem.

Pedestrian-friendly and Bicycle-friendly Policies

50. A Member suggested that the pedestrian-friendly and bicycle-friendly policies should be incorporated in the relevant guidelines or regulations such as the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (HKPSG). While the policies were not currently set out in prevailing guidelines or regulations, Mr Brian Lau advised that relevant government departments had implemented various walkability enhancement measures such as new wayfinding signage in the Central and Western

District, Sham Shui Po and Tsim Sha Tsui and the incorporation of cycle track design in 13 major harbourfront development projects.

51. A Member suggested that the Government should utilise the geographic information system and mobile applications to facilitate members of the public to adopt low-carbon transportation such as walking and cycling. With a view to providing the public with more detailed district-based air quality information, Dr Kenneth Leung advised that the Government would develop a smart air quality monitoring system with the integration of artificial intelligence and sensors installed at different locations within the next few years. Mr Brian Lau supplemented that the mobile application “HKeMobility” provided real time information on routes of different transportation mode including walking and cycling.

52. A Member commended the Government’s efforts to study the relationship between air quality and health statistics, and suggested that the Government should provide an estimation of the impact of the various measures for improving air quality on human health. In view of the improved transparency of air quality information, a Member suggested that the Government should provide clear guidance to the public on the appropriate precautionary measures in accordance with the air quality level. Another Member suggested that the Government should illustrate the air quality issues in the perspective health risk impact based on the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI). Dr Kenneth Leung advised that health advice and suggested precautionary actions in accordance with AQHI were available on EPD’s website. He said that the Government would continue to strengthen publicity efforts to raise public awareness of the health advices of the AQHI.

53. In reply to a Member’s enquiry on the appropriate precautionary measures under adverse air quality, Dr Kenneth Leung said that people who were sensitive to air pollution such as children and the elderly were recommended to reduce their outdoor stay and physical exercises.

Hydrogen Energy

54. In response to a Member’s concern about the generation of nitrogen oxides from the combustion of hydrogen, Dr Kenneth Leung advised that with scientific methods of combustion, the generation of nitrogen oxides could be minimised. He added that pollutants generated from the combustion of hydrogen could be

filtered or treated properly with the advancement of technology in the future.

Neighbourhood Air Pollution

55. In response to a Member's enquiry on the measures to monitor and improve air pollution problems in the neighbourhood, Dr Kenneth Leung advised that members of the public could seek assistance from the regional offices of EPD regarding such problems.

Microplastics

56. A Member shared that millions of microplastics would be generated annually in the washing machine and the dryer, which might be discharged into ocean. He suggested that the Government should devise appropriate mitigation measures to conserve the marine environment.

Conclusion

57. The Chairman thanked the representatives of EPD for their presentation and detailed explanations, and summarised the views made by Members and concluded that Members were in general supportive of the key measures of the Clean Air Plan for Hong Kong 2035.

Internal Discussion Session (Closed-door session)

Pedestrian-friendly and Bicycle-friendly Policies

58. To reduce carbon emissions, a Member suggested with the support of another Member that pedestrian-friendly and bicycle-friendly policies should be incorporated in the relevant guidelines such as HKPSG. Ms Maggie Chin explained that the HKPSG was a government manual and concerned B/Ds were responsible for updating the relevant chapters of the HKPSG under their purview. While the pedestrian-friendly and bicycle-friendly policies had not been incorporated in the HKPSG, Ms Chin would convey Members' suggestion to Transport Department (TD) for consideration.

59. Pointing out that good air quality was as important as decarbonisation and energy saving, a Member suggested that measures on improving air quality should

also be incorporated in the HKPSG. Dr Kenneth Leung advised that Chapter 9 of HKPSG provided guidance for the incorporation of environmental considerations in the planning of both public and private developments. He said that EPD would update the relevant Chapter of HKPSG in respect of air quality as and when necessary.

Green Buildings

60. A Member enquired whether the Government would incorporate the design of green infrastructure to improve environmental conditions and the quality of life for residents. Dr Kenneth Leung explained that the promotion of green building design was under the purview of Architectural Services Department. He considered that the incorporation of green buildings in new development areas would be feasible.

Conclusion

61. The Chairman concluded the discussion and invited EPD to consider taking on board the views and suggestions made by Members during the discussion.

(The presentation team left the meeting at this juncture.)

Item 5 : Report on the 149th Environmental Impact Assessment Subcommittee Meeting held on 13 September 2021 (Closed-door session)

(ACE Paper 18/2021)

62. At the invitation of the Chairman, the Chairperson of the Environmental Impact Assessment Subcommittee (EIASC), reported that *ACE Paper 18/2021* had summarised the discussion and recommendations of the EIASC meeting held on 13 September 2021 in respect of the EIA report on “Relocation of Diamond Hill Fresh Water and Salt Water Service Reservoirs to Caverns”.

63. Having regard to the findings of the EIA report and the information provided by the project proponent at the meeting, the EIASC recommended the full Council to endorse the EIA report on “Relocation of Diamond Hill Fresh Water and Salt Water Service Reservoirs to Caverns” with one condition and five recommendations. With no further comments from Members, the Chairman concluded that the meeting agreed to recommend the Director of Environmental

Protection (DEP) to endorse the EIA report with the condition and recommendations as set out in paragraph 9 of the *ACE Paper 18/2021*.

Item 6 : Any other business (Closed-door session)

EIA Report not selected by EIASC for submission to ACE

64. The Chairperson of the EIASC reported that since the last Council meeting, EIASC received the Executive Summary of the EIA report on “Revised Trunk Road T4 in Sha Tin” which the Subcommittee had not selected for discussion. The Executive Summary of the EIA report had been circulated to EIASC Members upon commencement of the public inspection period, with the relevant hyperlinks copied to non-EIASC Members for information. Members were advised to provide their comments, if any, on the EIA report directly to the DEP within the respective public inspection period. Given that the EIA report had not been selected by EIASC for presentation and discussion, the Chairperson concluded that EPD would take that ACE had no comments on the EIA report under section 8(3)(b) of the EIAO.

65. There was no other business for discussion at the meeting.

Item 7 : Date of next meeting (Closed-door session)

66. The next ACE meeting was scheduled for 8 November 2021 (Monday). Members would be advised on the agenda in due course.

ACE Secretariat

November 2021