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ACE Paper 10/2022
For advice on 8 August 2022

**Report on the 154th Environmental Impact Assessment
Subcommittee Meeting - EIA report on "Cycle Track between Tsuen Wan
and Tuen Mun (Tuen Mun to So Kwun Wat)"**

PURPOSE

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Subcommittee considered the EIA report on “**Cycle Track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun (Tuen Mun to So Kwun Wat)**” (the Project) submitted under Section 6(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO) at the meeting on 18 July 2022. The EIA report was submitted by the Civil Engineering and Development Department (the Project Proponent).

2. Members are requested to note the views of the EIA Subcommittee and advise whether the EIA report should be endorsed.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR THE PROJECT

3. The Government has pledged in the 2007-08 Policy Agenda to develop a comprehensive cycle track network in the New Territories for improving the quality of living. It aims to further enhance the recreational value of the cycle tracks and for better enjoyment of the public. One of the backbone sections of the New Territories cycle network is from Tsuen Wan to Tuen Mun. The Project is part of the network and involves the construction of a cycle track from Tuen Mun to So Kwun Wat.

4. Please refer to ACE-EIA Paper 5/2022 (*Annex A*) for details of the EIA project.

VIEWS OF THE EIA SUBCOMMITTEE

5. Members noted that the EIA report was made available for public inspection during the period from 20 May to 18 June 2022. A total of three sets of public comments were received by the Environmental Protection Department. All public comments were submitted to Members of the EIA Subcommittee for consideration before its meeting.

6. Relevant extract of the draft minutes of the EIA Subcommittee meeting held on 18 July 2022 is at *Annex B*.

VIEWS OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

7. The Director of Environmental Protection (DEP), in consultation with relevant authorities, considered that the EIA report met the requirements in the EIA Study Brief and the Technical Memorandum on EIA Process, for the purpose of its exhibition for public inspection under Section 7(4) of the EIAO.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE EIA SUBCOMMITTEE

8. Having regard to the findings of the EIA report as well as the information provided by the Project Proponent and its consultants at the meeting, the EIA Subcommittee recommended the full Council to endorse the EIA report with the following conditions and recommendations –

Conditions of Endorsement

The Project Proponent shall –

- (i) devise a detailed Compensatory Tree Planting Implementation Plan (the Plan) with engagement of terrestrial ecologist(s), which shall include details of the planting objectives, planting numbers and locations and list of native tree species to be used, with the aim to enhance urban biodiversity. Off-site locations in the urban area such as Tuen Mun town centre shall also be considered for compensatory tree planting. The Project Proponent shall consult the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (DAFC) on the Plan prior to submission to DEP for approval before the commencement of the compensatory tree planting; and
- (ii) conduct a comprehensive coral survey within the piling footprint between Cafeteria Old Beach and Kadoorie Beach, in consultation with DEP and DAFC, prior to the commencement of piling works with a view to avoiding the construction of viaduct structures in locations which might bring adverse impact to any significant coral colonies in the vicinity.

Recommendations

The Project Proponent is recommended to –

- (iii) retain as far as possible any tall and big trees, in particular tree number T352 in the site area, notwithstanding that they do not fall under the category of trees of particular interest and consider creating resting stations and scenic spots surrounding the tall trees for public enjoyment;
- (iv) explore ways to minimise the overall waste generation and disposal arising from the Project, and consider to reuse and recycle the wood generated from the felled trees as far as practicable; and
- (v) devise a detailed design and implementation plan for the subtidal portion of the proposed viaduct in consultation with DAFC and DEP, with a view to enhancing the biodiversity and ecosystem functions, especially the affected corals.

9. Members of the EIA Subcommittee agreed at the meeting that the Project Proponent would not be required to attend the full Council meeting in respect of the EIA report.

**EIA Subcommittee Secretariat
August 2022**