



33/F, Revenue Tower, 5 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong
香港灣仔告士打道5號稅務大樓33樓

ACE Paper 11/2021
For advice on 10 May 2021

**Report on the 148th Environmental Impact Assessment
Subcommittee Meeting**

PURPOSE

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Subcommittee considered the EIA report on “Drainage Improvement Works Near Four Villages in Yuen Long – Sung Shan New Village, Tai Wo, Lin Fa Tei and Ha Che” (the Project) submitted under Section 6(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO) at the meeting on Monday, 19 April 2021. The EIA report was submitted by the Drainage Services Department (DSD) (the Project Proponent).

2. Members are requested to note the views of the EIA Subcommittee and advise whether the EIA report should be endorsed or not.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR THE PROJECT

3. In 2008, DSD commissioned the “Review of Drainage Master Plans in Yuen Long and North Districts – Feasibility Study” (DMP Review Study) to consider the new developments and review the effectiveness of the previously recommended works under the Drainage Master Plan Studies for the Yuen Long, Kam Tin, Ngau Tam Mei and Tin Shui Wai Drainage Basin conducted in 1998. The DMP Review Study completed in end 2011 and proposed drainage improvement works to alleviate the flooding problem in Yuen Long and North Districts, which includes the subject four villages.

4. Currently, the four villages are susceptible to flooding in the existing drainage system. The proposed drainage improvement works aim to alleviate the flooding spots in the villages.

5. Please refer to the ACE-EIA Paper 1/2021 (*Annex A*) for the details of the EIA project.

VIEWS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE

6. Members noted that the EIA report was made available for public inspection during the period from 22 February to 23 March 2021. During the inspection period, two sets of public comments had been received by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD). Specific concerns on the potential ecological impacts arising from the construction works at the project sites were raised by the public. The public comments and the gist of the public comments for the EIA report were issued to EIA Subcommittee Members on 13 April 2021 for reference, with copies to non-EIA Subcommittee Members for information.

7. Relevant extract of the draft minutes of the EIA Subcommittee meeting held on 19 April 2021 is at *Annex B*.

VIEWS OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

8. The Director of Environmental Protection (DEP), in consultation with the relevant authorities, considered that the EIA report met the requirements of the EIA Study Brief and the Technical Memorandum on EIA Process. Comments from the public and ACE will be considered by DEP in deciding whether to approve the EIA report under the EIAO.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE

9. Having regard to the findings of the EIA report as well as the information provided by the Project Proponent 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 freshwater crab translocation plan (the Plan) for the affected endemic freshwater crabs, which shall include details of the pre-construction survey at the Project sites and the receptor site(s), translocation methodology, identification of location(s) and suitability of the receptor site(s), appointment of local or overseas ecologist(s) with relevant qualifications and experiences to carry out the translocation, post-translocation monitoring programme as well as a contingency plan in case of failure of the translocation. The Project Proponent shall consult the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (DAFC) on the Plan

prior to submission to the DEP for approval before commencement of construction of the Project;

- (ii) devise a Habitat Creation and Management Plan (the HCMP) by qualified ecologist(s), which shall include detailed design on the channel, including but not limited to the use of different bedding/vertical-surfacing materials to create diversified micro-habitats, a monitoring programme as well as a contingency plan, with a view to restoring and maintaining the biodiversity and ecological functions of the watercourses, and to ensure the created habitats could withstand adverse weather conditions. The Project Proponent shall consult the DAFC on the HCMP prior to submission to the DEP for approval before commencement of construction of the Project; and
- (iii) devise a Landscape Plan which shall incorporate the design of green channel and wildlife corridor with landscape planting along the channel edges with a view to enhancing habitat connectivity and revitalising the channels with visual and landscape benefits for public enjoyment. The Project Proponent shall consult the relevant government department(s) on the Landscape Plan prior to submission to the DEP for approval before commencement of construction of the Project.

Recommendations

The Project Proponent is recommended to –

- (iv) publish the ecological enhancements and mitigation measures of the Project on the relevant websites and on exhibition boards on-site and/or in the vicinity where possible such as village office with a view to enhancing environmental education;
- (v) monitor the water quality and environmental condition of the Cheung Po Ecologically Important Stream to ensure that they would not be affected by the channel after adverse weather conditions; and
- (vi) deploy construction equipment with advanced technology such as electric-powered equipment as far as practicable with a view to minimising potential air and noise impact, preserving and protecting the graded historic buildings in the proximity of the work sites as well as contributing to the achievement of carbon neutrality. The Project Proponent should

take precautionary measures to avoid any potential damages to the graded historic buildings during the construction of the Project.

10. Members of the EIA Subcommittee have 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
May 2021**