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ACE Paper 12/2020

For advice on 7 December 2020

**Report on the 147th
Environmental Impact Assessment Subcommittee Meeting**

PURPOSE

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Subcommittee considered the EIA reports on “Pier Improvement at Lai Chi Wo” (“Lai Chi Wo”) and “Pier Improvement at Tung Ping Chau” (“Tung Ping Chau”) under Section 6(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO) at the meeting on 16 November 2020. The EIA reports were submitted by the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) (the Project Proponent).

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

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR THE PROJECT

3. In 2017 Policy Address, the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region committed to improving a number of remote public piers to facilitate public access to outing destinations and natural heritage. A list of proposed pier improvement items, including Lai Chi Wo Pier and Tung Ping Chau Pier, is recommended under the first implementation phase of Pier Improvement Programme.

4. The two piers were constructed in the 1960s which have been in service for more than 50 years. With implementation of the two projects, the current substandard conditions of the piers will be rectified and safety enhanced.

5. Please refer to the ACE-EIA Papers 3/2020 and 4/2020 (*Annexes A and B*) for the details of the two EIA projects.

VIEWS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE

6. Members noted that the EIA reports were made available for public inspection during the period from 8 October to 6 November 2020. During the inspection period, a total of three sets of public comments for “Lai Chi Wo” and two sets for “Tung Ping Chau” were received by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD). Specific concerns on water quality and potential impacts on coral communities were raised by the public. The public comments and the gist of the public comments for the two EIA reports were issued to EIA Subcommittee Members on 11 November 2020 for reference, with copies to non-EIA Subcommittee Members for information.

7. Relevant extracts of the draft minutes of the EIA Subcommittee meeting held on 16 November 2020 are at *Annex C*.

VIEWS OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

8. The Director of Environmental Protection (DEP), in consultation with the relevant authorities, considered that the two EIA reports met the requirements of the EIA Study Brief and the Technical Memorandum on EIA Process. Comments from the public and ACE will be taken into account by DEP in deciding whether or not to approve the EIA reports under the EIAO.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE

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

(A) Lai Chi Wo

Condition of Endorsement

The Project Proponent shall use locally manufactured/recycled eco-materials, such as eco-tiles and eco-concrete, in the design and construction of the pier with a view to enhancing ecological functions of the pier and minimizing the carbon footprint of the Project; or provide justifications to DEP when procurement of eco-materials manufactured by non-local markets is deemed necessary.

Recommendations

The Project Proponent is recommended to –

- (i) devise a schematic layout plan of design, subject to the consultation with the Director of Planning, to ensure that the final pier design could feature the uniqueness and natural setting of Lai Chi Wo, enhance the landscape quality and the geological significance of the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark. The selection of colour scheme and material texture should harmonize and be compatible with the natural setting of Lai Chi Wo. Light-penetrating surfaces for walkway should be considered to enhance the visual permeability, improve and sustain the ecological connectivity of the pier; and
- (ii) stay vigilant of any signs of Green Turtles before and during marine works, and adopt necessary precautionary measures to minimise any potential impact/disturbance to Green Turtles as far as possible.

(B) Tung Ping Chau

Condition of Endorsement

The Project Proponent shall use locally manufactured/recycled eco-materials, such as eco-tiles and eco-concrete in the design and construction of the pier with a view to enhancing ecological functions of the pier and minimizing the carbon footprint of the Project; or provide justifications to DEP when procurement of eco-materials manufactured by non-local markets is deemed necessary.

Recommendations

The Project Proponent is recommended to –

- (i) devise a schematic layout plan of pier design, subject to the consultation with the Director of Planning, to ensure that the final pier design could feature the uniqueness and natural setting of Tung Ping Chau, enhance the landscape quality and the geological significance of the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark. The selection of colour scheme and material texture should harmonize and be compatible with the natural setting of Tung Ping Chau. Light-penetrating surfaces for walkway should be considered to enhance the visual permeability, improve and sustain the ecological connectivity of the pier;
- (ii) prepare a post-translocation monitoring programme of the translocated coral colonies, subject to the consultation with the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation, for evaluation of effectiveness and successfulness of coral translocation. The programme should include parameters including recruitment rate, growth rate and survival rate of the translocated coral;

- (iii) enhance the habitat quality subsequent to the translocation of the affected coral colonies, such as deploy artificial reefs at the coral donor sites, to enhance the biodiversity and ecosystem functions of Tung Ping Chau Marine Park; and
- (iv) stay vigilant of any signs of Green Turtles before and during marine works, and adopt necessary precautionary measures to minimise any potential impact/disturbance to Green Turtles as far as possible.

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 two EIA reports.

**EIA Subcommittee Secretariat
December 2020**