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ACE Paper 6/2022

For advice on 16 May 2022

**Report on the 152nd Environmental Impact Assessment
Subcommittee Meeting**

PURPOSE

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Subcommittee considered the EIA report on “**Tung Chung Line Extension**” (the Project) submitted under Section 6(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO) at the meeting on 11 April 2022. The EIA report was submitted by the MTR Corporation Limited (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 Tung Chung Line Extension (TCLE) project was first announced in the Railway Development Strategy 2014 to support the future land supply and housing development at Lantau North. It aims to provide a convenient transportation mode to serve the existing and planned population in Tung Chung East (TCE) and Tung Chung West (TCW). The EIA study for the Tung Chung New Town Extension under Schedule 3 approved in 2016 has included the conceptual scheme of the TCW Extension and a possible TCE Station. This separate EIA study under Schedule 2 is conducted to assess the environmental impact of the TCLE project taking into account its latest design, which includes the construction of two new train stations at TCE and TCW areas, associated trackwork, railway tunnel as well as other station associated facilities.

4. Please refer to ACE-EIA Paper 3/2022 (*Annex A*) for details of the EIA project.

VIEWS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE

5. Members noted that the EIA report was made available for public inspection during the period from 10 February to 11 March 2022 and 23 March to 1 April 2022. A total of 317 sets of public comments were received by the Environmental Protection Department. All public comments had been submitted to Members of the Subcommittee for consideration before the meeting.

6. Relevant extract of the draft minutes of the EIA Subcommittee meeting held on 11 April 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 has 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 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 and compatibility with the surrounding natural environment. The Project Proponent shall consult the relevant authority and seek advice from Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) on the Plan prior to submission to the DEP for approval before commencement of the compensatory tree planting;
- (ii) submit a detailed plan on the proposed noise enclosure at Tung Chung Crescent (the Plan), including but not limited to the details of its design, extent, access point locations and construction vehicle traffic management

as well as the program of erection and demolition of the enclosure and site reinstatement, and the arrangement for temporary storage of construction and demolition waste. The Plan shall demonstrate the effectiveness of the enclosure in mitigating the noise, air and any other potential environmental nuisances, as well as health and safety hazards during the construction phase. The Plan shall be submitted to the DEP for approval before commencement of the construction works at Tung Chung Crescent;

- (iii) develop a contingency and response plan (the Plan) for handling any accidental spillage of slurry arising from the Tunnel Boring Machine works. The Plan shall be submitted to the DEP for approval before commencement of relevant part of the construction works; and
- (iv) devise a detailed wastewater management plan (the Plan) for the construction works at TCW, which shall include locations of the discharge points and the treatment arrangements of wastewater including site runoff, with a view to minimising impacts upon the nearby mudflats and other water sensitive areas in the vicinity. The Project Proponent shall seek advice from AFCD on the Plan prior to submission to the DEP for approval before commencement of the construction works in TCW.

Recommendations

The Project Proponent is recommended to –

- (v) put in place a mechanism, such as through setting up liaison groups, for maintaining regular communication with the local and relevant stakeholders on issues concerning noise, air, traffic and recreational spaces arising from the Project;
- (vi) explore ways to enhance environmental quality, such as achieving environmental sustainability, reducing construction time and bringing about positive social impact, through the Project as far as practicable; and
- (vii) adopt effective measures to minimise operational and embodied carbon emissions arising from the Project, including construction and operational phases, with the aim to achieve carbon neutrality and sustainability and achieve relevant international certifications as far as practicable.

9. 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 2022**