

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE ENVIRONMENT
(16.5.1994)

(ACE Paper 28/94)
tabled on 16.5.94
for advice

Report of the EIA Subcommittee
2nd Meeting on 2 May 1994
and the Special Meeting on 10 May 1994

The following were discussed at the meeting on 2 May:

EIA for the Proposed Shiu Wing Steel Mill at Tuen Mun Area 38

Members considered the EIA study for the construction and operation of the Shiu Wing Steel Mill in Tuen Mun Area 38. Members accepted the EIA conclusions that the environmental impacts associated with the proposed development can be minimised through the use of proper design and the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures.

2. The Sub-committee recommends the Council to endorse the EIA report for the proposed development.

EIA for the Casting Basin at Shek O Quarry

3. This is an EIA on the proposed casting basin and associated facilities at the base of the existing Shek O Quarry. The basin will be used to pre-fabricate immersed tube tunnel units for the Western Harbour Crossing. The EIA study concluded that the environmental impacts could be controlled within the required limits with the implementation of the mitigation measures and environmental monitoring. The Sub-committee accepted the EIA report.

4. The Sub-committee recommends the Council to endorse the EIA report.

EIA for the Public Golf Course at Kau Sai Chau

5. The Government propose to develop the northern part of Kau Sai Chau into a public golf course. The project will be fully financed, developed and managed initially by the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club (RHKJC). After considering the EIA report and the presentation by the project proponent (Recreation and Culture Branch), RHKJC and their consultants, Members had the following major concerns regarding:

- the transplant of mangroves,
- the ecological impact of the reservoir,
- the financial and management plan in relation to turf management of the golf course,
- the water supply system, and
- unexploded ordnance.

6. After receiving further information on the above items, a special meeting was held on 10 May. After lengthy discussions, the Subcommittee concluded that, based on the technical and environmental grounds, the EIA report on the proposed golf course development was acceptable.

7. The Sub-committee recommends the Council to endorse the EIA report, subject to the following conditions for the project proponent:

- to implement all the measures recommended in the EIA study;
- to carry out a quick ecological survey that will include a bird survey and a survey of the fresh water habitat at the site of the proposed reservoir. This is needed because the survey carried out by the project proponent failed to cover all four seasons. This survey will check if there is any notable spring/summer species of ecological value which have not been recorded before;
- to report back to the Sub-committee in due course on the ecological survey, the implementation of the turf management plan, the progress of the mangrove transplantation and the restoration of habitat;
- while the golf course is being constructed, to consider repairing the bomb damaged landscape outside the golf course;
- to consider the use of zero-emission vehicles on the island; and

- that any further developments on the island outside the boundaries of the public golf centre be subject to EIA.

8. The Subcommittee also requests the full Council to consider the question of the value of golf course development. The Subcommittee would like to draw the Council's attention to the situation that the proposed reservoir for the golf course development is to be located at a site that has been identified as ecologically important. Despite all the remedial measures to be undertaken as recommended by the EIA study, some Members questioned the destruction of natural habitat for golf course development and felt that EIA should be used as a planning tool, not a rubber stamp.

Planning, Environment and Lands Branch
May 1994