



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 9/2015

For discussion on 13 July 2015

Expansion of Hong Kong International Airport into a Three-Runway System

Marine Travel Routes and Management Plan for High Speed Ferries of SkyPier

PURPOSE

This paper seeks Members' views on the "Marine Travel Routes and Management Plan for High Speed Ferries of SkyPier (the SkyPier Plan)" submitted by the Airport Authority Hong Kong (AAHK). The SkyPier Plan is one of the submissions required by the Director of Environmental Protection (DEP) when granting the Environmental Permit for the project "Expansion of Hong Kong International Airport into a Three Runway System" (3RS).

BACKGROUND

2. This Council and its Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Subcommittee (EIASC) discussed the EIA report for the 3RS in August/September 2014 and agreed that the report could be endorsed by DEP with 18 conditions and four recommendations. The minutes of the ACE meeting held on 15 September 2014 is at **Appendix A** for Members' reference. The discussion on the operation of the SkyPier Plan is at paras. 25-29 and 46 of the minutes.

3. DEP accepted ACE's recommendations and approved the 3RS project in November 2014. One of the endorsement conditions requires AAHK to submit the SkyPier Plan to ACE for comment prior to submitting to the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) for approval before

commencement of the construction works. The SkyPier Plan shall include the following –

- (i) imposing a speed limit within Hong Kong waters which are hotspots of Chinese White Dolphins (CWD) during construction phase so as to minimize chances of collision and disturbance to CWD;
- (ii) capping the number of SkyPier high speed ferries (HSF) at the current level of operation (i.e. an annual daily average of 99) prior to designation of the proposed marine park; and
- (iii) exploring the feasibility of imposing a daily cap on the number of HSF leaving the SkyPier and imposing further speed restrictions at different spots along the marine routes after detailed study.

4. In accordance with the Environmental Permit condition, AAHK has prepared the SkyPier Plan at **Appendix B** for comments by ACE before submitting to EPD.

ADVICE SOUGHT

5. Members are invited to discuss the SkyPier Plan at the ACE meeting scheduled on 13 July 2015.

ACE Secretariat
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