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(ACE Paper 16/96)
for advice

Report of the EIA Subcommittee : the 18th Meeting on 1 April 1996

The Subcommittee considered two EIA reports at its meeting on 1 April 1996.

Environmental Impact Assessment Study for Discovery Bay North Development Master Plan 6.0(A) and the Road and Tunnel Link

2. The Discovery Bay North Development project involves an addition of 2230 residential units to the existing Discovery Bay development, a new ferry terminal, a transport interchange and a hotel. The development also involves a tunnel link to North Lantau for road and utility connections, the use of which will be restricted to buses, service vehicles and emergency vehicles. The tunnel link will provide water and sewerage connection to North Lantau.

3. The EIA of the development and the road and tunnel link covered water quality, air quality, noise, and ecology of the area. It is concluded that, with appropriate design and mitigation measures, the environmental impact of the project will be kept within established standards. The provision of a tunnel link to transfer sewage from Discovery Bay and Peng Chau to Siu Ho Wan Sewage Treatment Works will improve the water quality in the area.

4. Members were generally satisfied with the report but have raised a few points for further consideration by the project proponent and Government:

- (a) Government should explore the possibility of expediting the re sewerage programme for the Peng Chau sewage to tie in with the availability of the tunnel sewer;
- (b) the use of electric vehicles in the area to minimise the impact of particulates to the air quality in the area should be considered; and
- (c) further information on the surveys performed on flora and fauna, birds and mangrove should be supplied.

5. One Member reserved his position. The other Members agreed to recommend endorsement of the EIA without conditions.

Supplementary Environmental Impact Assessment for Dredging of the Anchorage Area for Stonecutters Island Naval Base

6. In order to service the future naval base at Stonecutters Island, it is proposed that an anchorage area for four buoys should be constructed. A Supplementary Environmental Impact Assessment (SEIA) was carried out to define the nature and extent of the environmental impacts arising from the proposed dredging activities associated with the provision of an anchorage area, to identify any unacceptable environmental impact associated with the implementation of the works, and to recommend measures to minimise any adverse impacts.

7. The SEIA concluded that the water quality impact arising from the dredging work can be controlled to within established guidelines through proper implementation of the recommended methods and rate of dredging. The recommended methods and dredging rate will be stipulated as conditions in the relevant dumping licence. Disposal sites for spoil disposal have been identified and the procedures for disposal will follow those stipulated in a Government Technical Circular and in the licence conditions.

8. A Member was concerned about progress of the protection measures for the egretty on Stonecutters Island in connection with a condition of endorsement of a previous EIA study on Stonecutters Naval Facilities, which recommended that the south-east facing beach on Stonecutters Island should be converted to a feeding area for egrets by placing large boulders in the water to provide perching sites and areas suitable for aquatic vegetation and fish breeding. It was confirmed after the meeting that detailed design and construction of the feeding area is now in progress and construction will be completed by the end of 1996.

9. All other Members were content with the SEIA and agreed to recommend the SEIA to the Council for endorsement without conditions.

Advice Sought

10. Members are requested to consider the recommendations of the Subcommittee:

- (a) endorsement of the environmental impact assessment study for Discovery Bay North Development Master Plan 6.0(A) and the road and tunnel link (paragraph 5 refers); and
- (b) endorsement of the supplementary environmental impact assessment for dredging of the anchorage area for Stonecutters Island Naval Base (paragraph 9 refers).

Planning, Environment and Lands Branch
April 1996