

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD

Summary Report of the Marine Parks Committee

1. Purpose

1.1 This paper aims to inform members of the major issues discussed at the Marine Parks Committee meeting held on 23 October 2018.

2. Marine Park Study for the Expansion of Hong Kong International Airport into a Three-Runway System

2.1 In the approved Environmental Impact Assessment Report of the Expansion of Hong Kong International Airport into a Three-Runway System (3RS) Project, the Airport Authority Hong Kong (AAHK), as the project proponent, recommended the establishment of a new marine park of approximately 2,400 hectares as compensation for the seabed habitat and open waters habitat loss associated with the land formation for the Project. The proposed marine park aimed to protect and conserve the marine environment around the Hong Kong International Airport as well as to provide linkage between Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park and The Brothers Marine Park in the North Lantau waters.

2.2 In the meeting, AAHK and their consultant introduced and sought members' views on the preliminary design of the proposed marine park and the upcoming stakeholder consultation plan. They also informed members that the designation of the proposed marine park would tie in with the full operation of the 3RS, which was targeted in 2024.

2.3 During the discussion session, AAHK and their consultant explained to members the basis for the delineation of the marine park boundaries and shared some initial ideas on the management plan for the proposed marine park. Some members welcomed the preliminary design of the proposed marine park and considered that the design to connect it with the adjacent marine protected areas would provide a better

protection for Chinese White Dolphins. Some of them suggested AAHK and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) to study the feasibility and funding requirements to support long-term monitoring and management of the proposed marine park so that the proposed marine park could be better protected and monitored for the conservation of Chinese White Dolphins.

2.4 AAHK also noted the comments regarding fisheries and marine traffic issues arising from the establishment of the proposed marine park. AAHK would further consult the relevant stakeholders in the upcoming consultation and refine the boundary and management plan for the proposed marine park taking into account the views collected.

3. Study on Subtidal Seaweed Diversity and Distribution in Hong Kong

3.1 AFCD commissioned a 13-month study on diversity and distribution of subtidal seaweeds in Hong Kong (the Study). The Study commenced in February 2018 and will be completed in March 2019. In the meeting, the Study team from The Education University of Hong Kong described the ecosystem functions provided by seaweed and the limitations of the existing records of seaweeds in Hong Kong and briefed members on the objectives, scope and methodology of the Study and some preliminary qualitative observations from the first seasonal survey.

3.2 During the discussion session, the Chairman and members provided some suggestions to the Study team and expressed their interests in certain topics, such as the effects of seasonal change on shifts in seaweed species composition. Moreover, the Study team was also requested to take note of the ecological importance of different seaweed species during the course of the Study.

4. Advice sought

4.1 This paper is prepared for members' information.

Country and Marine Parks Authority
November 2018