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10 May 2013

Fax No. : 2978 7569
Clerk to Subcommittee
Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways
Panel on Transport
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Joanne MAK)

Dear Ms MAK,

Panel on Transport
Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways – Follow Up Actions

**Arrangement for Railways Projects after the court case of
Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Environmental Impact Assessment Report**

In the list of follow-up actions up to 28 February 2013 compiled by the subject committee, there is an enquiry regarding the withdrawal of the Environmental Impact Assessment report (EIA report) for railways projects after the court case of the EIA reports of Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) local projects. We provide the following information for members' perusal.

2. After the High Court handed down its judgment on the judicial review case regarding the EIA Reports of the Hong Kong Link Road and Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities projects of HZMB, the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) already submitted three EIA reports in relation to Shatin to Central Link (SCL) to the Environmental Protection Department (EPD). As the SCL is a strategic railway project in Hong Kong and runs across a number of densely populated areas in the territory, its construction and operation will bring about a change of environment in these areas, and the associated environmental impact must be carefully evaluated. In view of the Court's judgment on the EIA reports of the HZMB local projects, the MTRCL, proceeding with caution, withdrew the

three EIA reports on 21 April 2011.

3. Later, on 27 September 2011, the Court of Appeal allowed the Director of Environmental Protection's appeal and confirmed the validity of the Environmental Permits previously issued for HZMB projects. Subsequently, MTRCL re-submitted the EIA reports in relation to SCL to the EPD on 12 October 2011. After going through the statutory process, the Director of the Environmental Protection accepted the above reports on 17 February 2012 and issued the Environmental Permits in March 2013.

Yours sincerely,



(S H L A M)

for Secretary for Transport and Housing

c.c. Railway Development Office, Highways Department
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