

Response to Dr Hon Helena WONG's letter dated 16 April 2014

The West Kowloon Cultural District Authority (WKCDA) is liaising with the concerned parties to understand the situation and try to assess the implications of the delay in the works of the West Kowloon Terminus (WKT) of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL) project to the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) project. WKCDA's initial assessment is that the delay would have no direct impact on the construction of Xiqu Centre and M+ museum. Whether there may be any impact on the progress of delivering the ancillary/support facilities for these two venues would need to be further assessed in consultation with the concerned parties.

As regards the WKCD site area between Xiqu Centre and M+ museum, part of it is currently occupied for the construction of the WKT. As advised by the MTR Corporation Limited, part of the concerned site area will be released to WKCDA in stages starting from 2016. The integrated basement, arts and cultural facilities (including the Centre for Contemporary Performance, Medium Theatre and Lyric Theatre), and hotel/office/residential developments to be constructed there will be affected. As the XRL is a large and complex project, various factors affecting its progress may impact on the timing of the release of the site areas. The Government and WKCDA are reviewing the impact in the delay of the XRL project on the implementation of the integrated basement and the programme of the related WKCDA facilities.

Moreover, the delay of the XRL project might defer the release of the said areas to WKCDA. It might affect the construction costs of the WKCD project. WKCDA will assess the possible cost implications when more details of the delay in the XRL project are available.

West Kowloon Cultural District Authority
May 2014