

12th March 2018

Clerk to Bills Committee
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
E-mail: bc_102_17@legco.gov.hk

Dear Hon Andrew Leung Kwan-yuen, President of the Legislative Council,

Submission on Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (Co-location) Bill
View from Business Environment Council Limited 商界環保協會有限公司

We are writing to provide our views in response to the bill of Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (Co-location).

Over the past 25 years, Business Environment Council (BEC) has played a leading role in advocating the business case for environmental excellence in Hong Kong. Our members are committed to actively engage with the HKSAR Government on a range of issues relating to the environment and sustainability. Our ongoing work reflects the increasing interest in Hong Kong's business and finance world in supporting environmental protection and a low carbon economy.

We are a membership organisation with over 200 members spanning major listed and multi-national companies as well as small and medium-sized enterprises, from a wide range of sectors. We also have affiliate members from trade associations, NGOs, and academic institutes. Views put forward in this submission represent the views of BEC as a whole, and may not necessarily correlate with the views of individual members.

Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link is one of the paramount infrastructures in Hong Kong which forms part of the national high-speed rail network. With this intercity rail network, the journey time between Guangzhou and Hong Kong would be significantly reduced by half to less than an hour – it will definitely attract businesspeople and others seeking a faster and more comfortable journey.

To make the best use of Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link, BEC is supportive of the bill with the following reasons:

- Business Environment Council recognises that in the future connectivity within the Greater Bay Area will be strengthened. We take the view that as long as the area is managed well, this will bring both opportunities for Hong Kong businesses as well as capacity enhancement to ensure the sustainable development of the region. Co-operation across governments is important to enable this, be it in terms of waste management or enhancing air quality.
- In our view, ease of movement by rail is particularly beneficial in terms of enabling connectivity considering the benefits relating to carbon emissions, air quality and noise, in comparison with road transport. This will be further improved by the cleaner lower carbon power supply. The design of the rail line with tunnelling under land of high ecological, landscape and leisure value has also reduced most of the negative ecological impacts that the high speed railway may have had.
- To make this high speed railway line as appealing as possible for users and to obtain the full value of this major project, it is important in our view to ensure that arrangements at either end allow for quick embarkation and disembarkation on and off the trains. For this reason, we see the value and benefit of co-location of immigration and customs arrangements which will enable swifter movement keeping journey times to a minimum.

If there are any queries regarding this submission, please contact our Chief Executive Officer, Mr Adam Koo at adamkoo@bec.org.hk.

Yours sincerely,

Business Environment Council Limited