24 June 2014

The Airport Authority's response to concerns on fish species of conservation importance in the EIA report

▪ The EIA report has pointed out that a trawl survey conducted within the land formation zone found that *Longheaded eagle ray* exist in relatively low density, while the other five marine fish species of conservation importance (*Pale edged sting ray, Goatee croaker, Long tooth grouper, Orange spotted grouper, Tiger toothed croaker*) were only recorded outside the land formation footprint. The six marine fish species are highly mobile, and are also found in nearby and neighbouring waters. Therefore, the potential impact of the assessment is acceptable

▪ Isolated colonies of Gorgonian Guaiagorgia sp., a kind of coral which is common in western Hong Kong waters including Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau marine parks, Tai O, Tung Chung, Sunny Bay (Yam O) and the Brothers Islands, were recorded with a low coverage along the existing artificial seawall to the north of Chek Lap Kok within the proposed land formation footprint

▪ The Airport Authority is committed to addressing the likely environmental impact arising from the three-runway system (3RS) project and has proposed more than 250 measures to avoid, minimise, mitigate and compensate for potential environmental impact in the EIA report, including the designation of Hong Kong's largest-ever marine park in north-western Lantau waters, which will connect the waters surrounding the expanded Hong Kong International Airport Approach Area (HKIAAA) with the existing and planned marine parks to form a consolidated marine protection area covering more than 5,000 hectares. Potential disturbance before the start of construction phase will be alleviated by the re-routing and speed control of SkyPier high-speed ferries to-and-from Macau and Zhuhai. Given that the potential impact of the 3RS project has been identified, avoided and minimised, and with various mitigation measures proposed, it is concluded in the EIA report that the potential impact of the 3RS project is acceptable

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