

PRESS STATEMENT

21 December 2018

**Verification and Assurance work on Hung Hom Station Extension
of the Shatin to Central Link project**

The Corporation is undertaking verification and assurance work on the Hung Hom Station Extension of the Shatin to Central Link (“SCL”) project based on the holistic strategic plan earlier agreed with Government. Under Stage 2 of the plan, opening up of certain locations will be done to examine the as-constructed condition of the EWL slab at the diaphragm walls connection and the workmanship quality of both the EWL and NSL slabs and the station structure. Representatives of relevant government departments, their consultants and experts as well as the Police are present to ensure the tests are properly carried out according to the agreed procedures.

The Corporation welcomes Government’s announcement of the initial test findings on the coupler connections exposed and the arrangements for regular updates, which will ensure that a high level of transparency on this matter which is of general public concern.

Detailed data for all the coupler samples will be gathered for a holistic assessment on the overall structural integrity and safety of the Hung Hom Station Extension works under Stage 3 of the holistic plan. It is too early to draw any conclusions from the initial results on a small number of samples. Different degree of coupler engagement does not necessarily mean that the coupler assembly is ineffective or that there is any safety or structural concern. A comprehensive assessment will be done with full information on all the samples to determine structural safety and soundness, and whether any remedial work is required.

While opening up and testing work on other sample locations is still in progress, the Corporation is concerned that the level of engagement of the five couplers tested so far deviate from the level of workmanship recommended by the supplier of the couplers concerned. However, deviations from workmanship level may not necessarily result in ineffective coupler assembly strength. Leighton Contractors (Asia) Limited (“Leighton”), which has been awarded with SCL Contract 1112 Hung Hom Station and Stabling Sidings, has the primary responsibility to ensure that all works, including the coupler connections, fully meet the contractual, statutory and workmanship requirements. The Corporation reserves its rights to take legal actions against Leighton on any sub-standard or non-conforming works.

The verification test is ongoing and is proceeding according to the plan. A high level of transparency will be maintained through regular updates on the initial test results. Safety has always been our absolute priority. The Corporation will ensure that all necessary precautionary measures are taken and that the safety of the structures and the workers is maintained at all times during the verification process.

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