



By post and by email at nmlegislation@devb.gov.hk

22 May 2026

Ms Linda SO Wai Sze, JP
Director
Northern Metropolis Co-ordination Office
Development Bureau
Units 506-507, 5/F, Shui On Centre
6-8 Harbour Road
Wan Chai, Hong Kong

Dear Ms SO

**Views from The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers on
the Dedicated Legislation to Accelerate the Development
of the Northern Metropolis**

On behalf of the Institution, I am pleased to present to you our views and suggestions as set out in the enclosure for your consideration on the captioned subject.

With our expertise and experience, the Institution welcomes the opportunity to work with the Government on the area of concern if and when it is needed.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alice Chow". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ir Alice CHOW
President



Views from The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers on the Dedicated Legislation to Accelerate the Development of the Northern Metropolis

The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE) welcomes the Government's proposal to introduce dedicated legislation for the Northern Metropolis (NM). As a long-standing supporter of this development, the Institution notes that accelerating the NM's progress is a goal clearly set out in the National 15th Five-Year Plan. We regard this proposed legislation as a breakthrough attempt for Hong Kong to fulfil this national commitment while realising our local vision of establishing a new economic powerhouse. This streamlined statutory framework is essential to delivering this multi-generational project with the efficiency and precision required to meet these high-level strategic objectives.

2. The HKIE welcomes the introduction of dedicated legislation and supports the Six Specified Policy Areas in principle, given the considerable economic and social merits of the NM development.
3. In particular, the Institution appreciates the objective of removing administrative and statutory barriers. We have long advocated fostering a “facilitator mindset” within the Government; the initiatives proposed to accelerate NM developments represent a significant step toward a more agile, process and result-oriented governance model that reduces social costs and shortens project timelines.

The Subsidiary Legislation Arrangement

4. The Institution supports the proposed primary-subsidary legislation approach. This structure provides the necessary flexibility to respond to evolving development needs while upholding the gatekeeping role of the Legislative Council through the 49-day scrutiny window. We particularly welcome the Government's commitment to making the first batch of subsidiary legislation available for preview in mid-2026, well ahead of the target passage of the primary legislation by the end of the year.
5. Allowing ample time for thorough community engagement and professional explanation regarding future subsidiary legislations would be vital to securing robust public support for initiatives aimed at attracting global talent and investment—such as the creation of future statutory park companies or the seamless cross-border flow of data and biomedical samples.

Facilitating the Adoption of Innovative Construction Technology

6. The HKIE fully supports the proposed “quality-oriented” approach for applications involving non-conventional construction technologies and materials in new developments, redevelopments, or alteration and addition (A&A) works. The Institution further recommends that such facilitative measures be extended beyond



structural and architectural works to cover electrical, mechanical, building services, and fire services systems. Given the increasing integration and complexity of these systems in modern developments, a holistic regulatory approach would ensure that innovation is promoted consistently across all major building components.

7. The Fanling Bypass (Eastern Section) serves as a clear precedent for how advanced equipment and materials can achieve significant cost savings and enhance build quality, providing a prime example of the benefits and practical blueprint for streamlining processes.

8. Beyond speed, the benefits of novel technologies include enhanced cost-effectiveness, mitigation of on-site safety risks, and addressing the anticipated manpower mismatch in the construction sector. Furthermore, these advancements foster cross-border collaboration and knowledge transfer, creating new opportunities for businesses and engineering professionals, while consolidating Hong Kong's position as a global innovation hub

9. Looking ahead, the HKIE suggests that the legislation remains adaptable to accommodate the full lifecycle benefits of emerging technologies. Early, future-proof provisions for autonomous vehicles, low-altitude economy applications, and district cooling systems would further accelerate the NM's development. It is advisable that the legislative framework provides room for incorporating such novel technologies, potentially through a centralised oversight body to facilitate coordinated processes. Such policy clarity will bolster confidence among industry leaders and investors.

10. In this regard, the regulatory framework should also provide clarity and streamlined approval mechanisms for electrical, mechanical, building services, and fire services installations, ensuring that these critical systems can adopt advanced and smart technologies without undue procedural constraints.

Streamlining Procedures for Construction Noise Permit (CNP) Applications

11. The HKIE supports the transition toward a practical, evidence-based approach for CNP applications that is based on noise mitigation measures and real-time on-site monitoring, allowing flexible deployment of powered mechanical equipment.

12. It is noted that the monitoring approach has been a well-established requirement for Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), and reliable real-time noise monitoring solutions are readily available to effectively serve the purpose. Engineers of relevant disciplines in Hong Kong also possess the professional expertise required to support the installation, operation, and interpretation of these systems. Proper implementation of this approach is expected to enhance regulatory efficiency while maintaining high standards of environmental protection.

13. While outside the immediate scope of noise permits, the Institution suggests that the Government continues to identify opportunities to streamline other work permits—



such as excavation permits for utilities—to support the overall infrastructure readiness of the NM.

14. In doing so, due consideration should also be given to ensuring adequate professional and technical support for the review and approval of electrical, mechanical, building services, and fire services systems, so that efficiency gains in the NM do not create bottlenecks in other essential infrastructure projects.

Strategic Considerations for the Northern Metropolis and Beyond

15. The Institution notes that the applicable area for the new legislation is tentatively defined as the Yuen Long and Northern Districts, and includes the Hong Kong Park of the Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone and the Shenzhen Bay Port Hong Kong Port Area.

16. The NM offers a unique testing ground for streamlined statutory and administrative processes. If successful, the Government should consider integrating these measures into city-wide standards to drive sustainability and cost-efficiency across all future Hong Kong developments.

17. The Institution anticipates that these streamlined measures, alongside the broader adoption of new technologies by Government agencies, will gradually accelerate review procedures both within and beyond the NM. To maintain continued momentum for projects elsewhere in Hong Kong, it is advisable that the Government monitor resource allocation within the civil service so that the exceptional arrangements for the NM do not inadvertently affect the delivery timelines of other vital urban projects.

18. As a professional body representing engineers in Hong Kong, the HKIE stands ready to continue its engagement with the Government and the Legislative Council once the full draft of the primary legislation is tabled later this year. We look forward to sharing further professional perspectives to help keep the NM development on track to become a cornerstone of Hong Kong's future and a key contributor to national development.