

Tung Chung Cable Car Bill

The Government announced that the Tung Chung Cable Car Bill gazetted on Thursday (30 January) will be introduced into the Legislative Council on 12 February.

“The Government plans to grant a 30-year franchise for the finance, design, construction, operation and maintenance of the Tung Chung Cable Car System (“the System”) on a Build-Operate-Transfer basis,” a Government spokesman said.

In July 2002, the Government entered into a Provisional Agreement with MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) to take forward the Tung Chung Cable Car Project. We are pursuing the enactment of the enabling legislation, and working with MTRCL to prepare a Project Agreement.

The spokesman said that the proposed legislation would provide a legal framework for the grant of the franchise to MTRCL or its wholly owned subsidiary, and define the respective rights and obligations of the Government and the franchisee under the franchise. The operation and safety standards of the system will be regulated through the Aerial Ropeways (Safety) Ordinance (Cap. 211).

The spokesman added that under the Bill, the franchisee will be granted a statutory right to occupy the land without being granted any land title. The proposed legislation will also grant to the franchisee the right to use, grant licences and collect associated licence fees for the use of the commercial gross floor area and operate vehicle parking facilities at the Tung Chung Terminal and Ngong Ping Terminal. To facilitate the development of the System, the proposed legislation will provide for the creation of statutory easements, with a mechanism for payment of compensation, to enable the franchisee to construct, operate and maintain the aerial ropeway over private land. The proposed legislation will also grant other rights over land such as wayleaves over Government land and right of access over private land in emergency situations. There will also be a provision deeming the resumption of private land for the construction of the System to be for a public purpose within the meaning of the Lands Resumption Ordinance (Cap. 124).

“We have consulted the Legislative Council Panel on Economic Services and the MTRCL on the proposed legislation,” the spokesman

said. “Upon completion of the System in August 2005, the cable car will be a spectacular new tourist attraction in itself. At the same time, it will help draw more visitors to other attractions on Lantau.”

End/Thursday, January 30, 2003