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ACE Paper 18/2023

For information on 4 September 2023

Review of Air Quality Objectives (AQOs)

Background Note

PURPOSE

This paper provides background information to the “Review of Air Quality Objectives (AQOs)” (*ACE Paper 17/2023*) for discussion at the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE) meeting scheduled for 4 September 2023.

BACKGROUND

2. Under Section 7A of the Air Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap. 311) (APCO), the Secretary for Environment and Ecology is required to review the AQOs at least once every five years and submit to the ACE a report of the review.

3. At the ACE meeting held on 6 January 2020, the then Environment Bureau and the Environmental Protection Department sought ACE’s views on the recommendations and way forward to update the AQOs. Members were in general supportive of the progressive tightening of the AQOs towards the ultimate goal of the World Health Organisation’s Air Quality Guidelines for protecting public health, and gave some valuable suggestions.

4. In the upcoming meeting, the Environment and Ecology Bureau (EEB) will report to Members the findings on the review of the AQOs and seeks ACE’s views on the recommendations as well as the way forward. EEB will report to the Panel on Environmental Affairs of the Legislative Council (LegCo) on the outcome of the public consultation; and accordingly prepare to amend the APCO with a view to introducing an APCO amendment bill to the LegCo in 2024 and implement the new AQOs in January 2025.

5. For Members' easy reference, a table setting out the papers and minutes of meetings relevant to the AQOs reviews conducted in the past is appended below –

Relevant ACE Meeting	Topic	Relevant paper/ minutes
214 th ACE Meeting on 11 April 2016	Work Plan for the Review of Air Quality Objectives (AQOs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ACE Paper 7/2016 ● Confirmed Minutes of Meeting
Information paper issued in June 2017	Progress of the Review of Air Quality Objectives (AQOs).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ACE Paper 12/2017 ● ACE Paper 12/2017 (Appendix)
235 th ACE Meeting on 4 March 2019	Review of Air Quality Objectives (AQOs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ACE Paper 1/2019 ● ACE Paper 1/2019 (Appendix 1) ● ACE Paper 1/2019 (Appendix 2) ● ACE Paper 2/2019 (Background Note) ● Confirmed Minutes of Meeting
239 th ACE Meeting on 6 January 2020	Proposal for Updating the Air Quality Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ACE Paper 1/2020 ● ACE Paper 2/2020 (Background Note) ● Confirmed Minutes of Meeting

ACE Secretariat
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