



THE STRAITS TIMES

“Forest City environmental impact report: A closer look at what M’sia approved”

1/15/2015

Marissa Lee writes for *The Straits Times* in a January 2015 article that Country Garden Pacificview (CGPV) hopes the 1,386ha luxury home development, comprising four man-made islands linked by bridges, will draw investors from “land-starved Singapore”, according to its detailed environmental impact assessment (DEIA) report submitted to the Department of Environment (DoE).

Work on the project’s initial phase was halted amid public outcry over possible environmental damage and after Singapore conveyed its concerns on a number of occasions to Malaysia over the reclamation.

The works in the Johor Strait were stopped in June last year, and is now set to resume following the DoE’s nod to a slightly reduced scale of the project.

The company had earlier proposed to reclaim one giant island amounting to about 2,000 ha, then scaled that down to four islands spanning 1,623ha. The total area had finally been reduced to 1,386 ha.

Enclosed within the four proposed islands would be a seagrass bed known as Merambong Shoal. CGPV said the seagrass bed is rich in biodiversity and home to endangered species such as seahorses and dugong.

A temporary access road from the mainland to the first partially reclaimed island has “split the (seagrass) ecosystem into two”, the DEIA report revealed. Merambong Shoal is considered one of the most important seagrass beds in Peninsular Malaysia, said the DEIA report, adding that it “will be heavily impacted by the proposed development”.

Though the plan is for this access road to be removed, damage to the seagrass bed will be hard to control given the area’s close proximity to the project, said the report.

Forest City is expected to create 62,200 new jobs post-reclamation, when an estimated 300,000 people settle into the newly-created islands, the

developer said. Prior to that, about 5,000 workers are expected to be employed during the peak of the reclamation works.

Some RM700 million (\$259.6 million) is also expected to be pumped into infrastructure upgrades that will benefit the nearby populations in Gelang Patah, Tanjung Pelepas and Nusajaya.

Source:

<http://www.straitstimes.com/business/forest-city-environmental-impact-report-a-closer-look-at-what-msia-approved>

STAR ONLINE

“Forest City’s scaled down development to lower GDV by 30%”

2/16/2015

A February 2015 *Star Online* article describes some of the changes that Forest City has undergone since the DEIA. The development of Forest City project, the size of which has been scaled down twice, is likely to see a reduction of between 20% and 30% in gross development value (GDV).

The project has now been scaled down to 592 hectares from 1,386 hectares earlier.

It was originally planned for development on 1,978 hectare site.

“Once we do the calculation, we will announce the new cost. We are anticipating some reduction from the original cost,” said Country Garden Pacificview Sdn Bhd Executive Director Datuk Md Othman Yusuf.

He said the estimates would be based on the latest gross floor area.

Source:

<http://www.thestar.com.my/business/business-news/2015/02/16/forest-citys-scaled-down-development-to-lower-gdv-by-30/>