

## 4 CONCLUSION

During the Stage 1 CE, the Study has engaged a wide spectrum of stakeholders, including the HC, the Planning, Works and Housing Committee of the EDC, academics and professional institutes, green groups, cyclist groups and harbour concern groups, as well as local residents. Questionnaire surveys were conducted and 1306 completed questionnaires were received.

It is recognised that the harbourfront from North Point to Quarry Bay is currently occupied by private lots, roads, utilities, jetties as well as the IEC, which have created both a physical and visual barrier to the harbour along the Island East harbourfront. There is strong public support for a continuous harbourfront in the area concerned in order to enable public enjoyment of the harbour. The public generally agree that there is a compelling and present need for the boardwalk in order to open up the North Point harbourfront to the public and provide a continuous connection along the Island East harbourfront.

It is generally accepted that there is a public need to provide easy access to the waterfront from the hinterland in this area. There are also views that more access points to the boardwalk should be provided to encourage patronage. The boardwalk would serve to increase public right of access to the harbourfront and also provide a better walking environment to and along the harbourfront.

There are views that a boardwalk of 7.5m as proposed would not be sufficient to meet the public need for a safe and interesting harbourfront connection. The public demanded for a wider boardwalk in order for their needs to be satisfied and to ensure proper and conflict-free enjoyment of the harbour by all user groups including both pedestrians and cyclists.

It is generally agreed that the boardwalk would encourage residents of the local community to adopt a healthy lifestyle by walking on the boardwalk or to making use of the ancillary facilities provided. In addition, most agree that the boardwalk would introduce new possible leisure activities to the Eastern District and also bring about creative uses of the space, including event organization, art display and even light installations. It could enhance positive social interactions among patrons.

Majority agrees that the boardwalk would increase pedestrian flow and hence bring in local business opportunities. Some propose to put on street performances and holiday markets on the boardwalk for vibrancy of our harbourfront areas.

Some participants also suggest that more landscaping and greening features could be incorporated to improve the visual quality and landscaping character of the harbourfront in this area.

In addition to being a pedestrian walkway as the core component of the boardwalk, the facilities proposed to be provided under the boardwalk scheme, namely the cycle track, cycle rental kiosks, bicycle parking, viewing platforms, seating, food & beverage kiosks and fishing platform, are primarily welcomed as meeting the needs of the community.