

**Hong Kong Marine Conservation Society comment on
The implementation programme proposed for HATS**

5 July 2005 Environmental Panel meeting

About the EPD proposal for implementation of Stage 2 of Phase II of HATS. Our society fully support the proposal which speed up the treatment of sewage in the Victoria Harbour Area. We are please to see that a time table is set for the completion of Stage 2 A at 2013, and that Stage 2B will be review at 2010/11.

However we are still concern about the government's decision to use Chlorination as disinfection agent. As Chlorine and dechlorination agent in large quantities will have detrimental effect on marine ecosystem. We urge the government to consider investigating other means of removal of pathogens using minimal chemical additives to the marine environment. Other methods such as UV light or Gaseous e.g. Ozone disinfection in combination with natural biological filter organisms be seriously considered. These non intrusive and natural method of removal of pathogens should be preferable to chemical disinfection , which has serious long term adverse impact on our marine environment and human .. The government should also seriously consider increasing the dilution effect by extending the sewage outfall further into the Ma Wan Channel for effective dispersion of the effluent.

The government should decide if it is necessary to implement Stage 2B only after the completion of Stage 2A , so that the community and the government can see the effect of Stage 2A, and decide whether Stage 2B is justify for the additional cost need for further treatment.

To minimize additional financial burden to the taxpayers, the total capital cost of the final HATS scheme should be spread over the whole life span of the tunnels and in proportion the live span of other facilities over a long period rather than a relatively short time.

We hope to see that construction works on the subterranean tunnels of Stage 2A be started soon with full support from government departments, legislation council and private sector. So that, the water quality of Victoria Harbour will be restored to a natural, healthy and safe standard.as soon as possible.