

L/M to ETWB(E) 55/07/70

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17 November 2004

Mr Markus Shaw  
Chairman  
The World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong  
1 Tramway Path  
Central  
Hong Kong  
(By Fax 2845 2734)

Dear Mr Shaw,

**The World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong  
Way Forward for The Harbour Area Treatment Scheme Stage 2**

Thank you for the support of the World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong for the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme (HATS) Stage 2.

The Government is fully committed to the entire package of HATS Stage 2. Nevertheless, as the construction of the Stage 2B involves a lot of technical issues, such as the change of land use, selection of biological treatment technology, formulation of an appropriate public-private partnership strategy, it would be advisable to take the Scheme forward in two phases so that we can accord more time to plan the more complicated and costly HATS Stage 2B. Besides, there is clear evidence showing significant improvement of Victoria Harbour water quality after the full commissioning of HATS Stage 1. The Government is therefore keen on keeping the momentum by proceeding with the implementation of HATS Stage 2A to bring further improvement to our harbour water quality as soon as possible, while at the same time carrying out the planning for the more complicated Stage 2B.

Regarding the chlorination and dechlorination disinfection by-products, we are fully aware of your concerns. We have actually conducted a very detailed literature review and carried out experimental analysis to determine the levels of disinfection by-products which would be generated from

the process. The initial findings indicated that chlorination and dechlorination disinfection should be an environmentally acceptable option. Nevertheless, the potential impact of disinfection will be fully addressed in the detailed Environmental Impact Assessment Study to be carried out. For further information in this regard, you may like to view the report on the Assessment of the Water Quality Implications of Phased Implementation of HATS Stage 2, which can be downloaded from the website: [http://www.cleanharbour.gov.hk/english/download/HATS%20Phased%20options\\_WQ%20assessment/HATS%20Phased%20options\\_WQ%20assessment%20\(21June04\).htm](http://www.cleanharbour.gov.hk/english/download/HATS%20Phased%20options_WQ%20assessment/HATS%20Phased%20options_WQ%20assessment%20(21June04).htm).

Once again, we would like to thank you for tendering so many useful views on HATS Stage 2 and offering your support to the Government.

Yours sincerely,

Signed

(Raistlin Lau)

for Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

c.c. DEP (Attn : Dr Malcolm Broom)	Fax No. 2834 5648
DSD (Attn : Mr Ko Wing Hon)	Fax No. 2802 8194
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