

**LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene**

**Conversion of Aqua Privies into Flushing Toilets**

**Purpose**

This paper briefs Members on the progress of the current aqua privies (APs) conversion programme on 100 APs and the proposal to extend the programme to cover another 50 APs in the next phase.

**Background**

2. At present, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) maintains about 460 APs in various locations in the New Territories and the outlying islands where no public sewerage system is available and where there is a need for public toilet facilities.

3. APs are village-type dry latrines without a flushing system. They are not the desirable public toilet facilities in particular at locations with high patronage rate, scenic spots or tourist attractions frequented by visitors. To meet the rising expectation of the community, FEHD has been working in collaboration with the Architectural Services Department (Arch SD) to convert APs into flushing toilets wherever circumstances permit.

*Conversion of 100 APs under Phases 1, 2A and 2B of the conversion programme*

4. As one of the initiatives recommended by the former Team Clean, FEHD has sought the approval of the Legislative Council (LegCo) to convert in phases 100 APs which are close to sightseeing spots or in locations with relatively higher usage rate into flushing toilets. We consulted the LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene on the project in November 2003 and the Panel indicated support to the project. In July 2004, the Finance Committee approved the upgrading of Phase 1 of the conversion programme to Category A for conversion of 30 of these 100 APs into flushing toilets. In May

and June 2005, the Finance Committee further approved the upgrading of Phase 2A and Phase 2B of the conversion programme to Category A for conversion of another 40 and 30 aqua privies respectively.

*Progress of the current conversion programme on 100 APs*

5. The existing conversion programme on 100 APs has been implemented by phases starting from early 2005. As at end April 2007, 69 APs have been converted into flushing toilets. The entire conversion programme is targeted for completion by end-2007.

**Proposed phases of the extended conversion programme**

6. As a continued effort to improve toilet facilities, we have planned to convert another 50 APs which are of comparatively higher patronage rate or at locations close to scenic spots and tourist attractions into flushing toilets under Phases 3 and 4 as an extended conversion programme. A list of the locations of the APs to be converted into flushing toilets is attached at Annex. With the completion and approval of the technical feasibility studies on these two phases of works in March 2006 and January 2007 respectively, it is our current plan to make a submission to the Public Works Sub-committee of the Finance Committee for funding approval in June 2007.

*Scope of works*

7. The scope of the conversion works for APs covered in Phases 3 and 4 will mainly follow that for the current conversion programme and generally include -

- (a) installation of flushing water system (including the provision of pedestal or squatting type water closets and the construction of water tanks for flushing and ablution purposes);
- (b) replacement of wall and floor finishes;
- (c) improvement to lighting and ventilation; and
- (d) provision of hand-washing facilities.

8. The actual scope of works will depend on site constraints and existing conditions of individual APs. Wherever possible, the converted APs will be connected to public sewers in the vicinity. For APs which cannot be connected to public sewers and if site conditions allow, Arch SD will explore the feasibility of introducing bio-treatment system with toilet waste treated under a biological process. Treated water which has been disinfected will be re-cycled for flushing purpose. Alternatively, underground septic tanks will be converted into holding tanks for temporary storage of waste. Under this arrangement, more frequent desludging will be necessary upon conversion of the APs.

#### *Estimated cost*

9. The capital cost for conversion of 50 APs into flushing toilets under Phases 3 and 4 is estimated to be around \$108 million.

#### *Implementation programme*

10. The conversion works for Phases 3 and 4 of the extended conversion programme are targeted to commence in end-2007 for completion by end-2008/early 2009.

#### *Public consultation*

11. We consulted relevant District Councils (DCs) in November and December 2006, January and March 2007 and they generally supported the proposed conversion works. We will further consult the relevant DCs in May 2007 on the latest changes of APs covered in the extended conversion programme.

### **Future plans on AP conversion programme**

12. We also aim to expedite the conversion of the remaining APs into flushing toilets. We hope to convert a further 80 APs under Phase 5 and planning work will commence shortly. Subject to availability of funding, the conversion works are planned to start around end-2008 for completion in end-2009/early 2010.

### **APs outside the conversion programme**

13. For APs which cannot be converted into flushing toilets at present due to technical or site constraints (e.g. lack of water or electricity supply), FEHD will carry out some general improvement works including the installation of mosquito traps, provision of air fresheners, improvement to the squatting hole design and provision of pedestal toilets on a trial basis for the convenience of people in need. Furthermore, to suppress the emission of unpleasant smell from septic tanks from squatting holes, FEHD is conducting a pilot project on the use of odour arresting agents in APs. If the trial is satisfactory, FEHD will extend such application to all APs.

### **Advice sought**

14. Members are invited to note the progress of the current AP conversion programme and the proposed extended phases.

**Health, Welfare and Food Bureau**  
**Food and Environmental Hygiene Department**  
**May 2007**

**Conversion of APs into Flushing Toilets – Phase 3 and 4**  
**Locations of 50 Aqua Privies to be Converted into Flushing Toilets**

	<b>Phase 3 (30 APs)</b>	<b>Phase 4 (20 APs)</b>
<b>Islands (6)</b>	Ngong Ping Camp Site, Lantau * Hau Wong Temple, Tung Chung * Mo Tat Village, Lamma	* San Tau, Tung Chung, Lantau * Yung Shue Ha, Sok Kwu Wan, Lamma # Shek Tsai Po Street, Tai O, Lantau
<b>North (11)</b>	Tan Chuk Hang Lin Tong Mei  Sheung Shui Wai Sheung Pak Tsuen, Sheung Shui San Uk Tsuen, Sheung Shui # Queen's Hill, Fanling	Tam Shui Hang Village Tong Hang Tsuen Lin Tong Mei Residential Area Liu Pok Tsuen (North) * Kam Tsin Tsuen (South) * Ling Shan Tsuen
<b>Sai Kung (3)</b>	Nam Wai Village # Sun On Tsuen	Nam Shan Village
<b>Shatin (2)</b>	* To Tau Village # Fo Tan Village	-
<b>Tai Po (4)</b>	San Tong Village Lin Au Village	Hang Ha Po Wai Tau Village
<b>Tuen Mun (2)</b>	-	Tuen Tsz Wai Tuen Tsz Wai Lam Tei Vegetable Market Office
<b>Yuen Long (22)</b>	Ping Shan Tong Fong Tsuen Ping Shan Hung Uk Tsuen Tai Shu Ha Wan Chau Tai Tseng Wai Tsuen Lau Fau Shan Pak Nai near Vegetable Market Office Ngau Hom Tsuen Kam Tin Kam Hing Wai North Ha Tsuen San Wai * Kam Tin Kat Hing Wai * Kam Tin Shui Mei Tsuen * Kam Tin Fung Kut Heung * Pat Heung Sheung Tsuen Wing Hing Wai * Ha Tsuen Tseung Kong Wai * Tai Shu Ha West * Lau Fau Shan Sheung Pak Nai Sha Kong Miu * Tai Tong Road Nam Hang Pai	Shek Wu Wai San Tin Fan Tin Tsuen (2) Ping Shan Fung Chi Tsuen Pat Heung Tin Sum Tsuen Ha Tsuen Pau Wai * Lam Hau Tsuen

Type 1 conversion method : Conversion of septic tank into holding tank (30 APs)

\* Type 2 conversion method : Installation of bio-treatment system (16 APs)

# Type 3 conversion method : Connection to public sewers (4 APs)