

**The Administration's response to the follow-up action
arising from the meeting of
the Legislative Council Panel on Development
on 28 July 2009 –**

District-based beautification and revitalization projects

Purpose

The Administration was requested to provide information on the progress of the study on sewerage improvement works being conducted by the Drainage Services Department in Tai O, and possible short-term improvement measures.

Background

2. At present, there is an existing sewerage system to serve part of Tai O. In the remaining unsewered areas, domestic sewage is discharged into nearby watercourses or after treatment by private treatment facilities, such as septic tanks and soakaway systems. These private treatment facilities are not effective in removing pollutants due to their close proximity to watercourses and inadequate maintenance. Hence, the discharge from these unsewered areas is a source of pollution to the receiving waters in the Tai O area.

Outlying Islands Sewerage Stage 2 – Upgrading of Cheung Chau and Tai O sewage collection, treatment and disposal facilities

3. To address the water pollution problem in Tai O, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has proposed a sewerage project PWP No. 354DS “Outlying Islands Sewerage Stage 2 – Upgrading of Cheung Chau and Tai O sewage collection, treatment and disposal facilities” in 2007 with a view to providing public sewerage facilities to the unsewered areas. Drainage Services Department (DSD) is the works agent for implementing the project.

4. The preliminary project scope comprises provision of village sewerage to unsewered areas/villages in Tai O, extension or upgrading of existing trunk sewers, construction of sewage pumping stations with

associated rising mains and upgrading/expansion of the existing Tai O sewage treatment works. Please see the attached plan for further details.

5. Recently, DSD has completed an investigation study of sewerage in Tai O. The preliminary findings support the extension of the sewerage system to the unsewered areas in Tai O. DSD is prepared to implement the extension of the sewerage system in Tai O, but extension to cover the stilted house areas may not be feasible. The study has identified great technical difficulties in providing sewer connections to stilted houses having regard to their potential structural instability, limited working space, etc. Further studies are required to consider whether the difficulties could be overcome. DSD will continue to engage stakeholders for their views on the project.

6. In 2009, EPD and DSD had met Tai O Rural Committee Chairman and some Committee Members, the Association for Tai O Environment and Development, YWCA Tai O Community Work Office and a few stilted house residents to brief them on the scope of works under 354DS (Tai O portion) and to exchange views on the feasibility of provision of sewerage to Tai O stilted houses. Besides, EPD and DSD briefed the Tai O Resident Rights Concern Group and some local residents on 21 January 2010. After this series of meetings, EPD and DSD will work out the way forward.

Development Bureau
February 2010

FIGURE 1
附圖一



LEGEND:
圖例:

- PROPOSED SEWER / 擬建污水管道
- EXISTING SEWER / 現有污水管道
- ▲ PROPOSED SEWAGE PUMPING STATION / 擬建污水泵房
- ▲ EXISTING SEWAGE PUMPING STATION / 現有污水泵房
- STILTED HOUSE / 棚屋

UPGRADING OF CHEUNG CHAU AND TAI O SEWAGE COLLECTION, TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL FACILITIES - PROPOSED SEWERAGE WORKS IN TAI O
長洲及大澳污水收集處理及排放改善工程 - 擬建之大澳渠務工程

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