

For discussion on
16 November 2009

Legislative Council Panel on Economic Development

Pilotage (Dues) (Amendment) Order 2009

INTRODUCTION

This paper seeks Members' views on the Pilotage (Dues) (Amendment) Order 2009 (the Order), which seeks to reduce the additional pilotage due if a pilot is required to board or disembark from a ship off Ngan Chau or at the West of Lamma Island (the Additional Pilotage Due) pursuant to the agreement between the service user and service provider representatives.

BACKGROUND

2. Pilotage dues are commercial fees charged by licensed pilots for the provision of pilotage services. The fee levels are reviewed by the Hong Kong Liner Shipping Association (HKLSA), representing the service users, and the Hong Kong Pilots Association (HKPA) representing the service providers from time to time.

3. Section 22 of the Pilotage Ordinance (Cap. 84) empowers the Pilotage Authority, who is the Director of Marine, to set the amount of pilotage dues by order published in the Gazette after consultation with the Pilotage Advisory Committee (PAC).

THE PROPOSAL AND JUSTIFICATIONS

4. The Pilotage Authority proposes to make the Order to reduce the Additional Pilotage Due from \$1900 to \$1820 for a period of 18 months. The reduction reflects the agreement reached between HKLSA and HKPA during their latest review in September 2009.

5. We plan to gazette the Order and table it at the Legislative Council in early December 2009. Subject to the approval of the Legislative Council, the Order will take effect from 1 February 2010.

CONSULTATION

6. Shipping industry have been consulted through the PAC which comprises representatives from the Hong Kong Shipowners' Association, HKLSA, HKPA, container terminal operators, bulk cargo operators, oil terminal operators, tug operators, dockyard industry and master mariners. Members supported the proposed fee reduction.

ADVICE SOUGHT

7 Members are invited to give their views on the above proposal.

*Transport and Housing Bureau
November 2009*