

For discussion
on 8 November 2011

LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

**Progress Report on the Follow-up Action for Aqua Privies
Not Included in the Conversion Programme**

Purpose

The Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council approved on 14 January 2011 a commitment of \$383.3 million for the implementation of Phase 7 (the final phase) of the conversion programme to convert aqua privies (APs) in the New Territories and on outlying islands into flushing toilets. The Administration consulted the LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene (the Panel) on 9 November 2010 and had the Panel's support before seeking funding approval from the FC. As requested by Members at the meeting, we undertook to report the progress of the follow-up action for the remaining 53 APs not included in the conversion programme. This paper sets out the relevant information for Members' reference.

Background

2. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has since 2005 started to implement the conversion programme to convert about 520 APs in the New Territories and on outlying islands into flushing toilets by phases. The initiative has been included in the Policy Agenda since 2007-08, with the target of completing the conversion works by 2012-13. So far, funding has been secured for seven phases of the conversion programme involving a total of 462 APs, at a total approved project estimate of about \$996.4 million. The funding for each phase and the numbers of APs converted / proposed to be converted are set out at Annex I.

APs not included in the conversion programme

3. The conversion works for most of the APs have been completed on schedule under Phase 1 to Phase 6 of the conversion programme while Phase 7 is still in progress. In addition, another 53 APs which are expected to require more time for follow-up action have not been included in the conversion programme. The reasons were set out in LC Paper No. CB(2)187/10-11(05) dated 9 November 2010 and are recapitulated below:

<u>No. of APs</u>	<u>Reasons for not including the APs in the conversion programme</u>
36	involving private land issues / affected by other private developments or other projects
10	the local community opposing the conversion or requesting the relocation / reprovisioning / demolition of the APs
4	project / site constraints
3	FEHD proposing and the local community supporting the demolition of the APs
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53	

4. Although these APs are not included in the conversion programme, FEHD has, on the premise of enhancing environmental hygiene, been actively exploring suitable follow-up options, including proposals for conversion of individual APs into flushing toilets, *in-situ* refurbishment, demolition or reprovisioning. FEHD made an effort to consult the local community and concerned departments in the past year with a view to implementing the follow-up plans as soon as possible. As at end October 2011, the status of these 53 APs is as follows:

<u>Proposed follow-up options</u>	<u>No. of APs involved</u>	<u>No. of APs with works completed</u>
Conversion into flushing toilets	7	0 (Conversion works for one AP are nearing completion)
<i>In-situ</i> refurbishment	12	3
Demolition	14	7
Reprovisioning	20	0 (Sites have been identified for nine APs with application for land allocation / feasibility studies / reprovisioning works in progress)
Total	53	10

Reasons for not including these 53 APs in the conversion programme and the latest progress of the follow-up action are set out at Annex II.

Conclusion

5. Members are invited to note the progress report on the follow-up action for the above-mentioned 53 APs. FEHD will continue to liaise with the local community and various government departments so as to complete the follow-up action and the related works as early as practicable.

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AP Conversion Programme

AP Conversion Programme	Approved Project Estimate (in Money-of-the-Day prices) (\$ million)	No. of APs
Phase 1 (conversion works completed)	27.6	30
Phase 2A (conversion works completed)	30.1	39 ^{Note 1}
Phase 2B (conversion works completed)	36.1	28 ^{Note 2}
Phase 3 (conversion work completed)	66	30
Phase 4 (conversion works completed)	42.6	20
Phase 5 (conversion works completed)	189.6	80
Phase 6 (conversion works for 89 APs completed)	221.1	90 ^{Note 3}
Phase 7 (conversion works in progress / under planning)	383.3	145
Total Approved Project Estimate	996.4	-
Total no. of APs converted into flushing toilets	-	316
Total no. of APs for which conversion works are in progress / under planning	-	146
Total no. of APs for which conversion works have been / will be completed		462

Note 1: Phase 2A of the conversion programme originally covered 40 APs but one of the APs sits on private lot and cannot be converted. It is pending the identification of a suitable site for reprovisioning.

Note 2: Phase 2B of the conversion programme originally covered 30 APs but two of the APs cannot be converted. One of them sits on private lot and the other one is

affected by a road widening project. The former has been demolished while the latter has been included in Phase 7 of the conversion programme as it is no longer affected by the road widening project.

Note 3:

Since the Civil Engineering and Development Department is carrying out road widening works in the vicinity, the conversion of one AP can only commence upon completion of the road widening works in late 2011.

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Progress Report on the Follow-up Action for the 53 APs not Included in the Conversion Programme

(Position as at end October 2011)

Reasons for not including the APs in the conversion programme	No. of APs	Proposed follow-up options			
		Conversion into water closets	<i>In-situ</i> refurbishment	Demolition	Reprovisioning
Involving private land issues / affected by other private developments or other projects	36	6 (Conversion works for one AP will be completed by end 2011 while conversion of the remaining five has the initial support from the local community and feasibility studies are in progress.)	7 (Inclusion of two APs in the Public Toilet Refurbishment Programme has the support from the local community while consultation with the local community is underway for the other five.)	6 (Three APs have been demolished with support from the local community while the demolition of the remaining three is under planning / consultation with the local community.)	17 (Identification of sites for reprovisioning of nine APs has the initial support from the local community, and sites have been identified for seven of them with application for land allocation / feasibility studies in progress while the other two are still at the stage of site identification. The remaining eight APs are affected by private developments or other projects and the

		Proposed follow-up options			
Reasons for not including the APs in the conversion programme	No. of APs	Conversion into water closets	<i>In-situ</i> refurbishment	Demolition	Reprovisioning
					reprovisioning of one of them can be completed by early 2012 while specific information on reprovisioning for the remaining seven APs is not available.)
The local community opposing the conversion or requesting the relocation / reprovisioning / demolition of the APs	10	1 (Conversion of the AP has the support from the local community and feasibility studies are in progress.)	1 (Inclusion of the AP in the Public Toilet Refurbishment Programme has the support from the local community.)	5 (One AP has been demolished with support from the local community and the demolition of the remaining four is under planning / consultation with the local community.)	3 (Identification of sites for reprovisioning of two APs has the initial support from the local community. A site has been identified for one of them with land allocation application in progress while the other one is still at the stage of site identification. The remaining one is under consultation with the

Reasons for not including the APs in the conversion programme	No. of APs	Proposed follow-up options			
		Conversion into water closets	<i>In-situ</i> refurbishment	Demolition	Reprovisioning
					local community.)
Project / site constraints	4	-	4 (Refurbishment has been completed for three APs and inclusion of the remaining AP in the Public Toilet Refurbishment Programme has the support from the local community.)	-	-
FEHD proposing and the local community supporting the demolition of the APs	3	-	-	3 (Demolition completed.)	-
Total	53	7	12	14	20

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