

**Panel on Development**  
**Regrading of Assistant Director of**  
**Water Supplies posts in Water Supplies Department**

**Follow-up Issues of the Meeting held on 28 February 2017**

At the meeting on 28 February 2017, the Panel on Development discussed the proposed regrading of Assistant Director of Water Supplies posts in Water Supplies Department. The Administration was requested to provide the following information:

- a) A list of villages in Hong Kong where the supply of treated water was not available; and
- b) Whether the Administration had followed up the issue of unavailability of treated water in the villages listed in (a) and formulated a timetable for supplying treated water to these villages; if so, the details; if not, the reasons.

This note sets out our response to the request after consulting the Home Affairs Department (HAD) and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD).

At present, the treated water supply network covers about 99.9% of the population of Hong Kong. The areas that do not have access to treated water supply are mainly remote villages with sparse population. While these villages do not have treated water supply, they have access to raw water systems that supply stream or well water for domestic consumption. These supply systems have been in use for many years. Most of them are under the maintenance of the HAD. The FEHD also regularly monitors and tests the quality of stream or well water in these villages to ascertain their suitability for potable consumption. In the event of water depletion at source, the Government will provide assistance, including transporting potable water to meet the needs of villagers.

With the assistance of other departments and the Heung Yee Kuk, the Water Supplies Department (WSD) has been conducting studies on ways to improve water supply for over 700 villages around the territories since 1980. After more than 30 years of hard work, the WSD has managed to provide treated water supply for a total of 724 villages by the end of 2016.

The Government submitted an information paper on the cost-effectiveness of supplying treated water to remote villages to the then Panel on Planning, Lands, and Works of the Legislative Council in 2003. It proposed that, for those remote villages where treated water supply schemes were still not cost-effective, the schemes should be reconsidered at a more opportune time when nearby developments rendered the provision of treated water supply more cost-effective or when other factors that warranted further study emerged. In accordance with the above-mentioned principles, we have been monitoring the water supply situation of these remote villages and their nearby developments. Over the past 10 years, WSD has commissioned treated water supply systems for 23 remote villages.

Of the 18 District Councils, there remain 19 villages in 6 District Councils that do not have access to treated water supply. These villages are listed in **Appendix 1**. Amongst them, the works for supplying treated water to Yuen Tun Ha, Tai Po has commenced and is scheduled for completion by the end of 2017. By then, the number of villages that do not have access to treated water supply will be further reduced to 18.

These 18 villages have sparse populations and are far away from both urban areas and existing treated water supply networks. The per capita capital cost for the construction of treated water supply systems for these villages is very high. Moreover, low total water consumption may lead to stagnant water in water mains and hence resulting in deterioration of water quality. We will monitor and regularly review the situation of these remote villages, including their existing water resources and water quality etc. Should there be developments near these remote villages that render the provision of treated water supply more cost-effective or when other factors that warrant further study emerge, we will proceed to apply for funding under the established procedures to take forward the works for treated water supply systems.

**Development Bureau**

**Water Supplies Department**

**April 2017**

## Appendix 1

### Remote Villages Without Treated Water Supply

District Council	Name of Village
Tai Po	Yuen Tun Ha <sup>(Note)</sup>
	Lai Chi Chong
	Wong Chuk Yeung
	Tung Sam Kei
	Sham Chung
	Tung Ping Chau
Tsuen Wan	Luk Keng (Lantau)
	Tai Chuen (Northeast Lantau)
	Tso Wan (Northeast Lantau)
Islands	Tai Long (South Lantau)
	Po Toi Island
	Fan Lau (West Lantau)
	Yi O (West Lantau)
	Upper Wong Lung Hang
	Nim Shue Wan
	Cheung Sha Lan
Shatin	Mui Tsz Lam
Tuen Mun	Tin Fu Tsai
Sai Kung	Tung Lung

Note: Construction works to extend the existing water supply network to Yuen Tun Ha has commenced and is scheduled for completion by the end of 2017.