

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BRIEF

Pilotage Ordinance (Chapter 84)

Pilotage Ordinance (Amendment of Schedule 2) Notice 1999 and Pilotage (Dues) (Amendment) Order 1999

INTRODUCTION

Under Section 10F(a) and Section 22 of the Pilotage Ordinance, Chapter 84, the Director of Marine being the Pilotage Authority is empowered to amend Schedule 2 to the Ordinance specifying the pilot boarding stations and the Schedule to the Pilotage (Dues) Order, to provide for the amount of pilotage dues respectively. In accordance with these sections, the Director of Marine has amended the relevant Schedules as set out in Annexes I and II.

BACKGROUND AND ARGUMENT

2. At present, most vessels enter or leave Hong Kong via the East Lamma Channel. They embark or disembark pilots at the Ngan Chau pilot boarding station (PBS). At the same time, a small number of vessels use the West Lamma Channel to enter or leave Hong Kong. They embark or disembark pilots at the Green Island PBS, after crossing over to the East Lamma Channel.

3. In order to enable vessels to enter and leave Hong Kong via the West Lamma Channel more efficiently and safely, it is proposed to establish a PBS to the west of Lamma Island to replace the Green Island PBS. This will segregate vessels using the West and East Lamma Channel to avoid crossing traffic so as to improve navigational safety. The attached chart in Annex III shows the proposed relocation.

THE PILOTAGE ORDINANCE (AMENDMENT OF SCHEDULE 2) NOTICE 1999

4. This Notice amends Schedule 2 to the Pilotage Ordinance (Chapter 84) to relocate the PBS from the area off Green Island to the area off Ha Mei Wan, west of Lamma Island.

THE PILOTAGE (DUES) (AMENDMENT) ORDER 1999

5. This order amends the Pilotage (Dues) Order (Chapter 84 sub. leg.) by imposing an additional pilotage due payable for any pilotage service performed where a pilot is required to board a ship or disembark from a ship at the west of Lamma Island.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

6. The Department of Justice advises that the proposed amendment notice and order has no human rights implications.

BINDING EFFECT

7. The Notice and Order do not affect the current binding effect of the Ordinance.

FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

8. There are no financial or staffing implications for Government.

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

9. There are no significant economic implications.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

10. There are no environmental implications.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

11. The Pilotage Advisory Committee has been consulted and has endorsed all the proposed provisions.

PUBLICITY

12. A press release will be issued today. A spokesman will be available to handle press enquiries. The Notice and Order will be published in the Gazette on 25 June 1999. The Marine Department will also issue a Marine Department Notice and a Notice to Mariners to notify the shipping community.

ENQUIRY

13. Any enquiry on this brief can be addressed to Mr. George KWOK, Marine Officer at 2858 4776 or Mr. Summy CHU, Assistant Secretary for Economic Services at 2537 2844.

Economic Services Bureau
22 June 1999