ITEM FOR PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

Head 704 - DRAINAGE Environmental Protection - Sewerage and sewage treatment 125DS - Tolo Harbour sewerage of unsewered areas

Members are invited to recommend to Finance Committee -

- (a) the upgrading of part of **125DS** entitled "Tolo Harbour sewerage of unsewered areas, stage 1 phases 1D and 2B" to Category A at an estimated cost of \$170.0 million in money-of-the-day prices; and
- (b) the retention of the remainder of **125DS** in Category B.

PROBLEM

Domestic sewage from unsewered areas in Sha Tin and Tai Po contributes to water pollution in Tolo Harbour.

PROPOSAL

2. The Director of Drainage Services, with the support of the Secretary for the Environment and Food, proposes to upgrade part of **125DS** to Category A at an estimated cost of \$170.0 million in money-of-the-day (MOD) prices for implementing necessary sewerage works at 27 unsewered areas in Sha Tin and Tai Po.

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PROJECT SCOPE AND NATURE

3. The part of the project we now propose to upgrade to Category A covers works at 27 unsewered areas, with an estimated population of 15 500, as shown in Enclosure 1. The scope of works comprises the construction of –

- (a) 23 kilometres of sewers, ranging from 150 millimetres to 450 millimetres in diameter;
- (b) six sewage pumping stations in Yung Shue O, Sheung Wo Che, Lok Lo Ha, Sha Lan, Tai Mei Tuk and Tung Tze;
- (c) a communal septic tank system with absorption field in Yung Shue O; and
- (d) six kilometres of footpath and access road for maintenance purposes,

classified as falling within stage 1, phases 1D and 2B of the project.

- 4. The remainder of **125DS** for retention in Category B comprises
 - (a) detailed design, site investigation and environmental impact assessment (EIA) for stage 2 works; and
 - (b) construction of stage 1 phase 2C and stage 2 sewerage works (as detailed in paragraphs 30 to 32).

JUSTIFICATION

5. At present, domestic sewage from unsewered areas in Sha Tin and Tai Po is partially treated by private treatment facilities before being discharged into Tolo Harbour via stormwater drains and streams. Most of these treatment facilities are septic tanks and soakaway systems in village houses. The effectiveness of these facilities in removing pollutants depends on their size¹, whether they are located in areas where the ground conditions are suitable for the soakaway systems to work properly² and whether there is adequate maintenance of the systems. Sewage discharged from unsewered areas is a source of pollution in Tolo Harbour.

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Undersized septic tanks or soakaway systems would affect the pollutant removal efficiency of the system and may even lead to an overflow of effluent.

Soakaway systems operate by allowing the effluent to percolate through the gravel whereby the pollutants would be removed in a natural manner. However, if the system is located in an area where the underground water table is high, the system cannot function properly.

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6. As a long-term measure to address the water pollution problem in the Tolo Harbour catchment, we included **125DS** in the Public Works Programme in August 1990 with a view to providing public sewerage facilities to 169 unsewered areas in the Tolo Harbour catchment. The project includes constructing public sewers and pumping stations to convey sewage flows from these unsewered areas into the existing sewerage systems in Sha Tin and Tai Po and providing new communal septic tanks with absorption field³ in unsewered areas situated in remote locations.

7. Works under **125DS** were divided into two stages. Stage 1 covers works in 85 unsewered areas in Sha Tin and Tai Po which produce large volumes of pollutants. Stage 1 phase 1 comprises four sub-phases (namely 1A, 1B, 1C and 1D) while stage 1 phase 2 includes three sub-phases (namely 2A, 2B and 2C). We have so far completed the works under phases 1A, 1B, 1C and 2A at 46 unsewered areas. Stage 2 covers works in the remaining 84 unsewered areas.

The present project

- 8. The part of **125DS** which we now propose to upgrade to Category A is the stage 1 phases 1D and 2B works. This comprises the following
 - (a) providing public sewerage facilities to 15 500 people in 27 unsewered areas. Sewers will be constructed up to the lot boundary of individual houses at most of these areas:
 - (b) constructing pumping stations in Sheung Wo Che, Lok Lo Ha, Sha Lan, Tai Mei Tuk and Tung Tze to uplift the sewage collected in these areas to existing public sewers. These pumping stations are required as a result of the topography of these areas and the levels of the existing sewers nearby; and
 - (c) constructing a new communal septic tank system with an associated pumping station at Yung Shue O to properly treat the sewage on site and discharge the effluent underground through a suitably designed absorption field. Due to the remote and isolated location of Yung Shue O, it would not be costeffective to extend the public sewerage system to the area. It is considered that building a communal septic tank would be the most appropriate solution, given that a location with suitable ground conditions has been identified to build the septic tanks and absorption field.

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An absorption field provides the requisite surface area for proper treatment of septic tank effluent.

9. With the exception of the sewage generated in Yung Shue O which will be treated locally, the sewage collected from the newly-constructed sewerage systems in the 26 unsewered areas will be conveyed to the existing Tai Po and Sha Tin sewage treatment plants for secondary treatment before disposal to Kai Tak Nullah through the existing effluent export system. Upon completion, we will be able to improve the water quality of the Tolo Harbour by preventing about 3 600 cubic metres (m³) of sewage which has not undergone proper treatment from entering Tolo Harbour each day. We plan to start the proposed works in September 2001 for completion in April 2004, followed by minor house connection works.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10. We estimate the capital cost of the proposed works to be \$170.0 million in MOD prices (see paragraph 11 below), made up as follows –

		\$ million	
(a)	Sewers	98.3	
(b)	Sewage pumping stations	14.4	
	(i) civil works	6.7	
	(ii) electrical & mechanical works	7.7	
(c)	Communal septic tanks and absorption field	1.2	
(d)	Maintenance access	2.8	
(e)	Environmental mitigation measures	0.8	
(f)	Consultants' fees	1.3	
(g)	Resident site staff cost	24.0	
(h)	Contingency	14.2	
	Sub-total	157.0	(in September 2000 prices)

(i)	Provision for price adjustment		13.0	
		Total	170.0	(in MOD prices)

11. Subject to approval, we will phase the expenditure as follow –

Year	\$ million (Sept 2000)	Price adjustment factor	\$ million (MOD)
2001 - 2002	11.5	1.02550	11.8
2002 - 2003	55.0	1.05627	58.1
2003 - 2004	59.1	1.08795	64.3
2004 - 2005	15.5	1.12059	17.4
2005 - 2006	15.9	1.15421	18.4
	157.0		170.0

- 12. We have derived the MOD estimate on the basis of the Government's latest forecasts of trend labour and construction prices for the period 2001 to 2006. We will tender the proposed works as a standard remeasurement contract because of the uncertainties of the existence and location of underground utilities such as electric cables, telephone cables, stormwater drains and water pipes. We will allow provision for price adjustments to the tender prices because the contract period will exceed 21 months.
- 13. We estimate the additional annually recurrent expenditure for maintenance works to be \$3.9 million.
- 14. Based on the current level of expenditure on operation and maintenance of sewerage facilities, the proposed works by itself would lead to an increase in the recurrent cost of providing sewage services by about 0.29%. This will need to be taken into account in determining sewage charges.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

15. We consulted the Health and Environment Committee of the then Sha Tin Provisional District Board on 3 September 1998 and 6 May 1999 on the proposed stage 1 phases 1D and 2B works respectively. We also consulted the Tai Po Provisional District Board on 17 July 1998 and 14 May 1999 on these works respectively. They supported the implementation of the proposed works.

16. We consulted the Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs on the proposed works on 19 March 2001. Members noted our intention to submit the proposal to the Public Works Subcommittee for discussion on 4 April 2001. At the meeting, a Member enquired whether the sewerage system would be extended to Nai Chung and the neighbouring area. Members also expressed concern about the relatively high cost of the stage 2 works (\$40 million for design consultancy and \$395 million for construction). Under the current proposal, the stage 2 works cover 84 unsewered areas including Nai Chung and other unsewered areas along Sai Sha Road. As mentioned in paragraphs 31 to 32 below, we are currently reviewing and updating the scope of the stage 2 works. The aforementioned costs represent our best rough estimates at the moment and will be subject to refinement when we have substantially finalised the updated scope of the stage 2 works around the end of 2001. We will take into account Members' views when finalising the works for stage 2.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 137DS "Tolo Harbour sewerage of unsewered areas, stage 1 phase 1 consultants' fees and design" and 179DS "Tolo Harbour sewerage of unsewered areas, stage 1 phase 2 consultants' fees and investigations" respectively. The EIA recommends the provision of mitigation devices such as deodorizers and filters for the sewage pumping station. We will install these devices inside the underground pumping stations to control possible odour arising from their operation. For short-term impacts caused by excavation works during construction, we shall control noise, dust and site run-off within established standards and guidelines through implementation of mitigation measures, such as the use of temporary noise barriers and silenced construction plant to reduce noise generation, water-spraying to reduce emission of fugitive dust and strict control on diversion of sewage flows in the works contracts.
- 18. We estimate the cost of implementing the environmental mitigation measures to be \$0.8 million in September 2000 prices. We have included this in the overall project estimate.

19. We estimate that about 24 900 cubic metres (m³) of construction and demolition (C&D) materials will be generated by the project. Of these, about 15 800m³ (63.5%) will be reused on site, 7 500m³ (30.1 %) will be reused as fill in public filling areas and 1 600m³ (6.4%) will be disposed of at landfills. considered in the planning and design stage ways of reducing the generation of C&D materials as far as possible. We shall require the contractor under the contract to submit a waste management plan to the Engineer for approval, with appropriate mitigation measures, including the allocation of an area for waste segregation. We shall ensure that the day-to-day operations on site comply with the waste management plan. We shall require the contractor to implement necessary measures to minimize the generation of C&D materials and to reuse C&D materials as fill material as far as possible. We will control disposal of C&D materials and waste to public filling areas and landfills respectively through a trip-ticket system. We will record the disposal and reuse of C&D materials for monitoring purposes.

LAND ACQUISITION

20. The project requires land acquisition. The land resumption and clearance cost for the project is estimated at \$29 million and will be charged to **Head 701** - Land Acquisition. All the statutory procedures for resuming the required land has been completed in accordance with the Water Pollution Control (Sewerage) Regulation.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

21. We included **125DS** in Category C in August 1990 for implementing long-term water pollution abatement works at 169 unsewered areas in the Tolo Harbour Catchment. The implementation plan of **125DS** is summarised in Enclosure 2.

Stage 1 phase 1 works

- 22. In February 1991, we upgraded part of **125DS** to Category A as **137DS** "Tolo Harbour sewerage of unsewered areas, stage 1 phase 1 consultants' fees and design" for employing consultants to carry out the detailed design, site investigation and EIA for the stage 1 phase 1 works.
- The phases 1A, 1B and 1C works were respectively upgraded to Category A as **163DS** "Tolo Harbour sewerage of unsewered areas, stage 1 phase 1A", **177DS** "Tolo Harbour sewerage of unsewered areas, stage 1 phase 1B", **284DS** "Tolo Harbour sewerage of unsewered areas, stage 1 phase 1C" in January 1993, June 1994 and December 1996. Works for these phases were substantially completed.

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- 24. Location plans showing the unsewered areas covered by the stage 1 phase 1 and phase 2 works are at Enclosure 3.
- 25. The present proposal involves upgrading the stage 1 phase 1D works, alongside the phase 2B works, to Category A. We plan to start the stage 1 phase 1D works in September 2001 for completion in May 2003.

Stage 1 phase 2 works

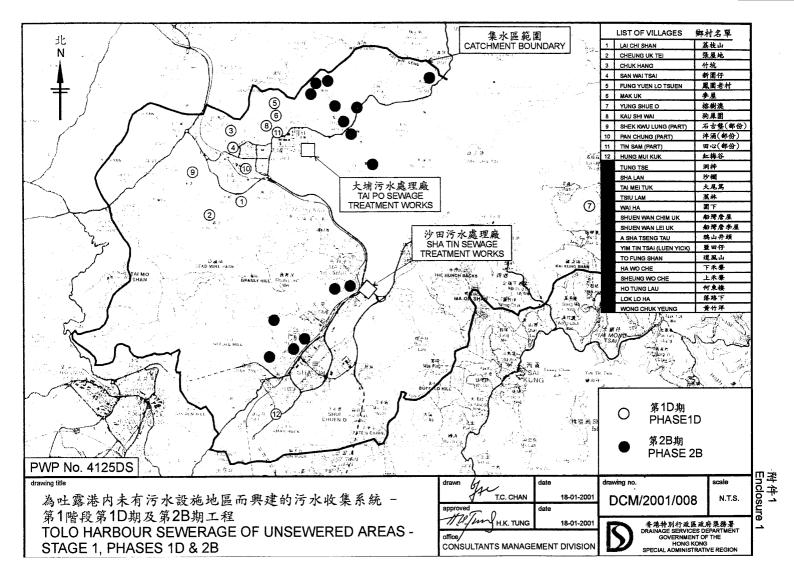
- 26. In July 1994, we upgraded part of **125DS** to Category A as **179DS** "Tolo Harbour sewerage of unsewered areas, stage 1 phase 2 consultants' fees and investigations" for employing consultants to carry out the detailed design, site investigation and EIA for the stage 1 phase 2 works.
- 27. The stage 1 phase 2 works were further subdivided into sub-phases (phases 2A, 2B and 2C) of more manageable sizes to facilitate construction and the land resumption process. The phase 2A works were upgraded to Category A as **213DS** "Tolo Harbour sewerage of unsewered areas, stage 1 phase 2A" in April 1997. We started the works in May 1998 and works were completed in March 2001.
- 28. The present proposal involves upgrading the stage 1 phase 2B works, alongside the phase 1D works, to Category A. We plan to start the stage 1 phase 2B works in November 2001 for completion in April 2004.
- We estimate that the proposed stage 1 phase 1D and 2B works will create about 200 new jobs during the construction stage. These will comprise 50 professional and technical staff and 150 labourers, totalling 5 500 man-months.
- 30. Under our current programme, we plan to start works on stage 1 phase 2C in June 2003.

Stage 2 works

31. The original plan for stage 2 works covers 84 unsewered areas which are located in relatively remote locations. We are currently undertaking a Review of North District and Tolo Harbour Sewerage Master Plans (the Review) to update the scope and the implementation programme of the stage 2 works by taking into account latest developments within the catchment and in the light of experience gained in implementing village sewerage schemes under the stage 1 works.

32. The Review commenced in June 2000 and is expected to be substantially completed by end 2001. Our tentative programme is to commence construction of the stage 2 works in 2005-06 for progressive completion in 2008-09. The Administration will continue to explore whether it would be possible to bring forward the completion of the sewerage projects for the remaining unsewered areas in the Tolo Harbour catchment.

Environment and Food Bureau April 2001 (PWSC0354rev/WIN16)



125DS – Tolo Harbour sewerage of unsewered areas Updated cost estimate and implementation plan

PWP Item No.	Description	No. of unsewered areas	Start Date	Completion <u>Date</u>	Updated Cost Estimate (\$million in Sept 2000 prices)	Estimated Population <u>Served</u>	
	Stage 1 Phase 1 (covering 43 unsewered areas)						
137DS	Design consultancy	•	Aug 1991	June 2001	12.5		
163DS	Stage 1 phase 1A	15	Jun 1993	May 1995	56.8	17 300	
177DS	Stage 1 phase 1B	10¹	Oct 1994	Aug 1998	72.4	8 200	
284DS	Stage 1 phase 1C	6^1	Jun 1997	Feb 1999	28.6	4 800	
*	Stage 1 phase 1D	121	Sep 2001	May 2003	46.7	3 400	
				Subtotal:	217.0	33 700	
Stage 1 Phase 2 (covering 42 unsewered areas)							
179DS	Design consultancy	•	May 1995	Aug 2002	11.6		
213DS	Stage 1 phase 2A	15	May 1998	Mar 2001	83.2	11 800	
*	Stage 1 phase 2B	15	Nov 2001	Apr 2004	110.3	12 100	
#	Stage 1 phase 2C	12	Jun 2003	Jun 2006	101.5	19 200	
				Subtotal:	306.6	43 100	
				Total:	523.6	76 800	
Stage 2 ² (covering 84 unsewered areas)							
#	Design consultancy	,	Dec 2002	Dec 2008	40.0^{3}		
#	Construction		2005-2006 ²	2008-20092	395.0^3	13 000	
				Total:	435.0^{3}	13 000	

Note: *

- * Part of **125DS** we now propose to upgrade to Category A.
- # The remainder of **125DS** for retention in Category B.
- Some of these areas are parts of individual unsewered villages.
- The number of unsewered areas covered under stage 2 and the programme of works are both under review.

The costs represent our best rough estimates at the moment and will be subject to refinement when we have substantially finalised the updated scope of the stage 2 works around the end of 2001.

