Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs

Supplementary Note on Proposed increase in approved project estimate for 209DS – Outlying Islands sewerage, stage 1, phase 1 – consultants' fees and investigations

Introduction

In discussing the paper on the proposed increase in approved project estimate for Public Works Programme item **209DS** "Outlying Islands sewerage, stage 1, phase 1 – consultants' fees and investigations" at the meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs on 8 May 2001, Members requested the Administration to provide the following supplementary information –

- (a) the 16 Sewerage Master Plans developed by the Administration and their implementation;
- (b) details of the Outlying Islands Sewerage Master Plan and its implementation; and
- (c) the Administration's plan to deal with the sewage at Tai O, including that arising from the stilt house areas.
- 2. The Administration's responses are set out below.

The implementation of the 16 Sewerage Master Plans

- 3. A sewage treatment strategy was put in place in the late 80's with the objective of safeguarding public health and protecting the ecosystem and the marine environment.
- 4. The key element of this strategy was to formulate a comprehensive programme for the construction of new sewage infrastructure to match the development needs of the territory. This comprised the Harbour Area

Treatment Scheme, which provides for a sewage collection, treatment and disposal system for the main urban areas situated on both sides of the Harbour, and 16 Sewerage Master Plans (SMPs) at the regional/district level across the territory. The SMPs represented a major capital investment by Government. About \$6.2 billion has already been spent on implementation and another \$10.7 billion is planned to be spent.

5. Studies on all 16 SMPs commenced in 1986 and were completed in 1996. The plans for the expansion and upgrading of the territory's sewerage system are set out in **Annex**. To bring early improvement, we have been implementing the sewerage works identified under the 16 SMPs in phases since 1989. Details of the implementation of the 16 SMPs are as follows:

5.1 Hong Kong Island South SMP

This SMP aims to provide a comprehensive sewage collection, treatment and disposal scheme to meet the demands of developments in the southern part of Hong Kong Island from Shouson Hill to Shek O and to improve the water quality of the bathing beaches in the area. The scope of works included the construction and rehabilitation of 32 kilometres (km) of sewers, 17 pumping stations, the construction of a sewage treatment plant (STP) on reclaimed land in Shek O and an underground sewage treatment plant in a rock cavern in Stanley with a 2.3 km long submarine outfall. All construction works under the SMP were completed in December 1999 at a total cost of \$910 million.

5.2 Chai Wan & Shau Kei Wan SMP

This SMP aims to upgrade the sewerage system in Chai Wan and Shau Kei Wan. The scope of works comprised the upgrading/laying of 1.7 km of sewers. The works were completed in 1997 at a total cost of \$26 million.

5.3 Wan Chai East and North Point SMP

This SMP aims to upgrade the sewerage system in the Wan Chai East and North Point areas. The scope of works includes the construction/rehabilitation of 5.4 km of trunk sewers, 11.4 km of

branch sewers and a new inlet pumping station in the North Point Sewage Screening Plant. The estimated cost is \$1,906 million. About 0.4 km of trunk sewers and 3.1 km of branch sewers have been completed. Works for 3.7 km of trunk sewers and the pumping station will commence in February 2002 for completion by January 2006. The remaining 1.3 km of trunk sewers and 8.3 km of branch sewers works are being designed and construction is scheduled to start in 2003 for completion by December 2006.

5.4 <u>Central, Western and Wan Chai West SMP</u>

This SMP aims to upgrade the sewerage system to meet the demands of developments and to rectify improper sewer connections in the catchment area. The scope of works includes the construction of 5.6 km of trunk sewer, 35 km of reticulation sewers and 2 new pumping stations in Wan Chai and Central. The estimated cost is about \$2,380 million. The trunk sewer, 16 km of reticulation sewers within the upper catchment and the Wan Chai Pumping Station have been completed. The remaining 3.3 km of sewerage works in the upper catchment and the Central Pumping Station are under construction for completion in 2004. 15.7 km of sewerage works in the lower catchment are being designed and are scheduled to start in November 2001 for completion by December 2006.

5.5 Aberdeen, Ap Lei Chau and Pok Fu Lam SMP

This SMP aims to improve the sewerage system in Aberdeen, Ap Lei Chau and Pok Fu Lam in order to provide sufficient capacity to meet development needs. The scope of works comprises the construction of 3.4 km of trunk sewers from Wong Chuk Hang to Aberdeen Sewage Screening Plant (SSP), upgrading the existing Aberdeen SSP, upgrading 15.5 km of branch sewers and rectifying the expedient connections in the catchments. The estimated cost is \$481 million. About 2.6 km of trunk sewers along Aberdeen Praya Road/Wong Chuk Hang Road and 2 km of branch sewers in Ap Lei Chau and Pok Fu Lam have been completed. The remaining 0.8 km of trunk and another 2.5 km of branch sewers will be completed by March 2002. The upgrading of the Aberdeen SSP is in progress and will be completed by July 2002. Upgrading works for the remaining 11 km

of branch sewers are scheduled to start in mid 2004 for completion by 2006.

5.6 East Kowloon SMP

This SMP aims to upgrade the sewerage system in San Po Kong, Kowloon Bay and Kwun Tong to meet the demands of developments in the area and to improve the water quality of neighbouring waters. The scope of works comprises upgrading/laying 17.3 km of sewers, construction of 7 dry weather flow interceptors and rectification of expedient connection in industrial areas. The estimated cost is \$855 million. About 95% of the works have already been completed with the remaining works due for completion by October 2001.

5.7 North & South Kowloon SMP

This SMP aims to improve the sewerage system in Tsim Sha Tsui, Hung Hom Bay reclamation, Hung Hom, To Kwa Wan and Wong Tai Sin and to improve the water quality of receiving waters. The stage 1 works, which comprise the laying/upgrading of 11.6 km of sewers, the construction of 2 pumping stations and 8 dry weather flow interceptors, and the expansion of an existing pumping station, have already been substantially completed. The estimated cost of the stage 1 works is \$761 million. The stage 2 works, which are estimated to cost \$233 million, are currently under review taking into account the latest development plans for the area.

5.8 North West Kowloon SMP

This SMP aims to upgrade the sewerage system in Sham Shui Po, Mong Kok and Yau Ma Tei and to improve the water quality of the receiving waters. The scope of works comprises the laying/upgrading of 24.4 km of sewers, construction of 2 pumping stations and 13 dry weather flow interceptors and rectification of expedient connections in the industrial areas. The estimated cost of the SMP is \$1,066 million. About 90% of the works have already been completed. The remaining works are expected to be completed by mid 2003.

5.9 Tseung Kwan O SMP

This SMP aims to provide sewerage to 9 unsewered villages in the area which are currently using septic tanks for handling sewage. The scope of works includes construction of 5.5 km of sewers and two pumping stations. The project estimate is \$34 million. Detailed design is being carried out. The construction works are scheduled to commence in April 2004 for completion in March 2006.

5.10 Port Shelter SMP

This SMP aims to improve the water quality within the Port Shelter Marine Control Zone by upgrading the sewerage facilities and extending the public sewerage to unsewered areas in the Port Shelter catchment. The project comprises construction of about 64 km of sewers, 23 pumping stations and 13 km rising mains to collect and convey sewage generated from 17 unsewered areas to three nearby sewage treatment facilities for treatment and disposal. The estimated cost of the project is about \$578 million. Provision of sewerage to 4 unsewered areas has been completed. Construction of sewerage in 4 other unsewered areas is in progress and is expected to be completed in 2002. Design of sewerage to the remaining 9 unsewered areas is in progress. The whole project is scheduled to be completed in 2008.

5.11 Tolo Harbour SMP

This SMP aims to improve the water quality in Tolo Harbour by providing public sewerage facilities to unsewered areas in the Tolo Harbour catchment. It comprises construction of public sewers and pumping stations to convey sewage from 169 unsewered areas in Sha Tin and Tai Po via the existing sewerage systems to the Sha Tin and Tai Po STPs. The works were divided into two stages. Stage 1 covers works in 85 unsewered areas while stage 2 covers works in the remaining 84 unsewered areas.

The latest progress of the stage 1 works is as follows –

- (a) provision of public sewerage to 46 unsewered areas has been completed;
- (b) construction of sewerage facilities in 27 unsewered areas will start in September 2001 for completion in April 2004; and
- (c) design of public sewerage facilities in 12 unsewered areas is in progress and construction is scheduled to start in June 2003 for completion in June 2006.

Stage 2 deals with the remaining 84 unsewered areas which are located in relatively-remote locations and generate relatively less volume of pollutants. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is currently undertaking a review of the SMP to update the scope and the implementation programme of the works under stage 2 by taking into account latest developments within the catchment and in the light of previous experience gained in implementing the stage 1 works. The stage 2 works are tentatively scheduled to start in 2005/2006 for completion in 2009. The estimated total cost of both the stages 1 and 2 works under the SMP is \$947 million.

5.12 <u>Tsuen Wan, Tsing Yi and Kwai Chung SMP</u>

The main objective of this SMP was to upgrade the sewerage system in Tsuen Wan, Kwai Chung and Tsing Yi to improve the water quality of the neighbouring waters. The works are divided into two parts. The first part includes the upgrading/laying of 14.2 km of sewers, the construction of an industrial wastewater pumping station and the rectification of expedient connections in industrial areas. These works have already been substantially completed at an estimated cost of \$539 million.

Under the second part, a new separate sewerage system will be provided for the collection, treatment and disposal of sewage from Ting Kau, Sham Tseng and Tsing Lung Tau to meet the demands of planned developments in these areas. This proposed sewerage system comprises a STP on reclaimed land, a submarine outfall and some 8 km of trunk sewers together with another 7 km of branch sewers in the nearby villages. Our latest estimate for this proposed system is some \$750 million. Reclamation works for the site accommodating the STP have been completed and the laying of

trunk sewers is in progress. The construction of the STP and the submarine outfall has just commenced and is scheduled for completion in end 2003. The branch sewerage system is being designed and construction will commence in 2003. The whole system is scheduled to be completed in 2005.

5.13 Yuen Long and Kam Tin SMP

This SMP aims to improve the water quality of Deep Bay and the local watercourses by constructing public sewers and pumping stations to collect and convey sewage from unsewered areas in the North West New Territories to the Yuen Long or the San Wai STP for treatment. The works are divided into two parts. Part one included improvement works for about 7 km of sewers in Yuen Long Town and a new sewerage system of about 3 km for diverting some of the sewage flow from Yuen Long STP (which discharges its effluent to Deep Bay) to San Wai STP (which discharges its effluent to Urmston Road), thus reducing the effluent being discharged to Deep Bay. Improvement works for sewers in Yuen Long Town and the trunk sewer for diverting the flow to San Wai have been completed in 1998.

Part two includes the provision of about 50 km of trunk sewers to unsewered areas, construction of public sewerage systems for 43 villages and the expansion and upgrading of the existing San Wai STP to tie in with planned housing developments in the area. Design works for the San Wai STP is in progress and construction is scheduled to start in 2004 for completion in 2008. Construction of public sewers for one of the villages will commence in 2001 whilst works for another 16 villages, as well as 14 km of trunk sewers will commence progressively between 2002 and 2003. Design work for the remaining 36 km of trunk sewer and sewerage works for the 26 villages are on-going and the works will be implemented between 2004 and 2006. The whole of the SMP works is scheduled for completion in 2008. The estimated cost is \$2,835 million.

5.14 North District SMP

This SMP aims to upgrade the existing Shek Wu Hui STP to meet

the demands of new developments and to extend the sewerage system to the villages in the catchment area. The scope of works includes upgrading the capacity and treatment level of the existing Shek Wu Hui STP and the construction of some 16 km of trunk sewers, 25 pumping stations and connecting sewers for 74 villages in North District. The estimated cost of the scheme is \$1,100 million. About 3 km of trunk sewers along Sha Tau Kok Road have been completed. The upgrading of the Shek Wu Hui STP and the construction of 2 km of trunk sewers and 2 pumping stations along Castle Peak Road are in progress and will be completed by December 2001. The remaining works are being designed and are scheduled for commencement in stages from 2002 to 2006 for completion from 2004 to 2009.

5.15 Tuen Mun SMP

This SMP aims to provide adequate sewerage facilities to serve the unsewered areas and other developments in Tuen Mun. It comprises the construction of 2.2 km trunk sewers, 6 pumping stations and 2 low-flow interceptors and extending the public sewerage system to 25 villages. The total estimated cost is \$133 million. The construction of Ho Pong Street sewage pumping station, Tuen Mun Road low-flow interceptor, Yung Long – Tuen Mun corridor trunk sewer and Siu Hong Road low-flow interceptor has been completed. The remaining works are currently under review to assess the adequacy of the sewerage infrastructure and to identify additional facilities required to meet the demand for sewage services arising from the projected population and the flat production target.

5.16 Outlying Islands SMP

Please refer to paragraph 7 for details.

6. In the light of new development proposals, revised population forecasts and housing needs, a series of SMP reviews is being conducted. The review for Yuen Long and Kam Tin SMP was completed in January 1999. Reviews for the North and South Kowloon, East Kowloon, Tuen Mun, Tsing Yi, and the Outlying Islands SMPs were started in 1999 and are expected to be

completed by the end of 2001. Reviews for the Hong Kong Island, North District and the Tolo Harbour SMPs commenced in 2000 for completion in 2002. These reviews will identify any new sewerage infrastructure required for inclusion in the Public Works Programme. Their scope will be to meet new demands for sewage services expected to arise up to 2016.

The implementation of Outlying Islands SMP

7. This SMP aims to improve the sewerage facilities on Lantau Island, Lamma Island, Peng Chau and Cheung Chau. The proposed improvement works, to be implemented in 2 stages, will ensure that all sewage generated in the concerned areas would be collected for proper treatment and disposal. Stage 1 of the proposed works is divided into 2 phases for implementation. The total estimated cost for the stage 1 works is \$1,328 million. The stage 2 works are currently being reviewed under the Outlying Islands SMP Stage II Review Study as mentioned in paragraph 6. Details of the stage 1 and stage 2 works are as follows -

Stage	Phase	Scope	Estimated construction cost (\$ million)	Latest construction programme	Progress
1	1A	Upgrading of sewage sludge dewatering facilities at Mui Wo sewage treatment plant	12	6/1998 – 5/2000	Works completed
	1B	Outfall replacement and sewage sludge dewatering facilities upgrading at Cheung Chau sewage treatment plant	99	9/2000 – 1/2003	Construction in progress
	1C	Upgrading of Siu Ho Wan sewage treatment plant to chemical treatment level with disinfection	656	6/2001 – 12/2004	Tender assessment stage
	1D	Yung Shue Wan sewage treatment plant and submarine outfall	125	8/2003 – 8/2006	Design in progress

Stage	Phase	Scope	Estimated construction cost (\$ million)	Latest construction programme	Progress	
	1E	Ngong Ping sewage treatment plant, effluent export pipeline and village sewerage	223	12/2003 – 4/2007	Planning stage	
	1F	Peng Chau sewage export scheme	60	Under review	Under review	
	2	Sewer systems to villages at central Cheung Chau, Peng Chau and Yung Shue Wan, and a sewage treatment plant, submarine outfall and sewer systems to villages at Sok Kwu Wan.	153	11/2002 - 11/2006	Design stage	
2	N/A	Trunk sewers and village sewerage systems to serve South Lantau as well as improvements to sewerage systems at Mui Wo, Tai O, Peng Chau, Cheung Chau, Lamma Island, and upgrading of existing sewage treatment works at Tai O.				

Plan to deal with sewage at Tai O, including that arising from the stilt house areas

- 8. The sewerage requirements for the whole of Tai O, including the stilt house areas, are being investigated under the Outlying Islands SMP Stage II Review Study. In considering the long term solution on the Tai O sewage problem, due consideration will be given to ensure that adequate capacity is allowed for in the proposed sewerage system to serve the stilt house areas. A comprehensive plan and programme for the required upgrading and expansion works of the sewage collection, treatment and disposal facilities will be available upon the completion of the Review study by the end of the year.
- 9. The preliminary findings of the Review study indicate that the upgrading and expansion works will include -
 - (i) separating the combined sewers in Tai O town centre;
 - (ii) upgrading and expanding the sewerage system to serve the

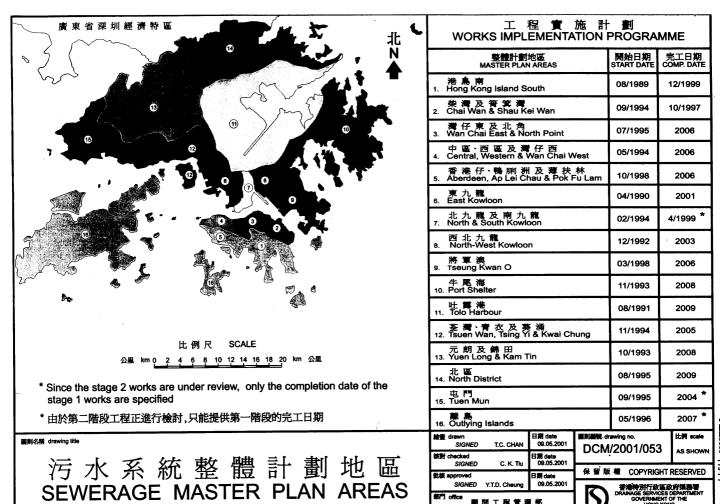
unsewered areas and planned developments; and

(iii) upgrading and expanding the Tai O Sewage Treatment Works to meet projected demands.

However, while it is feasible to provide sufficient capacity in the sewerage system to cater for the sewage generated from the stilt house areas, sewerage connection from individual houses to the public sewers remains a major problem. Difficulties arising from the haphazard layout, the uncertain structural integrity of the stilt houses and their access walkways, and the poor bearing capacity of the marine mud have to be overcome.

10. Although individual owners are responsible for the sewerage connection from conveying sewage from the stilt houses to the public sewers, Government will continue to play an active role in the provision and the improvement of public facilities and infrastructure in the Tai O area. The Administration is now liaising closely with non-government bodies such as the Hong Kong Institute of Architects, and is facilitating the partnership of these bodies, the local community and other stakeholders in the process with a view to achieving a sustainable community.

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