Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs

Information Note on the Progress of Tolo Harbour Sewerage of Unsewered Areas Stages 1 and 2 Works

PURPOSE

In discussing the proposal to upgrade part of Public Works Programme item **125DS**, namely "Tolo Harbour sewerage of unsewered areas", to Category A for implementing the stage 1 phases 1D and 2B works at the meeting of the Public Works Subcommittee on 4 April 2001, Members requested the Administration to report to the Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs, before the end of 2001, the progress of works under **125DS**, in particular the stage 2 works.

2. This paper sets out information on the latest progress of the works under 125DS.

BACKGROUND

- 3. **125DS** was included in the Public Works Programme in August 1990 for implementing long-term water pollution abatement works at the unsewered areas in the Tolo Harbour Catchment. The implementation plan of **125DS** is summarized in **Enclosure 1**.
- 4. The project was implemented in two stages as follows:
 - (a) stage 1 works, covering 85 unsewered areas in Tai Po and Sha Tin, was divided into two phases which were further subdivided into sub-phases (phases 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, 2A, 2B and 2C) of more manageable sizes to facilitate construction and the land resumption process. Location plans showing the unsewered areas covered by the stage 1 phase 1 and phase 2 works are at **Enclosures 2 and 3** respectively; and

(b) stage 2 works covers unsewered areas which are located in relatively remote locations. The scope and the implementation programme of the stage 2 works are being reviewed as part of the North District and Tolo Harbour Sewerage Master Plans Review (the Review) study commissioned by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD).

PRESENT PROGRESS

Stage 1 phase 1 works

- 5. The stage 1 phases 1A, 1B, and 1C works was substantially completed in May 1995, August 1998, and February 1999 respectively.
- 6. The stage 1 phase 1D works, which was upgraded to Category A as part of **328DS** "Tolo Harbour sewerage of unsewered areas, stage 1 phases 1D and 2B" in May 2001, will commence in January 2002 for completion in end 2003.

Stage 1 phase 2 works

- 7. The stage 1 phase 2A works was substantially completed in May 2001.
- 8. Tenders for the stage 1 phase 2B works, which was upgraded to Category A as part of **328DS** "Tolo Harbour sewerage of unsewered areas, stage 1 phases 1D and 2B" in May 2001, will be invited in late December 2001. Works are expected to start in March 2002 for completion in mid-2004.
- 9. Detailed design for the phase 2C works is in progress. Drainage Services Department (DSD) had consulted the relevant committees of the Sha Tin and Tai Po District Councils in March 2001 and obtained their support for the proposed works. Since land resumption is required for implementing the works, we will need to go through statutory gazetting procedures under the Water Pollution Control (Sewerage) Regulations before finalising the detailed design. DSD plans to start the works in December 2003 for completion in end 2006.

Stage 2 works

- 10. As reported in paragraph 4(b) above, the provision of sewerage to unsewered areas under the stage 2 works is being reviewed by EPD having taken into account the latest developments within the catchment and in the light of experience gained in implementing village sewerage schemes under the stage 1 works.
- 11. Based on the latest findings of the Review, the stage 2 works will cover some 63 relatively remote unsewered areas. The works is tentatively scheduled for completion in phases from 2007 to 2009. A more detailed implementation programme will be drawn up upon the finalization of the scope of the stage 2 works in early 2002. A location plan showing the proposed unsewered areas covered by the stage 2 works is at **Enclosure 4**.
- 12. Part of the stage 2 works may need to go through statutory procedures under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO)¹ and land resumption procedures². In order to achieve early commissioning of the proposed sewerage works, we intend to expedite stage 2 works by packaging the works as follows -

Group A: Non-designated project under EIAO and requires no land

resumption

Group B: Designated project under EIAO and requires no land

resumption

Group C: Designated project under EIAO and requires land

resumption

Since works under Group A does not need to go through EIAO procedures and statutory land resumption procedures, they can be completed as early as 2007. This will be followed by works under Groups B and C.

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Works projects which fall within the definition of "designated projects" under Schedule 2 and 3 of the EIAO would require an Environmental Permit before work commences. A public consultation process will be required before the Environmental Permit is approved by EPD.

Sewerage works which requires land resumption would need to be gazetted under the Water Pollution Control (Sewerage) Regulations. Under the existing Regulations, 60 days are allowed for affected parties to raise objections after the project is gazetted. A maximum of nine months are allowed for the resolution of objections, if any.

13. For works under Group C, members of the public could raise objections to land resumption and road closures arising from the works. The resolution of such objections can be very time-consuming and may delay completion of the works. In this regard, we will attempt to secure the commitment of Heung Yee Kuk, Shatin and Tai Po District Councils to gain their full support; and cooperation from Rural Committees and Village Representatives (by involving the affected villagers early on the development of options and sewer alignments) before gazetting the works under the Water Pollution Control (Sewerage) Regulations. We could save up to nine months for works under Group C if no statutory objection is lodged under the Regulations.

Environment and Food Bureau Environmental Protection Department Drainage Services Department December 2001

Enclosure 1

Tolo Harbour Sewerage of Unsewered Areas - Updated Implementation Plan

PWP Item No.	Description	No. of unsewered areas	Start Date	Completion Date	Updated Cost Estimate (\$million in Sept 2001 prices)	Estimated Population Served					
Stage 1 Phase 1 (covering 43 unsewered areas)											
137DS/A	Design Consultancy		Aug 1991	Jun 2001	12.5						
163DS/A	Stage 1 Phase 1A	15	Jun 1993	May 1995	56.8	17,300					
177DS/A	Stage 1 Phase 1B	10	Oct 1994	Aug 1998	72.4	8,200					
284DS/A	Stage 1 Phase 1C	6	Jun 1997	Feb 1999	28.6	4,800					
328DS/A	Stage 1 Phase 1D	12	Jan 2002	Oct 2003	41.6	3,400					
				Sub-total	211.9	33,700					
Stage 1 Phase 2 (covering 42 unsewered areas)											
179DS/A	Design Consultancy		May 1995	Dec 2003	11.6						
213DS/A	Stage 1 Phase 2A	15	Mar 1998	May 2001	83.2	11,800					
328DS/A	Stage 1 Phase 2B	15	Mar 2002	Mar 2004	110.3	12,100					
#125DS/B	Stage 1 Phase 2C	12	Dec 2003	Dec 2006	101.5	19,200					
		306.6	43,100								
		518.5	76,800								
Stage 2 (covering 63 unsewered areas)											
#125DS/B	Design		*2002	*2006	*30						

PWP	Description	No. of	Start Date	Completion	Updated Cost	Estimated
Item No.		unsewered		Date	Estimate	Population
		areas			(\$million in	Served
					Sept 2001	
					prices)	
	Consultancy					
#125DS/B	Construction	*63		*2007-2009	*550	*18,000
		Total	*580	*18,000		

Note

[#] The remainder of 125DS for retention in Category B.

^{*} These are rough estimates at the moment and will be subject to refinement when we have substantially finalized the updated scope and programme of the stage 2 works in early 2002.





