

For information

Legislative Council Panel on Economic Services

Pilotage Ordinance (Chapter 84) **Pilotage (Dues) (Amendment) Order 2002**

Introduction

This paper informs Members of proposal to reduce pilotage dues and for the Pilotage Authority to make the Pilotage (Dues) (Amendment) Order 2002 (“the Order”) to implement this reduction. The proposed reduction reflects the consensus of the shipping industry.

2. The pilotage dues are not Government fees and are charged by licensed pilots for the provision of pilotage services. The levels are periodically reviewed by the Hong Kong Liner Shipping Association, representing shipping lines, and the Hong Kong Pilots Association (HKPA). The latest review recommended a reduction in the rates of certain pilotage dues. After endorsement by the Pilotage Advisory Committee, the role of the Director of Marine is to set the recommended amount of pilotage dues by order published in the Gazette. Details of the proposal are as follows -

- (a) for ships having a gross registered tonnage of 30,000 to 60,000 tons, the existing 6.25 cents per ton will be reduced to 6 cents per ton, subject to a minimum of \$1,950;
- (b) for ships having a gross registered tonnage of more than 60,000 tons, the existing 6.25 cents per ton will be reduced to 5.75 cents per ton, subject to a minimum of \$3,600; and
- (c) a reduction in the additional pilotage due for pilots boarding or disembarking from Ngan Chau or at the west of Lamma Island, from \$1,900 to \$1,800.

Consultation

3. The proposal has the support of the Pilotage Advisory Committee and the shipping industry welcomes the proposal.

Implementation

4. Section 22 of the Pilotage Ordinance (Cap. 84) empowers the Pilotage Authority, who is the Director of Marine, to set the amount of pilotage dues by order published in the Gazette after consultation with the Pilotage Advisory Committee. To give effect to the proposed reduction, the schedule to the Pilotage (Dues) Order will be amended. We plan to gazette the Order on 20 December 2002 and table it at the Legislative Council on 8 January 2003 for negative vetting.

5. Members are invited to note this paper.

Economic Development and Labour Bureau
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