

水務署工會聯席會議

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水務署工會聯席會議 給立法會《規劃、地政及工程事務委員會》議員的參考資料

1 市民的關注

- 1.1 沙田PPP不具備長遠成本效益，當PPP合約一開始，政府便要鎖死60億元，相等於東江水供水協議，在未來數十年必須向私營公司回購其生產的水。政府目前無法保證水費不會增加，一旦增加，就會對低收入的市民及對香港經濟造成衝擊。(羊毛出自羊身上。)
- 1.2 沙田PPP重建計劃擴大後，實則是利益輸送，將食水及供水服務商品化。政府必需交代計劃擴大後所涉及的金錢是否大過60億元及相關的水務設施。
- 1.3 由國際水公司參與私營供水，不利發展本土經濟，對本地業界構成威脅。
- 1.4 由於公營水務無須顧慮利潤，一直十分可靠，從來未發生水質上的嚴重事故。私人供水公司在利潤考慮為前題下，水質及服務有可能出現問題。
- 1.5 沙田重建工程目前已是乙類(CAT.B)公務工程項目，在未來五年的工程支出達到10億元。但是受到PPP的影響，將會延誤達兩年有多，在未來五年的工程支出將會減少達8億多元。實在是對香港工程業界的不景氣雪上加霜。

2 議員的關注

- 2.1 政府是否改變供水政策，由沙田PPP開始，最後擴張至全香港？受影響的員工會不停增加，員工的職業保障將會受到威脅。(員工認為是私營化第一步，下一階段目標：新界東北區、香港區、大嶼山，最後新界西北區。)
- 2.2 立法會監管—沙田PPP在實質上顯示政府對供水政策有改變，供水由政府直接承擔及監管，改為監管PPP合約。沙田PPP只是全面私有化的第一步！(供水私有化後，PPP是可以脫離立法會的直接監管，加水費及服務費便易如反掌。)
- 2.3 食水具備戰略價值，食水不應交由私人財團管理。
- 2.4 沙田PPP重建計劃擴大後，實質是PPP加外判。外判祇是用較低的工資來提供服務，將會嚴重影響供水的質素及威脅員工職業保障。
- 2.5 急促引進PPP，受影響的市民達四成。私營供水是否大勢所趨？(先進國家供水私營化比例低，以美國為例，到2010年，估計祇是15%。)
- 2.6 政府是否有考慮更具經濟效益的方案去重建沙田濾水廠，並減低大停水的風險？(員工認為有其他具體可行方案。)

2.7 為何重建沙田濾水廠要涉及龐大的供水設施？(員工認為是利益輸送，重建規模太小，私人財團根本無興趣。EU和管方曾多次表示如上的觀點。)

2.8 供應食水具極大的壟斷性-PPP可以影響民生、經濟，政府是否有全面評估？

3. 員工的關注

- 3.1 影響員工的人數，從廖局長宣佈的 60 人，演變成目前超過 800 多人，加上水務署向工務局承諾減省員工 500 人的編制還未達標，這 800 多名員工如何安置？
- 3.2 政府是否改變供水政策，長遠政策對員工有何影響？
- 3.3 是否同意水務署剛成立的特別諮詢委員會必須有公務員事務局及工務局主要官員參與？
- 3.4 重建沙田濾水廠為一日產 120 萬立方米的主要水廠，並不合乎風險管理的原則，增加了大停水的風險，更加會導致關閉其他濾水廠來滿足 PPP 合約的要求。未來祇會迫使更多的員工成為冗員。
- 3.5 沙田 PPP 重建計劃擴大後，基本上把香港的供水系統徹底分裂，員工的團隊士氣亦受到徹底的打擊。

Senior Civil Service Council (Staff Side)

ASSOCIATION OF EXPATRIATE
CIVIL SERVANTS
OF HONG KONG

HONG KONG
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ASSOCIATION

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11 May 2004

Dear Mr. WONG,

Public Private Partnership Plan for Water Supplies Department

At the SCSC meeting held on 16 April 2004, the Staff Side expressed its concern about the Administration's plan to include management and operation of the Shatin Water Treatment Plant of WSD in the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Programme mentioned in the Financial Secretary's budget speech delivered in March 2004. It should be apparent to you that staff morale is being eroded by the manner in which this exercise is being conducted and I am sure that you will want to take urgent steps to avoid morale being further degraded. We consider it imperative that full and proper staff consultation is conducted to address this subject before the Administration takes a final decision on the plan.

It is our understanding that the WSD Alliance of Staff Unions (the Alliance) has written to the FS indicating their grave reservations about this plan. The Alliance is of the opinion that since the private sector has a duty to shareholders or owners to maximise profits it may not accord the same priority as the civil service to serving the community. The implementation of PPP would therefore cast doubt on the continued supply of fresh water of prescribed quality to consumers and this has significant implications on safeguarding public health.

The Staff Side fully appreciates the Alliance's concern. As far as we are aware, there was no comprehensive consultation of WSD staff before the Administration announced its intention to go ahead with the plan. The decision was apparently made solely on the basis of recommendations of a specially commissioned consultancy study. Furthermore, the Alliance is also given to understand that the recommendations of the consultancy study cover not only PPP for the said treatment works but also include plant directly related to the treatment works. This situation has given rise to anxiety in the staff concerned about their job security and career prospects and has affected their morale. There is also the possibility of highly experienced and competent staff leaving, causing draining of expertise which is considered to be a great asset of WSD. The Staff Side considers it imperative that the Administration arrange an open consultation for WSD staff as soon as practicable, to collate their views and concerns about the intended implementation of the PPP plan and alleviate their worries.

In connection with the WSD Alliance of Staff Unions' reservations and reactions to the announced PPP plan, it is noted that in the last week of April there was press report which alleged that the Secretary for Environment, Transport and Works (SETW) was attempting to suppress, by administrative means, further open comment by the Alliance on implementation of the plan. The Staff Side wishes to express concern and object in the strongest terms to SETW's attempt to suppress the Alliance from voicing its members' concerns. Such acts should in no way be construed nor misinterpreted as "misconduct" or "putting government in disgrace".

In this respect, it is of paramount importance that the Administration should clarify the matter and reaffirm the right of staff association representatives of the Alliance to express their views freely and openly without the fear of any suppression.

Your early reply would be very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A.J. Cooper".

(A. J. Cooper)
Staff Side Chairman
Senior Civil Service Council