

**For discussion
on 28 May 2007**

**Legislative Council
Panel on Environmental Affairs**

**351DS - Harbour Area Treatment Scheme, stage 2A – planning and design
of the upgrading works of Stonecutters Island Sewage Treatment
Works and the preliminary treatment works**

PURPOSE

This paper seeks Members' support for the Administration's proposal to upgrade the project **351DS** to Category A at an estimated cost of about \$105.6 million in money-of-the-day (MOD) prices, prior to submission to the Public Works Subcommittee for consideration with a view to seeking Finance Committee's funding approval.

PROPOSAL AND JUSTIFICATION

2. The Harbour Area Treatment Scheme (HATS) stage 2A will comprise completion of the deep tunnel network to carry sewage from the northern and western shores of Hong Kong Island to Stonecutters Island for chemically-enhanced primary treatment and disinfection, upgrading of the preliminary treatment works at the system nodes, and expansion and upgrading of the Stonecutters Island Sewage Treatment Works (SCISTW) to increase capacity and add the necessary disinfection step.

3. To apply the polluter-pays principle to the provision of sewage services, the Sewage Services (Sewage Charge) (Amendment) Regulation 2007 was published in the Gazette on 23 March 2007 and tabled in Legislative Council on 28 March 2007. On 16 May 2007, the Regulation was passed with a government amendment to commence the new Sewage Charge rate on 1 April 2008, which is nine months later than the original proposal. We now propose to initiate the next most urgent works package for HATS stage 2A, namely the planning and design of the remaining core works of this phase as described in paragraph 6 below. These design items need to be carried out in parallel with the design of the sewage conveyance system currently proceeding under the other previously approved item **238DS**, such that the different components of the stage 2A works dovetail with one another in a timely fashion.

4. In parallel, we are progressing other work to enable timely implementation of HATS stage 2A and facilitate re-opening of the closed Tsuen Wan beaches as soon as possible. This includes the planning and design of the

sewage conveyance system transferring the remaining untreated sewage from Hong Kong Island to the Stonecutters Island Sewage Treatment Works (SCISTW) for proper treatment, the stage 2A Environmental Impact Assessment study, and the planning work for the advance part of the disinfection facilities.

5. Upon completion, the HATS stage 2A will bring further improvements to the water quality in Victoria Harbour. Its location and overall layout are shown in the schematic layout plan at **Enclosure 1**.

PROJECT SCOPE

6. The scope of the proposed works under **351DS** comprises –
- (a) planning and design of the expansion works¹ and the disinfection facility² at the SCISTW, and the upgrading works of the eight preliminary treatment works along the northern and western shores of Hong Kong Island;
 - (b) associated investigations and surveys; and
 - (c) preliminary baseline monitoring of key water quality parameters.

7. Owing to inadequate in-house staff resources, the Director of Drainage Services proposes to employ consultants to carry out the works under **351DS**.

8. We plan to start the above planning and design work in July 2007 for completion in August 2010. Fieldwork for the preliminary baseline monitoring of key water quality parameters is programmed to start in 2008.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9. We estimate that the capital cost of the proposed project is about \$105.6 million in MOD prices³. As the project involves only planning and design work, it will not give rise to any recurrent expenditure.

10. We estimate that the proposed project will create about 39 jobs³ (17 for professionals and another 22 for technical and ancillary staff) providing a total employment of 1 285 man-months.

¹ The expansion works will cover the chemical treatment facility and other facilities at the existing SCISTW to cope with the further sewage from Hong Kong Island and with the projected future increases in sewage flows.

² The disinfection facility covered under 351DS will be the portion other than the advance part, and will provide disinfection to all the HATS treated effluent before being discharged into Victoria Harbour.

³ These are the latest estimates. We would finalize the project costs and new job opportunities, and include the cost breakdown prior to submitting the proposal to the PWSC for consideration.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

11. Starting from June 2004, we have been consulting the Legislative Council, District Councils, key stakeholders and the general public on various occasions on the way forward for HATS stage 2. There is a general consensus that cleaning up Victoria Harbour has high importance and that the works for HATS stage 2A should be implemented as early as possible so that the target completion dates of 2009 for the advance disinfection and 2014 for the full stage 2A can be met.

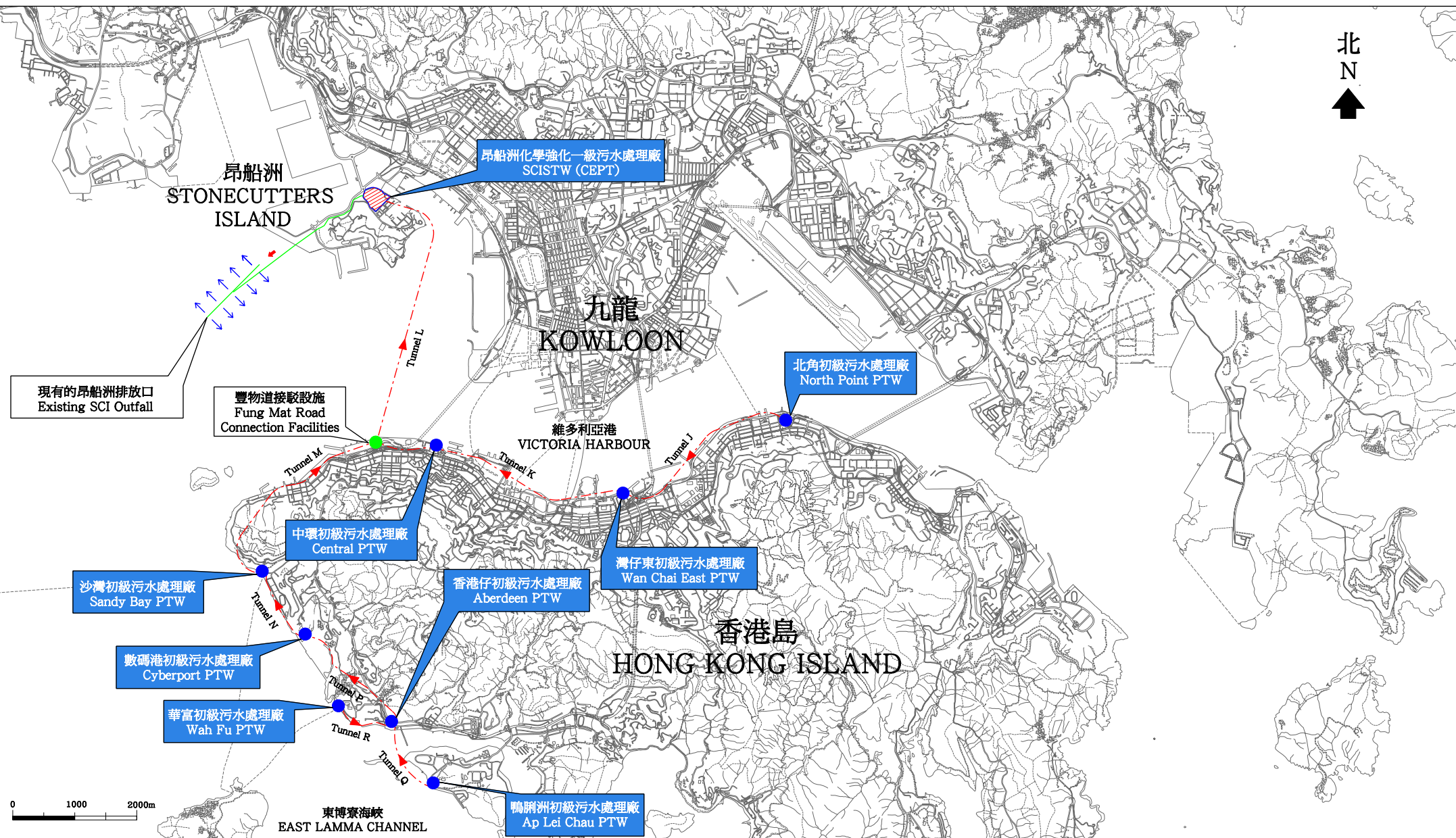
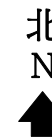
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

12. The proposed planning and design itself will not give rise to any environmental impact, although HATS stage 2A is a designated project under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance.

ADVICE SOUGHT

13. Members are invited to support the Administration's proposal to upgrade the project **351DS** to Category A at an estimated cost of \$105.6 million in MOD prices for consideration by the Public Works Subcommittee in June 2007 with a view to seeking funding approval by the Finance Committee by July 2007.

Environmental Protection Department
May 2007



圖則名稱 drawing title	繪畫 drawn C.W. CHAN	圖則編號 drawing no. DSS/2006/008
「淨化海港計劃」第二期甲 - 昂船洲污水處理廠及初級污水處理廠的擬議改善工程 HARBOUR AREA TREATMENT SCHEME STAGE 2A - PROPOSED UPGRADING WORKS IN THE STONECUTTERS ISLAND AND THE PRELIMINARY TREATMENT WORKS	日期 date 09-10-2006	比例 scale AS SHOWN
	核對 checked MICHAEL LEUNG	日期 date 09-10-2006
	批核 approved C.M. CHOI	日期 date 09-10-2006
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