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Legislative Council

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Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

**Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat
for the meeting on 8 November 2011**

Conversion programme for aqua privies

Purpose

This paper gives a brief account of past discussions of the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene ("the Panel") on the implementation of programme to convert aqua privies ("APs") in the New Territories and outlying islands into flushing toilets.

Background

2. APs are village-type dry latrines without any flushing system. They are provided and maintained by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD") in various locations in the New Territories and the outlying islands where no public sewage system is available and where there is a need for convenient facilities. FEHD has since 2005 started to implement a programme to convert some 520 APs in the New Territories and outlying islands into flushing toilets by phases by 2013. So far, the conversion of 314 aqua privies has been completed under the first six phases of works.

Deliberations of the Panel

3. At its meeting on 9 November 2010, the Panel was briefed on the Administration's proposal to include 145 APs in Phase 7 (i.e. the final phase) of the conversion programme. The Panel was also informed that 53 APs had been excluded from the programme after FEHD's assessment. Among these 53 APs, three had obtained consent for demolition from the

local community. The remaining 50 were not included in the programme due to problems involving private land, site constraints, possible re-provisioning or demolition as a result of other works projects, and for a few, failure to obtain local support for the conversion.

4. Members expressed concern about the exclusion of 53 APs from the conversion programme, and asked whether consideration would be given to covering these 53 APs in Phase 8 of the programme. The Administration explained that Phase 7 was the final phase of the conversion programme. There was no intention to take forward these 53 APs under the programme having regard to the unique problems and constraints of individual APs, such as land status and opposition from the local community. However, the Administration would follow up these cases individually in parallel with the processing of projects under the conversion programme. The Administration undertook to provide the Panel with an annual progress report on the conversion plan for these 53 APs and the consultation outcome with the relevant District Councils, if any.

Relevant papers

5. A list of the relevant papers on the Legislative Council website is in the **Appendix**.

Appendix

Relevant papers on the conversion of aqua privies into flushing toilets

Meeting	Date of meeting	Paper
Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene	25.11.2003 (Item V)	Agenda Minutes CB(2)407/03-04(05)
	13.5.2008 (Item II)	Agenda Minutes CB(2)1868/07-08(01)
	12.5.2009 (Item V)	Agenda Minutes CB(2)1489/08-09(05)
	9.11.2010 (Item V)	Agenda Minutes CB(2)187/10-11(05)
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