

本署檔號
OUR REF: () in EP 73/P2/2
來函檔號
YOUR REF: CB1/12-12(02)
電話
TEL. NO.: 3509 8628
圖文傳真
FAX NO: 2834 5648
電子郵件
E-MAIL: amyyuen@epd.gov.hk
網址
HOMEPAGE: <http://www.epd.gov.hk>

**Environmental Protection Department
Headquarters**

15/F & 16/F, East Wing,
Central Government Offices,
2 Tim Mei Avenue,
Tamar, Hong Kong.

CB(1)1101/12-13(01)



環境保護署總部

香港添馬
添美道二號
政府總部東翼
十五及十六樓

22 May 2013

Clerk to Panel on Environmental Affairs
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road, Central
Hong Kong

(Attn: Ms Miranda Hon)

Dear Ms Hon,

**Panel on Environmental Affairs
Follow-up to meeting on 25 March 2013
Supplementary information pertaining to item CB(1)736/12-13(02)**

During the Panel on Environmental Affairs' consideration of item CB(1)736/12-13(02) proposing to upgrade part of **125DS** "Tolo Harbour sewerage of unsewered areas, stage 2" and part of **339DS** "North District sewerage, stage 1 phase 2C and stage 2 phase 1" to Category A on 25 March 2013, the Administration was requested to provide supplementary information on the following:

- (a) the average connection rate to communal sewerage network and the measures to encourage villagers to make the necessary sewer connections;

125DS "Tolo Harbour sewerage of unsewered areas, stage 2"

- (b) more information on the protection of the Wun Yiu Site of Archaeological Interest to allay members' concerns about the heritage implications of the proposed sewerage works;

- (c) the improvements that could be made to the water quality of Shing Mun River as a result of the implementation of the proposed sewerage works;

339DS “North District sewerage, stage 1 phase 2C and stage 2 phase 1”

- (d) a map showing the location of the pumping station at Nam Wa Po and its distance from the nearest residential development; and
- (e) the outcome of the latest consultation with the Tai Po Rural Committee and the Environment, Housing and Works Committee under Tai Po District Council.

We would provide the Administration’s response in series as follows:

- (a) Most house owners who had been requested to make connection to public village sewers had completed the connection works. Up to end March 2013, a total of some 7 000 village houses have been connected to public sewers, representing an average connection rate of 85%¹. With respect to the Sha Tin and Tai Po districts, the average connection rates are 98%¹ and 93%¹ respectively.

To encourage villagers to make the necessary sewer connections, from the early planning stage to the construction stage, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), Drainage Services Department (DSD) and Home Affairs Department would arrange a series of consultation meetings and briefing sessions through the District Councils, Rural Committees, village representatives and the Heung Yee Kuk as necessary to strengthen communication with affected villagers. During construction of public sewers in villages, we will provide a tapping point along the new public sewer for each village house to be connected. The location of the tapping point will be agreed with the concerned lot owner/occupier on a case by case basis as far as possible. The public sewer will be extended to the agreed location with the tapping point. When the public village

¹ Village houses that were not connected to the public sewerage due to technical reasons such as limited space, inadequate hydraulic gradient, costly pumping requirement, obstruction from underground utilities, land resumption issues and encroachment on other’s private land, etc., are excluded. Villages with house connections in progress are included with houses not yet connected counting against the connection rate.

sewer is ready for connection, we will invite the village representatives and villagers to briefing sessions with a view to explaining the specific legal and technical requirements and details of making connections. Advisory letters will then be issued requesting connection of individual houses to the public sewer before a deadline. A time period of about 6 to 12 months is usually allowed for completing the connection works. To facilitate house owners in carrying out the connection works, we will visit individual households to identify if there are any technical constraints and offer assistance where necessary.

- (b) The proposed works in Ha Wun Yiu fall within the Wun Yiu site of archaeological interest. To safeguard the archaeological site, the following measures will be taken:
- (i) conduct pre-construction condition survey, settlement monitoring and vibration monitoring;
 - (ii) conduct Rescue Excavation before commencement of the proposed sewerage works; and
 - (iii) conduct Archaeological Watching Brief along the proposed sewer alignments

Rescue excavation will be carried out prior to commencement of the construction works in the form of grids and carried out layer by layer. The excavation will be conducted with caution by hand under close supervision of a qualified archaeologist who is licensed with the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) for conducting the rescue excavation, and will be terminated as instructed by the archaeologist. When a new layer is reached, survey records and other records will be carried out before further excavation. Construction of the proposed village sewerage works will commence only after completion of the necessary rescue excavation.

The watching brief process entails observation of the engineering works with particular focus on excavation works and exposed trench sections by a full-time qualified archaeologist approved by the AMO in case any archaeological material or features are revealed during construction works. Upon identification of such material or features,

the archaeologist will immediately record the material/features in-situ and retrieve any artefacts identified.

The AMO's advice and requirements have been included in the contract. Furthermore, DSD will closely work with the AMO to formulate and implement any further necessary mitigation measures to minimise impacts on the site of archaeological interest.

- (c) EPD has established a total of ten water quality monitoring stations in the Shing Mun River catchment area. The monitoring parameters include physical-chemical characteristics, organics and nutrients. The EPD's long-term monitoring results show that the water quality of the Shing Mun Main Channel and its tributaries has significantly improved in the past twenty years. The overall Water Quality Objectives compliance rate of Shing Mun River rose from 78% to 93% between 1997 and 2012. The *E.coli* level of the Shing Mun Main Channel is below 610 counts per 100 millilitres in general, suitable for conducting secondary contact recreational sports such as rowing.


Addressing Members' concern on the odour problem at Man Lai Court, we believe that the problem may be attributable to waste water and polluted matters being discharged into the upstream of Shing Mun River through stormwater drains. Organic sediments accumulating in the stormwater culvert or near the outfall may create odours due to putrefaction. The unpleasant smell would be stronger during the ebb tide or when there are sediments emerging from the water.

To reduce the odour near Man Lai Court, the most effective way is to intercept the pollution sources onshore. Dry weather flow interceptors (DWFIs) are constructed at pollution black spots to divert the polluted storm water to the Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works. For example, there are three DWFIs at Chik Fu Street and Chik Luk Lane to protect the water quality of the section of Tai Wai Nullah near Man Lai Court. Moreover, the EPD constantly carries out inspections of the old buildings (including residential flats, garages and eateries, etc.) in the old Tai Wai District at irregular hours as appropriate to remind the parties concerned to handle sewage properly, and take follow-up actions if pollution is found.

The progressive provision of sewerage to the unsewered village areas in Sha Tin District will further remove pollution to Shing Mun River at source and help further improve the water quality.

- (d) The two pumping stations at Nam Wa Po and Wai Tau Tsuen are at least 15 metres to 30 metres respectively from the nearest residential development. A plan showing the location of the pumping stations is at **Annex**. In determining the location of the proposed pumping stations, we have consulted village representatives and villagers and they raised no objection to the finalized locations. Both sewage pumping stations will adopt a full-enclosure design and be equipped with high efficiency deodorizer to prevent malodour. The sewage pumps and wet wells will also be situated underground and properly covered to minimize noise nuisance.
- (e) With respect to **339DS**, the Tai Po Rural Committee (TPRC) and the Environment, Housing and Works Committee under Tai Po District Council (TPDC) were consulted in May 2007 and September 2007 respectively. No objection was received. We have also consulted a coordination group established under TPRC with members from the Committee and TPDC at its ad hoc meetings held in June 2011 and May 2012. The coordination group raised no objection to the proposed works.

Yours sincerely,



(Amy YUEN)

for Director of Environmental Protection

c.c.	SFST	(Attn.: Ms Joyce HO)	(Fax.: 2523 5722)
	DDS	(Attn.: Mr Gabriel WOO)	(Fax.: 2827 8526)

339DS "North District sewerage, stage 1 phase 2C and stage 2 phase 1"

Location of pumping stations at Nam Wa Po and Wai Tau Tsuen

