

Dear Panel Members,

We have conducted a review of the briefing on “Proposals to Enhance Dark Smoke Control on Marine Vessels” given by the Transport and Housing Bureau to the Legislative Council Panel on Economic Development on 27 May 2013 (Paper CB(1) 1073/12-13(05) refers).

Our comments can be found in the attached blog post:

<http://hongkongpollutionwatch.blogspot.hk/2013/05/comments-on-legco-panel-on-economic.html>

Whilst we are fully supportive of the introduction of the Ringelmann Chart to measure pollution levels, we do not believe the other proposals will have any impact at all!

Firstly, it important to note Marine Department has already introduced the proposed new legislation in their Code of Conduct – to no effect. See our comments on Para 8 – Overseas Practice. New World First Ferry are already complying with this Code – check out the photographs in the rest of this blog to see what impact this has had on New World First Ferry’s polluting ways – NONE!!!

Secondly, look at the briefing the Marine Department gave to the Local Vessels Advisory Committee in February 2013 on how many vessels the proposed new legislation was likely to affect. One a year. The new legislation will have no impact whatsoever!

It is our contention that the current laws are not being properly applied and the proposed new law will be even harder to apply.

For your information and whatever action you deem appropriate.

Regards, Kevin Laurie.
Hong Kong Pollution Watch.