



水務署
Water Supplies Department

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17 January 2017

Mr Anthony CHU
Clerk
Public Accounts Committee
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Mr CHU,

Follow-up to Public Accounts Committee Report No. 64

Management of water supply and demand

Thank you for your letter dated 10 January 2017 requesting for information in regard to the latest progress in implementing the project for supplying reclaimed water for flushing in Northeast New Territories and the Inter-reservoirs Transfer Scheme (IRTS).

I would like to provide the requested information using the same paragraph referencing of your letter as follows -

- (a) Following completion of the pre-construction works in 2016, we have invited tenders for the core infrastructure works related to the supply of

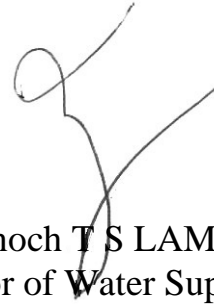
reclaimed water for flushing in Northeast New Territories, which comprise a service reservoir and trunk water mains for commencement in the second quarter of 2017. The remaining infrastructure works including a chlorination plant, a pumping system and local distribution mains are currently under design. On the other front, our consultants have completed a review on the financial and legal framework having regard to international experience and are in the process of developing an appropriate framework in Hong Kong for completion by the end of 2017;

- (b) According to the latest schedule, we will commission the supply of reclaimed water to Northeast New Territories in phases starting from 2022 to Sheung Shui and Fanling. With the commencement of reclaimed water supply at end 2022, the percentages of population covered by fresh water, salt water and reclaimed water supply systems for flushing purpose are estimated to be 12%, 86% and 2% respectively. Upon full commissioning of the project, the salt water and reclaimed water networks altogether will cover about 90% of the total population.

To further reduce the use of fresh water for flushing purpose, we will continue to review the extension of the salt water and reclaimed water supply systems to other areas wherever it is technically and financially justified. Currently, apart from the Tung Chung New Town Salt Water Supply Scheme which is currently under the design stage, we plan to build a centralized greywater reuse system as part of the Anderson Road Quarry Development project; and

- (c) Under the IRTS, the Drainage Services Department will build a tunnel of approximately 2.8 kilometres in length and 3 metres in diameter connecting the Kowloon Byewash Reservoir and the Lower Shing Mun Reservoir to transfer the overflow from the Kowloon Group of Reservoirs to Lower Shing Mun Reservoir for achieving the dual objectives of reducing run-off flowing into the Lai Chi Kok drainage system and converting the overflow into potable water resources. The Drainage Services Department is currently reviewing the detailed design, method statements and related environmental impact assessments of the IRTS in order to enhance its cost-effectiveness and prepare the implementation schedule.

Yours sincerely,



(Enoch T S LAM)
Director of Water Supplies

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	Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury	(Fax no. 2147 5239)
	Director of Audit	(Fax no. 2583 9063)
	Director of Drainage Services	(Fax no. 2827 9352)