

For Information

**Legislative Council
Panel on Environmental Affairs**

Implementation of Municipal Solid Waste Charging

In response to the issues raised by the Panel on Environmental Affairs at its meeting held on 30 October 2017, this note provides supplementary information on the implementation of municipal solid waste (“MSW”) charging.

(a) The existing charges per tonne of waste disposed of at different refuse transfer stations (“RTSs”) by private waste collectors, and the reasons for setting the charges at different levels;

2. The existing charges per tonne of waste disposed of at different RTSs by private waste collectors (“PWCs”) are set out in the following table –

Refuse transfer stations	Charges per tonne
Island East Transfer Station	\$30
Island West Transfer Station	\$30
Ma Wan Transfer Facility	\$68
North Lantau Transfer Station	\$110
North West New Territories Transfer Station (“NWNTTS”)	\$38
Shatin Transfer Station	\$30
West Kowloon Transfer Station	\$30

3. Under the established policy on refuse transfer service, the use of an RTS by PWCs is subject to a fee which is set at a level intended to enable the Government to recover the additional cost incurred at each RTS for handling the waste delivered by PWCs (including in particular

the subsequent bulk transportation to the landfills) which varies depending on the location, scale and mode of operation of individual RTSs.

- (b) Whether the Administration would consider aligning the gate fee per tonne of waste at the same level for all RTSs and landfills after the implementation of municipal solid waste charging, and the reason if the Administration would not consider so; and**

4. Currently, PWCs have to pay \$30¹ per tonne for waste disposed of at the four urban RTSs (namely the RTSs at Island East, Island West, Shatin and West Kowloon) and \$38 per tonne at NWNTTS but no charge at landfills. In introducing the MSW charging regime, we propose that this charging differential of \$30 per tonne between disposal at the four urban RTSs and landfills be maintained to avoid overloading these urban RTSs owing to unintended diversion. We also propose that the charge for using NWNTTS (currently charged at \$38 per tonne) be aligned with that for using the other four urban RTS to simplify the structure of the charging scheme. As regards the RTSs in Ma Wan, North Lantau Island and other outlying islands, we propose that the charges payable by PWCs be set at a lower level on par with that for disposal at landfills, considering that PWCs could not deliver MSW direct to the landfills. On this basis, the proposed gate fees for PWCs for disposal of MSW at the four urban RTSs and NWNTTS is \$395 per tonne, and for disposal of MSW at the remaining RTSs and landfills direct is \$365 per tonne.

- (c) Details of the Administration's enforcement actions against illegal fly-tipping, including in particular the number of fixed penalty tickets issued to offenders intercepted in the vicinity of Braemar Hill, a fly-tipping black spot, in the past few years.**

5. The Government is committed to combating fly-tipping and has put in place preventive measures such as the installation of railings,

¹ As mentioned in paragraph 2 above, the prevailing charge, if any, for use of different RTSs by PWCs is in the range of \$30 - \$110 per tonne.

warning signs and road barriers to deter fly-tipping and caution the public against it.

6. The relevant Government departments, including the Environmental Protection Department (“EPD”), the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (“FEHD”), the Lands Department and the Planning Department, etc., have been working closely to identify and prosecute fly-tipping offenders through exchange of intelligence, information sharing on the fly-tipping black spots and joint enforcement actions.

7. The EPD would carry out investigations upon receipt of complaints to ascertain whether there has been any contravention of the relevant requirements under the Waste Disposal Ordinance (“WDO”) (Cap. 354); and would undertake prosecution if there is sufficient evidence against the offender. From January 2015 to October 2017, the EPD conducted 28 ambush operations in the vicinity of Braemar Hill while FEHD staff patrolled the location and took enforcement actions against the offenders for littering and flytipping. Two offenders were prosecuted for illegal dumping and fined \$1,200 each by the court, and 10 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued by FEHD for littering offences.

8. To further enhance our control against fly-tipping, we have been exploring the use of other measures, such as expanding the use of surveillance cameras for monitoring fly-tipping black spots and requiring the installation of global positioning system on construction waste collection vehicles.

**Environment Bureau/ Environmental Protection Department
December 2017**