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**(ACE Paper 59/96)**  
**for advice**

**Increase of Fees under**  
**Waste Disposal Ordinance (Cap. 354)**  
**Water Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap. 358)**  
**Air Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap. 311)**  
**Noise Control Ordinance (Cap. 400)**

## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this paper is to seek Members' advice on the increases in fees. A separate paper (ACE Paper 58/96) informing Members of fee revisions under other ordinances should be read in conjunction with this paper.

## BACKGROUND

2. It is Government policy that fees should, in general, be set at levels sufficient to recover the full cost of providing the services. The fees payable under the Waste Disposal Ordinance (Cap. 354), the Air Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap. 311) and the Noise Control Ordinance (Cap. 400) were last revised in June 1994. The fees payable under the Water Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap. 358) have not been revised since November 1990. At the meeting on 24 April 1995, Members endorsed our proposal to increase the fees under these Ordinances to account for the increase in administrative costs. However, the proposals were not implemented in 1995 because of the Legislative Council's decision to freeze all government fees and charges. Because of the continued increase in costs, we again wish to propose increases in the relevant fee levels.

## THE PROPOSAL

3. Details of the proposed increases are contained in the Annex. Members will note that we intend to recover immediately 100% of the full cost of providing the services only for the Waste Disposal Ordinance. For the other Ordinances, we will phase in the 100% recovery over a number of years in order to avoid drastic increases in fees. Members may note also that we are standardising the fee for obtaining certified copies of entries in registers in all these Ordinances.

## **FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS**

4. Additional revenue to be generated by the fee increases is estimated to be \$3,218,000 per annum. There are no staffing implications.

## **ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS**

5. The revised fees represent an insignificant portion of the operating costs borne by the affected sectors. The general public will not be affected.

## **PUBLIC REACTION**

6. It is unlikely that the proposed fee revisions will attract much public attention. We do not envisage organizations and individuals to raise any strong objection as the increases have minimal impact on them.

## **ADVICE SOUGHT**

7. Members' advice is sought as to whether the proposed fee revisions should be made. The revised fees are expected to be implemented in January 1997.

**Planning, Environment & Lands Branch**  
**October 1996**