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for information

Trade Effluent Surcharge Review Final Report : Outcome of Consultation with Trades

Purpose

This paper informs Members of the outcome of the consultation on the Final Report of the Trade Effluent Surcharge (TES) Review.

Background

2. The Final Report of the TES Review was released by the consultant on 18 April 1997.
3. This Council was consulted on the Final Report on 21 April 1997 and 26 May 1997. A six-week consultation period was launched on 29 April 1997 which ran until 10 June 1997.

The Consultation Exercise

4. A letter accompanying an Executive Summary (in both English and Chinese) of the Final Report has been sent to about 110 organisations representing relevant trades and industries and interested parties, to invite their views on the outcome of the TES Review. A copy of the Final Report has also been deposited at the Environmental Protection Department for public inspection.
5. 43 organisations have sent in their comments (including queries) to the Administration. A list of these organisations is at Annex A. A summary of comments received is at Annex B.
6. Upon request, we have attended the meeting of the Small and Medium Enterprises Committee of the Industry Department on 13 May 1997 and a joint forum of the Industry and Technology Development Council's seven committees (viz, the Metals Committee, Plastics Committee, Electronics Committee, Textiles and Clothing Committee, Technology Committee, Biotechnology Committee and Information Technology Committee) on 6 June 1997 to brief them on the outcome of the Review.

7. In addition, we have received 20 oral enquiries, mostly requesting for copies of the Executive Summary and inspecting the Final Report. All these enquiries have been responded to promptly.

The Way Forward

8. The Administration will consider what changes should be made to fine tune the TES Scheme, taking into account views collected during the consultation period. Before we make any changes to the current scheme, we will consult this Council again.

Advice Sought

10. Members are requested to note the contents of this paper.

**Environment Division
Planning, Environment and Lands Branch
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