

6. The policy objectives laid down in the White Paper for Planning and the Environment include :
- (i) to minimise adverse environmental effects by ensuring the consequences for the environment are properly taken into account in site selection, planning and design of all new development. Although the development threshold previously proposed is forecast to be exceeded the opportunity exists in the NWNT to provide a sub-regional collection system with centralised treatment facilities as there are not the same land constraints as in for example the Metro Area (nb San Wai is not constrained and could be upgraded as part of such a scheme).
  - (ii) to seize opportunities for environmental improvement as they arise in the course of urban redevelopment. This is being espoused by the fundamental aim of the development strategies in which the collection, treatment and disposal of industrial and domestic effluent is being given primary consideration; and
  - (iii) to safeguard urban encroachment into rural areas unless adequate services have been provided. This is a basic tenet of the development controls which was applied to the SENT in connection with the protection of receiving water quality.
7. With these principles in mind, the NT-Biased, HB-Biased and Recommended Options have been further considered and, using the rapid assessment method adopted under the SSS for estimating effluent flow rates, the implications on placed infrastructure were broadly assessed. An estimate of the effluent flows due to the distribution of domestic population are given in Table 5.1.

**Table 5.1 Domestic Effluent Flows Generated at 2006 (Mm<sup>3</sup>/day)**

	<b>NT-Biased Option</b>	<b>Harbour-Biased Option</b>	<b>Recommended Strategy</b>
METRO	0.822	0.879	0.852
NT	0.658	0.602	0.628
NWNT	0.275	0.254	0.262
NENT	0.234	0.220	0.222
SWNT	0.050	0.028	0.044
SENT	0.099	0.099	0.099

8. From the data given in Table 5.1 above it is apparent that the recommended strategy balances the demand for effluent treatment better than the NT-Biased option. The greatest flows are generated, not unexpectedly in the Metro Area, under the HB-Biased Option, however this implies that the SSDS Stage II system may need to be advanced. The option which gives greatest cause for concern with respect to the timely provision of adequate infrastructure is the NT-Biased Option as there are ramifications on the SWNT and the NWNT.