

## 檢討與制定海水水質指標 – 第一階段公眾諮詢

### Review and Development of Marine Water Quality Objectives (WQOs) - First Stage Public Engagement

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#### 問卷 Questionnaire

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問題(1)： 你對「檢討與制定海水水質指標 – 第一階段公眾諮詢文件」(下稱「諮詢文件」)內第4節列出的主要的檢討事宜有何意見？

Q(1): What are your views on the key issues set out in Section 4 of the “First Stage Public Engagement Document for the Review and Development of Marine Water Quality Objectives (WQOs)” (hereafter refers to as the “Engagement Document”) ?

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As pointed out in Section 4, the seawater quality in the western part of Hong Kong territory has not been promising due to the influence of the Pearl River, i.e. the Guangdong province. In our opinion, the setting of WQO for Hong Kong should not be considered as an isolated case in view of the proximity with the Pearl River Delta. Imposing stricter WQOs and tighter control of the local effluent discharges may not help improve the quality of the waters of Hong Kong.

On top of the impact of Pearl River, the influence of residues/sediments in local areas shall not be ignored. Some areas may have been polluted for many years and the seabed may have heavy deposits of unwanted materials which can slowly release out pollutants. It would not be so meaningful to set stringent WQOs in view of these persistent background contributions or else the seabed should be cleaned up prior to implementation of the new WQO.

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問題(2)： 你對諮詢文件內第2節列出的實益用途和敏感受體有何意見？你認為在檢討中，還應考慮其他實益用途嗎？

Q(2): What are your views on the beneficial uses and sensitive receivers set out in Section 2 of the Engagement Document ? Are you aware of any other beneficial uses of waters that should be considered in this review ?

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Apart from the uses of marine waters set out in Section 2 (i.e. amenities, mariculture, fisheries, cooling, toilet flushing, navigation, effluent discharge, sand borrowing and mud disposal), potential beneficial uses of marine waters for various kinds of purposes such as desalination, tidal energy, wave energy and offshore wind farm, etc. should also be considered in the review.

In Table 2.1 of Page 4 of “Technical Note on Review of Local Conditions and Overseas Practices”, there is “Nil” seawater intake in Zone 3 Southern Waters where Lamma Power Station is located. Apparently, the seawater intake of those power stations in the other water zones has not been counted as well. We would be grateful if EPD could clarify.

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問題(3)： 就保護水域的各種實益用途、敏感受體和敏感生物群而言，你認為保護的優先次序和程度應如何？

Q(3): What are your views on the priority and level of protection for various beneficial uses, sensitive receivers and sensitive organisms that should be protected through the WQOs ?

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Along with sensitive uses of waters for important species and bathing beaches, priority should also be given to the beneficial uses of water bodies for large scale cooling systems built to serve the public such as district cooling and the cooling system of power generating plants which are able to take advantage of energy efficiency, resulting in savings in fresh water and energy consumption as a whole.

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- 問題(4) : 除諮詢文件內附錄 A 所列的資料外，下階段的研究還應考慮什麼類型的水質指標或參數？
- Q(4): In respect of Appendix A of the Engagement Document, what other types of WQOs or parameters should be considered in the next stage ?

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A pragmatic approach should be taken in revising the WQOs. Change in habit of citizens will no doubt affect the background data or the achievement of WQO for certain parameters. The drastic increase in the use of bleaching solution for sanitary purpose in recent years may have already elevated the level of total residual chlorine and chlorination by-products in the seawater. Inclusion of these two parameters in the WQOs must be carefully considered. Surfactants as well as oil and grease can come from domestic usage and are difficult to identify their sources and implement controls.

Selection of WQO for individual parameter should consider the available technology of treatment and the limit of detection of the relevant standard method.

The adoption of 'Use-Protection Approach' may invite claims from users with commercial purposes. Users may maintain their businesses, albeit at a loss, in order to get compensation.

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- 問題(5) : 你對諮詢文件內第 5 節提議的水質指標檢討方法有何意見？
- Q(5): What are your views on the review approaches as set out in Section 5 of the Engagement Document ?

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In general, we go along with the review approaches as set out in the document. However, the limits of effluent discharge from the existing plants / discharge bodies may be dictated by their physical configuration and operation conditions. As such, it is recommended to take into consideration the operation and environmental conditions of the existing plants / discharge bodies on setting of the WQO parameters in the specific waters.

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- 問題(6) : 在下階段的研究中，還應考慮那些水質管理概念和水質指標的制定方法？
- Q(6): What broad water quality management principles and WQO approaches should be considered in the next stage ?

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In the next stage, the Government should aim at liaising with Guangdong for establishing a set of regional WQO. It would be more meaningful to consider the waters of Hong Kong and the vast body of South China Sea as a whole.

Quantitative data showing the extent of Pearl River's influence on Hong Kong's water should be disclosed so as to assist stakeholders to have a full picture. Anticipated benefits of the Strategic Sewage Disposal Scheme when it is fully implemented should be considered. Short-term impact on water quality due to surface runoff by heavy rainfall is another factor to be considered.

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