

"Harris"

To: <hats@etwb.gov.hk>

Subject: Views on the HATS phase 2

10/09/2004 00:06

I hope the scheme will go ahead. Please see the attached

Geoff Harris

Dear Government

I consider that it is imperative that HATS Phase 2 goes ahead. Hong Kong needs to show that it is environmentally responsible and that a big Asian city can be made 'clean'. The residents of Hong Kong will benefit greatly also. I also see possible indirect benefits such as natural re-stocking of local water with fish, reducing the burden on fishing grounds remote from Hong Kong.

Implementation of the scheme should be by the private sector through plan-engineer-procure-construct-operate-transfer arrangements with bids from the private sector on the preferred option but also any alternatives preferred by the consortia. Leaving the private sector out until the 'build' stage is too late. To maximise the benefits of the private sector it is essential to have their inputs during the planning stage. I see the overall benefits as:

- More flexible financing
- More flexible planning
- Reduced burden on public expenditure
- Planning which is tailored to the proposed technology, maximising the benefits of the technology
- Reduction in disputes during the construction phase
- Reduced risk of construction programme overruns
- Reduction in cost of the planning/design phase
- Faster decision making with reduced planning period

To make this work best Government should consider bids from the private sector to combine the HATS with other developments, to reduce the finance burden.

There are a number of countries in the world where wastewater private sector franchises and BOT schemes have been awarded with great success in terms of consumer cost and quality. It is time for Hong kong to use private sector technical expertise with, if desirable, the backing of the local businesses to combine quality with value.

Yours faithfully
Geoffrey S. Harris