

"Paradee"

To: <hats@etwb.gov.hk>
Subject: Public Consultation
09/10/2004 23:01

Dear Sir/Madam,

Regarding the public consultation, my answers are:

1. Preferred Option A: Yes (Collective responsibility from several stations would be avoided and there would one plant setting one standard of treatment)
2. 2 phases: Yes if by doing this it leads to a better quality treatment product. For example, I believe the report states chlorine is better than UV and chlorine would only be implemented if there are 2 stages. However, it is not immediately apparent what the timescale for adding bio-nutrient reduction to the biological 2nd stage is and whether this has been fully accounted for in the survey.
3. Is it essential, should there be higher charges, should the polluter pay: Yes

With clear waters and a return of marine life, divers would flock here to see the multitude of wrecks lying at the bottom of Victoria Harbour. We would be able to attract Olympic divers, dinghy sailors, windsurfers and Olympic swimmers would join the swimming race to Hong Kong Island. Hundreds of residents, some of whom have swum in the harbour for years, would benefit.

Hong Kong could become the Most Fragrant Harbour. We could become pioneers and role models in treating water. As one of the world's most successful cities we deserve the very best standards of water in the world. We could become the world's first country to have a waste water system that is connected to 100% of buildings including the 450,000 cubic metres that is currently untreated. In addition, all waste from ships in Hong Kong's waters including sewage, oil (which is sometimes seen and reported by aircraft) and rubbish (which needs to be collected at source) would be collected with stiff fines for offenders. Like Stockholm, our city waters would become clean enough to dive in to, only much warmer.

I believe our beaches have the potential to be some of the finest in Asia. Tourists do not currently associate Hong Kong as a beach resort yet our beaches are amazing. Many famous beaches worldwide are let down by water pollution. If the waters in Hong Kong were the best in the world, we would see millions more tourists.

I speak as someone who has been brought up by the sea and passionate about watersports, which I have often had to limit due to poor quality water in the countries I have stayed. There can never be enough levels of water treatment.

Conclusion

I believe both phases should be implemented as soon as possible and that they should include all available levels of treatment including biological nutrient reduction whatever the cost.

I believe that beaches should be graded with one higher level above "good": "excellent" which I believe is done in the UK such as Brighton beaches.

I would be willing to pay extra for the privilege of clean waters but I also believe the tourist revenue generated from clean seas would offset much of the cost in the future.

Regards,

Captain Myles Bowker