

HONG KONG TOURISM BOARD 香港旅遊發展局

1 November 2004

Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
Government Secretariat
10/F Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road
Central
Hong Kong



(Attn: Mr Raistlin Lau)

Dear Mr Lau

Consultation Document for the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme Stage 2

Thank you very much for your letter (your ref: ETWB(E) 55/07/72) dated 24 September addressed to our Chairman. May we take this opportunity to offer our comments from tourism prospective for your consideration:

Guiding Principle

We fully agree that Victoria Harbour is one of our most important assets both for our local residents as well as our overseas visitors. Water quality of the Harbour is part and parcel of this important asset and we support any effort to further improve her water quality.

Civic Education

We believe that it will be important to share with the public the achievement, in quantifiable improvements, of the Stage 1 of the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme and the goals for Stage 2. This will certainly arouse their recognition on the importance of harbour water quality improvement as well as lobbying for their support in the implementation of the Stage 2 programme.

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Implementation Timetable

As stated in the consultation document, the entire project can last for a number of years. Part of the tunneling works may need to be implemented in some densely populated areas along the north coast of Hong Kong Island. A detailed works programme should be prepared and made available to the public. Good site management and proper mitigation measures are critical to minimize the adverse impact to the residents and visitors as well as business operations in the affected areas.

Evaluation of the Options

Based on the data listed under Annex in the document, we would support the recommendation of Option A, i.e. all sewage treated at Stonecutters Island Sewage Treatment Works. However, it is suggested that effort should be made in reducing its impact at the detail design stage, for example, road traffic and other inconvenience to the general public.

It is also suggested that extra effort should be made to investigate the possibility of incorporating the tunneling works with other government planned and committed projects by better coordination of phasing of works, for example along the north coast of Hong Kong Island.

Polluter Pays Principle

It is understood that the polluter pays principle will apply. However, the implication to business operations, in particular restaurants and hotels could be significant. Hence it is only fair if more details are available for better evaluation by the affected trade. For example:

- What would be the proposed and/or possible charges;
- Who would be affected;
- When would it be implemented; and
- Other possible options

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We hope you will take the above comments into consideration in formulating your implementation strategy for HATS Stage 2. Should you require any clarification, please feel free to contact my colleague, Mr Mason Hung at

Yours sincerely

Lambert Chan
General Manager - Destination Marketing