

ETWB(E) 55/07/70

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13 July 2004

Dr John WONG Man-kon
Chairman
Hong Kong Marine Conservation Society
6/F, Park Hovan Commercial Building
18 Hillwood Road
Tsim Sha Tsui
Kowloon
(by fax 2314 9420)

Dear Dr Wong,

I refer to your letter of 6 July 2004 to the Chairman of the Panel on Environmental Affairs expressing the views of the Hong Kong Marine Conservation Society on Stage 2 of the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme (HATS). The Panel Secretariat has referred your letter to the Administration for response.

The Administration greatly welcomes your support for our proposals for HATS Stage 2, particularly the selection of Option A as the preferred option and the application of the polluter-pays principle. As we responded during the Panel meeting on 7 July 2004, we will look into your suggestion of using biofilters cum artificial reef to enhance the removal of the remaining suspended solids in the receiving waters near the HATS discharge, having regard to the relevant experience of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in applying the above setup in other local waters.

We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming technical briefing sessions to further exchange views on HATS Stage 2.

Yours sincerely,

(Raistlin Lau)
for Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works