



海港水質關注
HARBOUR
WATER WATCH

The Harbour

Why should we care?

Living in a modern city is so convenient. Pull a plug, flush, or press a button and our wastewater disappears from sight, thanks to an efficient sewerage system. But as our population continues to grow, the Harbour is paying a high price for our convenience.

Rising pollution levels from sewage entering Victoria Harbour have been arrested for now. In fact, water quality in the eastern Harbour improved by 90% in terms of bacteria content at the beginning of 2002, due to the full commissioning of Stage One of the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme (HATS).

This sewage treatment milestone bought us some time by treating 70% of Harbour sewage, but much more needs to be done to restore our Harbour to a more natural, healthier, condition.

Looking ahead, we must choose the most appropriate form of sewage treatment, or the Harbour water quality will once again decline.

Protecting the Harbour from future degradation will require decisions from the community on sewage treatment options entailing significant financial, environmental, location and technology considerations. Achieving the right balance between the benefits of taking action and the associated costs will be a challenge we must face around the end of 2003.

Is our Harbour special?

Yes, Hong Kong's famous Victoria Harbour is arguably our most precious natural asset. Consider some of the reasons for this:

- It is a major feature of our brand identity, our heritage and our legacy;
- Tourists are attracted by our spectacular harbourside location;
- It has brought, and continues to bring, inestimable economic benefits;
- It lends distinction, charm and contrast to the hectic pace of our city life;
- It is a source of pride to the vast majority of our citizens.

Where are we now?

The Harbour Area Treatment Scheme is a major infrastructure programme that comprises several stages. Building this system has involved an investment of \$8.2 billion so far.

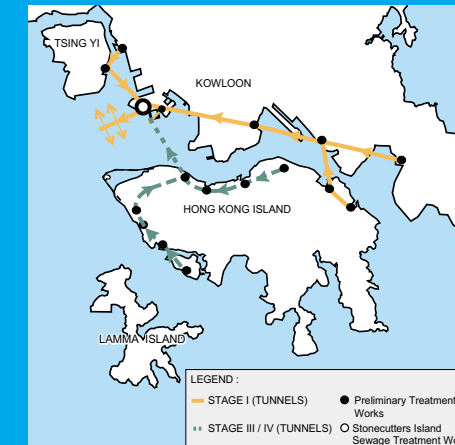
A number of important trials and studies are now being conducted to decide the best way forward for the remaining stages. Upon completion of these trials and studies in the next 18 months, the Government will undertake a full-scale public consultation on the various options before selecting the most favourable model.

It is important that the people of Hong Kong, the ultimate owners and beneficiaries of HATS, are part of the decision-making on what to build. To facilitate this process, updated information will be made available at key junctures, to assist the community to form views and provide comments.

WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS?

In 2000, an independent panel of experts, appointed by the Government, reviewed plans for the remaining stages of HATS. They proposed employing compact biological treatment technology to remove almost all the pollutants from the wastewater, and identified four options.

Each of these options involves discharging highly treated effluent into the Harbour waters. Nevertheless, the panel members considered that all offered the same, or better, environmental protection compared to previous plans but at lower overall costs. They also identified the trials and studies that the Government should conduct to verify the effectiveness of the recommended sewage treatment technology in Hong Kong, in order to decide on the best option for the remaining stages.



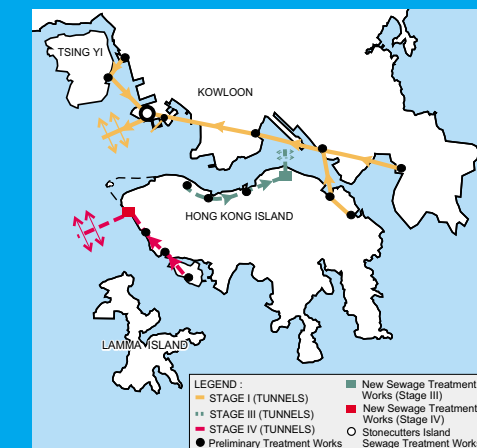
Option A : All treatment at Stonecutters Island



Option B : Treatment at Stonecutters Island and Lamma Island



Option C : Treatment at Stonecutters Island and Sandy Bay



Option D : Treatment at Sandy Bay, North Point and Stonecutters Island

Our Harbour: A Cleaner Tomorrow

Decisions on Victoria Harbour water quality are needed in **THE NEXT TWO YEARS**

WHAT are these decisions ?

WHY are they needed ?

WHO will decide ?

These are important questions for everyone

DO YOU WANT TO HAVE A SAY?

If you want to learn more and contribute to this debate, visit the HATS website at <http://info.gov.hk/cleanharbour/>



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