

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ENB037

(Question Serial No. 1575)

Head: (39) Drainage Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): Not specified

Programme: (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (LO Kwok-wah)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

In 2017, the Drainage Services Department awarded the “Upgrading of West Kowloon and Tsuen Wan Sewerage – Phase 1” (the Project) to improve the water quality in the coastal area of West Kowloon and Tsuen Wan and planned to implement Phase 2 of the Project. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. the latest progress of the aforementioned Phase 1 upgrading works and its effectiveness;
2. the timetable for the aforementioned Phase 2 of the Project as well as the expenditure involved and its coverage in detail;
3. the latest progress of comprehensive inspection work regarding the ageing sewer problem in Hong Kong at present;
4. whether the Department will increase provision for rehabilitating the ageing sewers across the territory as well as implementing more sewer works projects;
5. the figures on the distribution of dry weather flow interceptors across the territory at present.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

1. The “Upgrading of West Kowloon and Tsuen Wan Sewerage – Phase 1” works has commenced in September 2017. Part of the works involves the construction of 4 new dry weather flow interceptors (DWFIs) in Tsuen Wan, which is anticipated to be completed in September 2019. Another part which involves the construction of 4 new DWFIs and modification of 43 existing DWFIs in West Kowloon is anticipated to be completed in succession in the second quarter of 2022. Upon completion of Phase 1 works, it is anticipated that it can remove about 70% of the total annual pollution loading from respective stormwater systems.
2. Phase 2 works will upgrade about 33.5 km of sewers in 5 areas of West Kowloon and Tsuen Wan (including Tsuen Wan, Kwai Chung, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong). Subject to funding approval of the Legislative Council, the Drainage

Services Department (DSD) plans to commence the works in stages by 2019-20. It is anticipated that the whole project will take about 7 years to complete. The relevant expenditure in 2019-20 is about \$1.6 million.

3. The territory-wide investigation of sewers began in January 2019, which includes the investigation of a total about 75 km in length of sewers in 18 districts and is anticipated to be completed in 2021.
4. DSD will regularly inspect the conditions of sewers and maintenance works will be carried out to defective sewers identified by the inspection under routine maintenance and repair. As many sewers have been in service for decades and are suffering from ageing and deterioration at an increasing rate, this routine approach is not sufficient to cope with the increasing maintenance needs. As such, DSD has provided more resources to tackle the ageing issue of sewers and begun part of the rehabilitation works, including rehabilitation of some main sewers in Kowloon City, Wong Tai Sin, Kwun Tong, Sha Tin, Sai Kung and Tuen Mun (to be completed in stages from 2022 to 2023), as well as rehabilitation of the rising main between Tung Chung and Siu Ho Wan (to be completed in stages from 2023 to 2025), and the first stage of territory-wide sewer rehabilitation works, which is anticipated to be completed in 2022. The design of other stages of sewer rehabilitation across the territory is underway.
5. At present, there are 187 DWFIs in Hong Kong, 40 of which on Hong Kong Island and outlying islands, 71 in Kowloon and 76 in the New Territories.

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