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21pc sewage charges bid

The Government will propose a 21 per cent rise in sewage charges next week.

This is despite the fact that a proposal to increase the charges by 15 per cent was blocked by legislators in June.

Shum Man-to, business manager of the Sewage Service Trading Fund, said it would face a huge deficit by the end of this year. The increase was necessary to support government sewage projects.

He said if the proposal was blocked

again the Government might have to close the fund.

A long-term deficit would breach the Trading Fund Ordinance.

Mr Shum said they would try to lobby legislators for support.

He did not rule out the possibility of changing the level of increase.

The Government originally proposed further increases over the next three years totalling 168 per cent.