

## \$150m plan to ease risk from medical waste

By MARIANA WAN

A MAJOR consultancy report recommends a \$150 million incinerator be built in Tuen Mun to handle dangerous clinical waste, it has been revealed.

The report commissioned by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) also recommends hospital and other staff assigned to handle medical waste should receive proper training.

Protective clothing such as heavy duty gloves and industrial aprons should be provided for staff handling such clinical waste as syringes, soiled dressings and human organs.

The incineration facilities, to cost \$15 million a year to operate, will handle medical waste from hospitals and private clinics.

An environment impact study will be conducted on the proposed plant, which is expected to occupy a 1.5 hectare site and take three years to build.

It is hoped an incinerator of international standard will eliminate the significant health risks medical waste poses to the public.

Any incinerators that are not up to standard and could be emitting toxic fumes while burning the waste should be upgraded or phased out.

The EPD is understood to be working with the Hospital Authority to determine how and which municipal incinerators should be phased out.