

# **STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION**

**71/2010**

**1 June 2010**

The Opposition have received representations from users of Western Beach who are concerned that large-bore drainage works on the Spanish side of the beach may result in sewage or dirty water outflow into the area.

These works have been on-going on the Spanish side for several months. They have resulted in the excavation of a trench parallel to the new marina being built in La Linea. The trench crossed the access road into Gibraltar on the loop on the Spanish side. It is now almost poised for completion with a large outlet into the area of the small Spanish beach next to Western Beach.

The problem is that the majority of the waters into which the new drainage works will outflow is the area bounded by Western Beach, the runway, and the MOD living quarters. In other words, the area is more than 90% British Gibraltar Territorial Waters bordered by a very narrow strip of Spanish waters on the northern side.

It is perfectly reasonable that the users of Western Beach should be so concerned by this development. There is normally a stench in the area of the new La Linea marina as a result of the outflow from this pipe. All the indications are that the outlet inside the marina is being moved in a southerly direction so that the new drainage works will exit in the area of Western Beach instead. It is logical to conclude that once the works are complete and the outlet has been moved, the smell will also transfer from its present position inside the La Linea marina to a new position at Western Beach.

The bathing water at Western Beach has traditionally been the cleanest in Gibraltar given that the area is sheltered by the runway on one side and by the Spanish road leading to the small port at la Linea on the other. The limited circulation of water in the area and the discharge from the new Spanish drainage outlet could be a serious combination. It is not known whether an environmental impact assessment was carried out into this project nor whether cross-border consultation has been conducted into the effects of the works and the future discharge into the basin at Western Beach.