

**Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members
in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06**

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Session No.: 17

File name: ETWB(E)-e1.doc

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(E)001

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

0534

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : It is noted that more hill fires were recorded last year with hundreds of thousands of trees being destroyed. However, in this programme, the provision for 2005-06 is 1.5% lower than the original estimate of 2004-05. How can the Administration plant more seedlings in the ravaged country parks with a smaller provision?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

There were 67 hill fires in country parks in 2004 and about 51,800 trees were damaged. In the same year, about 877,000 tree seedlings were planted, many more than the trees damaged by fire.

To cope with the overall reduction in provision, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department plans to foster community sponsorship such as the Corporate Afforestation Scheme in planting more trees in country parks. Given increased community support, we plan to plant a total of 900,000 tree seedlings in country parks in 2005.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	4 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(E)002

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

1088

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Under the "Nature Conservation and Country Parks" programme, the revised provision for 2004-05 was \$420.6 million, which was 6.3% higher than the original estimate. Please account for this. However, the financial provision for 2005-06 is \$389.6 million, representing a significant decrease of 7.4% compared with the estimate for 2004-05. It is explained that this is mainly due to decrease in non-recurrent and capital expenditure and deletion of 40 posts. Please give details of the said expenditure and the 40 posts. According to the Government's assessment, what negative implications will be brought about by this drastic manpower cut to the operation of the "Nature Conservation and Country Parks" programme?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The original provision for Programme (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks in 2004-05 was \$395.7 million and the revised estimate for 2004-05 was \$420.6 million. There is an increase of \$24.9 million or 6.3%. This is mainly due to the increase in cash flow requirements in the revised estimate 2004-05 for a non-recurrent expenditure relating to the provision for the extension of 280 temporary jobs for cleansing and maintenance service to country parks and other venues in the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) amounting to \$23.3 million (as part of the Government's initiative announced in the 2004 Policy Address to extend 11 700 temporary jobs in the public sector to meet operational needs and provide further relief to those with low education, lesser skills and limited working experience).

The provision for 2005-06 is \$389.6 million, which is \$31 million or 7.4% lower than the revised estimate 2004-05 mainly because the provision for 2005-06 has not yet taken into account an increase in commitment of \$23 million which was approved by the Finance Committee on 4 March 2005 for the provision for the extension of temporary jobs for cleansing and maintenance service to country parks and other AFCD venues. The reduction in capital expenditure amounted to \$5 million mainly for the construction of public toilets and patrol launch for the protection and management of the marine parks also accounts for the decrease.

With regard to the 40 posts to be deleted in 2005-06 under Programme (2), the details are set out below-

Work Area and Deployment Arrangement	Rank of posts	No. of posts to be deleted
To reduce the opening hours of a visitor centre during weekdays with few visitors and other work to be shared by existing staff	Senior Field Assistant	1
To reprioritize the maintenance cycle and the improvement works of country park roads by re-arranging job priorities	Work Supervisor I	2
	Artisan	1
	Workman I	1
	Workman II	1
	Motor Driver	1

/Cont'd.....

Work Area and Deployment Arrangement	Rank of posts	No. of posts to be deleted
To reprioritize the services provided by the country parks management centres by closing 3 centres and the concerned services would be shared by other nearby centres	Field Assistant	3
	Artisan	6
	Workman I	18
	Workman II	5
	Typist	1
	Total	40

Reduction in staff resources is one of the major means in achieving the target of efficiency saving by the department. Deletion of 40 posts is achieved through natural wastage and the voluntary retirement scheme. The department would re-organize the priority of jobs and arrange outsourcing to minimize any possible impact to the public.

Signature _____
Name in block letters THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date 8 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(E)003

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

1089

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Does the estimate for "Nature Conservation" programme in 2005-06 include the necessary operational costs for the current efforts of further conserving the 12 ecologically important sites on private land? If yes, how much (including manpower cost) is required for the promotion of the new conservation policy?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

Under the new nature conservation policy, two conservation measures, namely Management Agreements and Public-private Partnership (PPP) are proposed for implementation to enhance the protection of the 12 priority sites. To better evaluate the effectiveness of these two measures, the department will conduct a pilot scheme first. The application period for the pilot scheme is from 1 December 2004 to 31 May 2005. A sum of \$5 million has been allocated from the Environment and Conservation Fund for implementing the pilot scheme for the Management Agreement option. Proposals submitted under the PPP option will be examined on their individual merits. The resource implications of each recommended PPP pilot project will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	6 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(E)004

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

1090

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The work of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) includes the promotion of public awareness of nature conservation and enforcement of nature conservation legislation. What are the specific measures and estimated provision for promoting public awareness of nature conservation in 2005-06? Does the Government have any plan to provide funding for the introduction of a single piece of legislation on nature conservation and the establishment of an enforcement agency so that the current problems of duplication of resources and multiple efforts made by various law-enforcing departments can be solved? Has the Government assessed how much public funds will be saved by adopting such an approach?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

AFCD will carry out the following publicity and education programmes for promoting public awareness of nature conservation in 2005-06:

- (a) promoting public appreciation of nature through publication of books, leaflets, posters, on-site interpretative materials, guided field visits, publishing special features in local newspapers and websites;
- (b) enriching AFCD websites as a one-stop gateway to information on nature conservation;
- (c) maintaining country parks education and visitor centres as well as the Endangered Species Resources Centre to provide visitors with information on nature conservation;
- (d) launching a marine conservation scheme including *Marine Parks Ambassador Programme*, *Marine Park Cleanup Day*, public seminars, guided field visits, painting competition, exhibition and publication of leaflets, posters etc; and
- (e) continuing the school visiting programme to convey the message on nature conservation to students.

The estimated provision for the above projects is around \$8.0 million.

As far as the current departmental structure and legislation on nature conservation are concerned, there is no duplication of resources or work. There is no plan to introduce any change to the present arrangement. We do not anticipate any savings in adopting the proposed approach.

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AFCD is the authority for nature conservation and is responsible for enforcing a number of legislation dedicated for such purpose. These include Forests and Countryside Ordinance (Cap 96), Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap 170), Animals and Plants Ordinance (Protection of Endangered Species) (Cap 187), Country Parks Ordinance (Cap 208) and Marine Parks Ordinance (Cap 476). In addition, AFCD also provides conservation advice to the Planning Department in land use planning under the Town Planning Ordinance (Cap. 131) and the Environmental Protection Department in controlling development under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Cap. 499). There are already established institutional arrangements and division of labour amongst various government bureaux/departments on nature conservation issues and there is no overlapping between their jurisdictions. Hence, the Administration has no intention to allocate extra resource to establish another authority on nature conservation.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	4 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(E)005

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

0425

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : There has been a rise in the number of hill fires attended to by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in the past two years, and it is expected that the figure for 2005-06 will continue to rise. What are the reasons for this? What specific plans will the Administration carry out to protect trees? What are the resources involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

There were 59 hill fires in 2003, which were lower than in previous years because of the comparatively wet weather. The wet weather and low number of hill fires in 2003 resulted in more vigorous growth of grasses. Hence, more fuel has been accumulated in the country parks. The autumn months of 2004 were relatively dry, hence the number of hill fires increased to 67 in that year. We estimate a similar number of hill fires in 2005 as in 2004.

In the coming year, AFCD will continue its efforts in preventing and combating hill fires. 22 hill fire fighting teams are on roster for 24 hours standby duties during the hill fire season from September to April. There are 11 fire lookouts at strategic locations to monitor and detect hill fires. Fire breaks will be maintained around major woodlands and hill fire black spots. 37 water tanks have been constructed along forest tracks within country parks to provide water for fighting hill fires. Together with law enforcement action on illegally lighting of fire in country parks, publicity and educational programmes will be launched in cooperation with other government departments to arouse public awareness in preventing hill fires. The estimated provision is about \$36 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	6 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(E)006

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

0611

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

- Question :
- (a) In each of the past five years, how many trees were destroyed by hill fires; and what were the amounts of expenditure in seedling production and planting respectively?
 - (b) In each of the past five years, other than hill fire reports, how many complaint cases concerning destroyed, damaged or removed trees were received by the department respectively? How many trees were involved? What were the amounts of expenditure in handling these cases? What is the estimated expenditure for 2005-06 in this area?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

- (a) In the past five years, the number of trees destroyed by hill fires and the amounts of expenditure in seedling production and planting are set out below-

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
No. of trees affected by hill fires	4 400	20 600	20 900	8 600	51 800
Expenditure in seedling production*	\$4.6M	\$4.5M	\$4.3M	\$3.8M	\$3.6M
Expenditure in seedling planting*	\$7.0M	\$9.8M	\$11.6M	\$10.1 M	\$9.0 M

* including direct labour cost, contract sums and materials cost.

- (b) In the past five years, the number of public complaints concerning destroyed, damaged or removed trees and the number of trees involved in the complaints are set out below-

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
No. of complaints on tree destruction	1	3	2	1	0
No. of complaints on tree damage	7	12	10	12	23
No. of complaints on tree removal	45	36	52	69	59
No. of trees involved	343	442	510	1,373	1,171

The resource requirements for dealing with such complaints mainly comprise the staff cost for investigating the complaint cases and carrying out enforcement actions where necessary. The annual expenditure for carrying out such duties was approximately \$0.4 million in each of the past five years and the estimated expenditure in 2005-06 remains the same.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	7 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(E)007

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead : 000 Operational expenses

0638

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Under this subhead, subventions to conservation and management of Ramsar site in 2005-06 are estimated at \$1.239 million, representing a significant reduction of about 60% as compared with the figure in 2003-04. What are the reasons for this? What measures are there to ensure the effective management of the site?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

The reduction in subvention is a public expenditure savings measure. Although the subvention will be reduced in 2005-06, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will make use of project-based service contracts to continue the partnership with non-government organizations (NGOs) in carrying out conservation and management work of the Ramsar site. Under the service contract arrangement, the government will ensure effective management of the site. The overall management of the Ramsar site will not be compromised.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	6 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(E)008

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

1644

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : How much resources and manpower have been earmarked by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) for the trees already listed in the Register of Old and Valuable Trees? What are the details of such work?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

The Works Branch of the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau co-ordinates the efforts of three Government departments (i.e. Leisure and Cultural Services Department, Lands Department and Housing Department) for the maintenance of the trees in the Old and Valuable Tree Register. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is only responsible for carrying out audit inspection and providing professional advice to the maintenance agents for 10 of the 527 trees listed in the Register. The work is shared out by the staff of AFCD as part of their normal duties.

The audit inspection of the rest of the trees in the Register is being carried out by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	6 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(E)009

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

1645

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

- Question :
- (a) Does the Administration have any plan in 2005-06 to plant trees again in those country park areas damaged by hill fires? If yes, what are the scales and locations for such efforts? What is the amount of expenditure involved?
 - (b) What measures are there to ensure that the reforestation areas have native plants?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has plans to plant about 900 000 trees seedlings in various country parks in 2005-06. Priority will be given to those sites affected by hill fires in Lantau, Pat Sin Leng, Tai Lam and Tai Mo Shan Country Parks. The estimated expenditure is about \$10.1 million.
- (b) In the coming year, about 60% of the tree seedlings to be planted in country parks will be native species. A mixed planting strategy needs to be adopted because adverse sites, fast growing and fire resistant species will be planted first to establish a woodland cover to favour the introduction of slow growing native species through natural succession or replacement planting at a later time to ensure the presence of native species.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	7 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(E)010

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead : 000 Operational expenses

1647

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : In 2005-06, a total of 40 posts will be deleted under this programme. What are the ranks and work areas of these posts?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

Details of the 40 posts to be deleted in 2005-06 under Programme (2) are as follows:-

Work Area and Deployment Arrangement	Rank of posts	No. of posts to be deleted
To reduce the opening hours of a visitor centre during weekdays with few visitors and other work to be shared by existing staff	Senior Field Assistant	1
To reprioritize the maintenance cycle and the improvement works of country park roads by re-arranging job priorities	Work Supervisor I	2
	Artisan	1
	Workman I	1
	Workman II	1
	Motor Driver	1
To reprioritize the services provided by the country parks management centres by closing 3 centres and the concerned services would be shared by other nearby centres	Field Assistant	3
	Artisan	6
	Workman I	18
	Workman II	5
	Typist	1
	Total	40

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

THOMAS C Y CHAN

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

8 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(E)011

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead : 000 Operational expenses

0591

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : It is stated that the estimated provision for Programme (2) involves a deletion of 40 posts as compared with 2004-05. Please provide details, including the rank and number of such posts, work area, reason for the deletion, and deployment arrangement following the deletion.

Asked by : Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply :

Reduction in staff resources is one of the major means in achieving the target of efficiency savings by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department. The 40 posts to be deleted are achieved through natural wastage and the voluntary retirement scheme. Details of the 40 posts to be deleted in 2005-06 under Programme (2) are as follows:-

Work Area and Deployment Arrangement	Rank of posts	No. of posts to be deleted
To reduce the opening hours of a visitor centre during weekdays with few visitors and other work to be shared by existing staff	Senior Field Assistant	1
To reprioritize the maintenance cycle and the improvement works of country park roads by re-arranging job priorities	Work Supervisor I	2
	Artisan	1
	Workman I	1
	Workman II	1
	Motor Driver	1
To reprioritize the services provided by the country parks management centres by closing 3 centres and the concerned services would be shared by other nearby centres	Field Assistant	3
	Artisan	6
	Workman I	18
	Workman II	5
	Typist	1
	Total	40

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

THOMAS C Y CHAN

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

8 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(E)012

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead : 600 Works

1820

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Regarding the construction of a public toilet cum refreshment kiosk and potable water supply for toilet facilities at Tai Tong, Tai Lam Country Park under Items 356 and 359 of Subhead 600, when will these projects be completed?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

The toilet cum kiosk at Tai Tong, Tai Lam Country Park will be completed in September 2005 and the water supply for the toilets, forest nursery and management centre at Tai Tong, Tai Lam Country Park will be completed in December 2006.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

THOMAS C Y CHAN

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

4 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(E)013

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

0590

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : In 2005-06, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will promote public education and publicity on nature conservation. What specific measures are involved? How much provision has been earmarked for conducting these education and publicity activities in 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The department will carry out the following publicity and education programmes for promoting nature conservation in 2005-06:

- (a) promoting public appreciation of nature through publication of books, leaflets, posters, on-site interpretative materials, guided field visits, publishing special features in local newspapers and websites;
- (b) enriching our websites as a one-stop gateway to information on nature conservation;
- (c) maintaining country parks education and visitor centres as well as the Endangered Species Resources Centre to provide visitors with information on nature conservation;
- (d) launching a marine conservation scheme including *Marine Parks Ambassador Programme*, *Marine Park Cleanup Day*, public seminars, guided field visits, painting competition, exhibition and publication of leaflets, posters etc; and
- (e) continuing the school visiting programme to convey the message on nature conservation to students.

The total provision for the above projects is around \$8.0 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	4 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(E)014

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

1419

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : In order to attract more visitors to local country parks, has the Government considered providing more of the following facilities in 2005-06 to make these parks even more convenient to visitors:

1. footpaths;
2. public toilets; and
3. location / co-ordinate signs for visitors?

If the above facilities are to be provided, what are their quantities? What is the amount of estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department plans to provide an addition of about 3,000 metres of footpaths in country parks in 2005-06. The estimated cost is about \$3.0 million.

In 2005-06, two new toilets at Tai Tong, Tai Lam Country Park and Jat's Incline, Ma On Shan Country Park will be completed. The total cost is about \$6.0 million.

There are already 6,770 directional signs and location markers in Country Parks. The department aims to improve some of these and put up additional 100 signs in 2005-06.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	7 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(E)015

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

1420

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : In 2005-06, how many trees and flowers will be planted in country parks by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)? What kinds of plants will be involved? Please provide detailed figures of trees and flowers to be planted in each country park and the estimated expenditure for the entire planting project.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

In 2005-06, AFCD plans to plant 900 000 seedlings of trees and shrubs in the following country parks. A table showing the species to be planted is attached at Annex. The estimated expenditure is about \$10.1 million.

Country Park	No. of tree seedlings to be planted
Aberdeen Country Park	5 000
Tai Tam Country Park	5 000
Tai Tam Country Park (Quarry Bay Extension)	6 000
Clear Water Bay Country Park	14 000
Tai Po Kau Special Area	17 000
Kam Shan Country Park	23 000
Shing Mun Country Park	24 000
Plover Cove Country Park	26 000
Tai Mo Shan Country Park	28 000
Ma On Shan Country Park	34 000
Lantau Country Parks	89 000
Pat Sin Leng Country Park	93 000
Sai Kung Country Parks	100 000
Proposed North Lantau (Extension) Country Park	205 000
Tai Lam Country Park	231 000
Total	900 000

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

THOMAS C Y CHAN

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

4 April 2005

List of Tree Species to be planted in Country Parks in 2005-06

Species 品種	Chinese Name (中文名稱)
<i>Acacia auriculiformis</i>	耳葉相思
<i>Acacia confusa</i>	台灣相思
<i>Acacia mangium</i>	大葉相思
<i>Acronychia pedunculata</i>	山油柑
<i>Adenantha pavonina var. microsperma</i>	海紅豆
<i>Ailanthus fordii</i>	常綠臭椿
<i>Alangium chinense</i>	八角楓
<i>Antidesma bunius</i>	五月茶
<i>Aporosa chinensis</i>	銀柴
<i>Aquilaria sinensis</i>	土沉香
<i>Archidendron clypearia</i>	猴耳環
<i>Archidendron lucidum</i>	亮葉猴耳環
<i>Artocarpus hypargyreus</i>	白桂木
<i>Bischofia javanica</i>	秋楓
<i>Bischofia polycarpa</i>	重陽木
<i>Bombax ceiba</i>	木棉
<i>Bridelia tomentosa</i>	土密樹
<i>Broussonetia papyrifera</i>	構樹
<i>Camellia crapnelliana</i>	紅皮糙果茶
<i>Camellia granthamiana</i>	大苞山茶
<i>Camellia oleifera</i>	油茶
<i>Carallia brachiata</i>	竹節樹
<i>Cassia fistula</i>	臘豬樹
<i>Cassia surattensis</i>	黃槐決明
<i>Castanopsis fissa</i>	鰲菊錐
<i>Casuarina equisetifolia</i>	木麻黃
<i>Celtis sinensis</i>	朴樹
<i>Choerospondias axillaris</i>	南酸棗
<i>Cinnamomum burmanni</i>	陰香
<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>	樟樹
<i>Cleistocalyx operculatus</i>	水翁

Species 品種	Chinese Name (中文名稱)
<i>Cordia dichroma</i>	破布木
<i>Cryptocarya concinna</i>	黃果厚殼桂
<i>Cunninghamia lanceolata</i>	杉
<i>Cyclobalanopsis</i>	竹葉青剛
<i>Cyclobalanopsis championii</i>	嶺南青剛
<i>Cyclobalanopsis edithiae</i>	華南青剛
<i>Cyclobalanopsis myrsinifolia</i>	小葉青剛
<i>Delonix regia</i>	鳳凰木
<i>Diospyros morrisiana</i>	羅浮柿
<i>Endospermum chinense</i>	黃桐
<i>Eriobotrya fragrans</i>	香花枇杷
<i>Eucalyptus citriodora</i>	檸檬桉
<i>Eucalyptus robusta</i>	大葉桉
<i>Eucalyptus torelliana</i>	毛葉桉
<i>Eurya chinensis</i>	米碎花
<i>Ficus microcarpa</i>	細葉榕
<i>Garcinia oblongifolia</i>	嶺南山竹子
<i>Gordonia axillaris</i>	大頭茶
<i>Grevillea banksii</i>	昆士蘭銀樺
<i>Grevillea robusta</i>	銀樺
<i>Ilex rotunda</i> var. <i>microcarpa</i>	小果鐵冬青
<i>Keteleeria fortunei</i>	油杉
<i>Koelreuteria bipinnata</i>	複羽葉欒樹
<i>Liquidambar formosana</i>	楓樹
<i>Lithocarpus</i>	硬殼柯
<i>Lithocarpus glaber</i>	柯
<i>Litsea cubeba</i>	木薑子
<i>Litsea glutinosa</i>	潺槁
<i>Litsea monopetala</i>	假柿木薑子
<i>Litsea rotundifolia</i> via <i>oblongifolia</i>	豺皮樟
<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>	紅膠木
<i>Macaranga tanarius</i>	血桐
<i>Machilus brevipflora</i>	短花潤楠
<i>Machilus chekiangensis</i>	浙江潤楠
<i>Machilus chinensis</i>	華潤楠

Species 品種	Chinese Name (中文名稱)
<i>Machilus gamblei</i>	黃心樹
<i>Machilus pauhoi</i>	刨花潤楠
<i>Machilus thunbergii</i>	紅楠
<i>Melaleuca quinquenevia</i>	白千層
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	苦楝
<i>Microcos paniculata</i>	破布葉
<i>Morus alba</i>	桑樹
<i>Myrica rubra</i>	楊梅
<i>Ormosia emarginata</i>	凹葉紅豆
<i>Ormosia semicastrata</i>	軟莢紅豆
<i>Peltophorum pterocarpum</i>	盾柱木
<i>Phyllanthus emblica</i>	餘甘子
<i>Prunus phaeosticta</i>	腺葉桂英
<i>Pterospermum heterophyllum</i>	翻白葉樹
<i>Reevesia thyrsoidea</i>	梭羅樹
<i>Rhaphiolepis indica</i>	石班木
<i>Rhodoleia championii</i>	紅花荷
<i>Sapium discolor</i>	山烏柏
<i>Sapium sebiferum</i>	烏柏
<i>Sarcosperma laurinum</i>	肉實樹
<i>Schefflera heptaphylla</i>	鵝掌柴
<i>Schima superba</i>	木荷樹
<i>Schima wallichii</i>	西南木荷
<i>Scolopia chinensis</i>	刺柊
<i>Spathodea campanulata</i>	火焰樹
<i>Sterculia lanceolata</i>	假頻婆
<i>Styrax suberifolius</i>	栓皮安息香
<i>Syzygium hancei</i>	韓氏蒲桃
<i>Syzygium jambos</i>	蒲桃
<i>Syzygium levinei</i>	山蒲桃
<i>Ternstroemia gymnanthera</i>	厚皮香
<i>Tutcheria championii</i>	石筆木
<i>Viburnum odoratissimum</i>	珊瑚樹

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(E)016

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead : 000 Operational expenses

1654

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Why 40 posts are to be deleted? What major types of work are covered by these posts? Will the deletion have any impact on the work area of nature conservation and country parks?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Ting-kwong

Reply :

Reduction in staff resources is one of the major means in achieving the target of efficiency savings by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department. The 40 posts to be deleted are achieved through natural wastage and the voluntary retirement scheme. The department will try to minimize possible impact to country parks and public services through redeployment of resources and reprioritizing our work. Details of the 40 posts to be deleted in 2005-06 under Programme Area 2 are as follows:-

Type of Work	Rank	No. of posts to be deleted	Possible impact and remedial measures
Country Parks ranger service	Senior Field Assistant	1	To reduce the opening hours of a visitor centre during weekdays with few visitors and other work to be shared by existing staff
Country Parks road works	Work Supervisor I	2	To reprioritize the maintenance cycle and the improvement works of country park roads by re-arranging job priorities
	Artisan	1	
	Workman I	1	
	Workman II	1	
	Motor Driver	1	
Country Parks management	Field Assistant	3	To reprioritize the services provided by the country parks management centres by closing 3 centres and the concerned services would be shared by other nearby centres
	Artisan	6	
	Workman I	18	
	Workman II	5	
	Typist	1	
	Total	40	

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

THOMAS C Y CHAN

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

8 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(E)017

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

1805

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

- Question :
- (a) How much resources will be reserved for the implementation of education and publicity on endangered species protection?
 - (b) How much resources will be reserved for the inspection of marine parks and marine reserves?
 - (c) How much resources will be reserved for the promotion of public education and publicity on nature conservation?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

- (a) The Government has reserved \$0.6 million for conducting public education and publicity on endangered species protection, including advertisements in MTR and KCR trains, Radio and TV APIs and the printing of leaflets. In addition, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department also maintains an Endangered Species Resources Centre to promote public awareness of protecting endangered species.
- (b) A total of \$7.55 million (PE \$4.15M; DE \$3.40M) has been reserved for duties involving law enforcement and patrolling of marine parks and marine reserve in 2005-06. This comprises an establishment of 27 permanent staff and 25 contract staff.
- (c) An estimate of about \$8.0 million has been reserved for the promotion of public education and publicity on nature conservation in 2005-06.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	6 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(E)018

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

1806

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Please give details of the 40 posts to be deleted under Programme (2).

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

Details of the 40 posts to be deleted in 2005-06 under Programme (2) are as follows:-

Work Area and Deployment Arrangement	Rank of posts	No. of posts to be deleted
To reduce the opening hours of a visitor centre during weekdays with few visitors and other work to be shared by existing staff	Senior Field Assistant	1
To reprioritize the maintenance cycle and the improvement works of country park roads by re-arranging job priorities	Work Supervisor I	2
	Artisan	1
	Workman I	1
	Workman II	1
	Motor Driver	1
To reprioritize the services provided by the country parks management centres by closing 3 centres and the concerned services would be shared by other nearby centres	Field Assistant	3
	Artisan	6
	Workman I	18
	Workman II	5
	Typist	1
	Total	40

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

THOMAS C Y CHAN

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 33 - Civil Engineering and Development Department Subhead :

Programme : (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The Administration recently indicated that the cross-boundary delivery of public fill to the Mainland would commence in 2005. What are the details? What is the estimated quantity of public fill to be delivered to the Mainland in 2005 and its percentage in terms of total generation of public fill in the Hong Kong Special Administration Region? What is the estimated cost?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The Administration signed a Cooperation Agreement with the Mainland Authority in March 2004 which permits delivery of public fill to reclamation sites in the Mainland. Subsequently, we have agreed in principle with the Mainland Authority the implementation details, which include material specification, delivery requirement, inspection and monitoring control to ensure that the use of public fill would not cause environmental problems. Suitable and surplus public fill will be delivered to the barging facilities, inspected and loaded onto barges for delivery to the Mainland reclamation sites. We estimate that the delivery could commence as early as October 2005 subject to the finalization of the implementation details. The quantity of public fill to be delivered to the Mainland from October to December 2005 is about 50% of those generated during the same period. The estimated cost for handling construction and demolition materials in 2005-06 is about \$146M, including \$30M which is additional requirement for the implementation of the cross-boundary delivery of public fill.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

T K TSAO

Post Title _____

Director of Civil Engineering
and Development

Date _____

8.4.2005

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)020

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06

Question Serial No.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

0433

Head : 33 - Civil Engineering and Development Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : In sub-paragraph 36, Civil Engineering and Development Department indicates that they will continue to formulate the implementation details with the Mainland authority with a view to starting cross-boundary delivery of public fill in 2005. Please give implementation details of the Co-operation Agreement on Cross-boundary Disposal of Dredged Mud and Public Fill, and their implications on staffing and other resources.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Wing-tat

Reply : The Administration signed a Cooperation Agreement with the Mainland Authority in March 2004 which permits delivery of public fill to reclamation sites in the Mainland. Subsequently, we have agreed in principle with the Mainland Authority the implementation details, which include material specification, delivery requirement, inspection and monitoring control to ensure that the use of public fill would not cause environmental problems. Suitable and surplus public fill will be delivered to the barging facilities, inspected and loaded onto barges for delivery to the Mainland reclamation sites. We estimate that the delivery could commence as early as October 2005 subject to the finalization of the implementation details. The estimated cost for handling construction and demolition materials in 2005-06 is about \$146M, including \$30M which is the additional cost of managing public fill for export with no staffing implications.

Signature _____

Name in block letter _____

Post Title _____

Date _____

T K TSAO

Director of Civil Engineering
and Development

8.4.2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)021

Head : 39 - Drainage Services Department Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Sewage Services

0441

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Please list out in details the expenses in operating the sewage treatment works.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Wing-tat

Reply : The details of estimated expenses in operating Drainage Services Department's sewage treatment works in 2005-06 are as follows -

<u>Item</u>	<u>\$M</u>
Staff costs	201.1
Electricity	205.0
Maintenance and operation services	215.7
Maintenance materials	68.4
Chemicals	<u>55.8</u>
Total	<u>746.0</u>

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ F.K. LAI

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 7 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(E)022

Question Serial No.

0158

Head : 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Energy efficiency and conservation, and alternative energy

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What is the estimated expenditure for “promoting wider use of renewable energy” in 2005-06? What are the details?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

In 2005-06, EMSD will continue to provide professional support and advice to government bureaux/departments, Council of Sustainable Development and the private sector on issues relating to the development of renewable energy in Hong Kong. The major activities in this regard include:-

- a) Carrying out studies on overseas practices in providing support to the users of renewable energy;
- b) Carrying out studies on overseas codes and standards on the use of hydrogen as an alternative fuel;
- c) Carrying out studies on measures to enhance the power output of the Building Integrated Photovoltaic (BIPV) installation at Wanchai Tower;
- d) Carrying out performance monitoring of the BIPV installation at the new EMSD HQs;
- e) Carrying out studies to identify suitable government premises for renewable energy retrofits;
- f) Carrying out wind resource monitoring at 5 sites;
- g) Promoting the connection of small renewable energy installations to the electricity grid through the publication of a set of technical guidelines and briefing seminars;
- h) Publishing an information booklet to promote the wider use of solar water heating technologies; and
- i) Promoting the adoption of renewable energy technologies in buildings through liaison with developers and property management companies.

The expenditure in 2005-06 for the above activities is estimated to be around \$1.45M.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Roger S. H. LAI

Post Title Director of Electrical and
Mechanical Services

Date 8 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(E)023

Question Serial No.

0087

Head : 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Energy efficiency and conservation, and alternative energy

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Regarding the promotion of energy efficiency and conservation and renewable energy, have the authorities allocated funds in 2003-04 and 2004-05 for the commissioning of consultancy studies? If so, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

Expenditures for the consultancy studies commissioned by EMSD on energy efficiency, energy conservation and renewable energy in the years 2003-04 and 2004-05 are listed below:-

<i>Title</i>	<i>Expenditure in 2003-04</i>	<i>Expenditure in 2004-05</i>
1. Consultancy study on developing energy consumption indices for Hong Kong	\$498,000	Nil
2. Territory-wide implementation study for water-cooled air-conditioning systems in Hong Kong	\$1,743,000	\$739,000
3. Transport energy consumption survey	\$200,000	Nil
4. Study on the potential applications of renewable energy in Hong Kong	\$507,000	\$1,011,000
5. Implementation study for water-cooled air conditioning systems in Wanchai and Causeway Bay Districts	\$2,058,000	\$1,090,000
6. Consultancy study on life cycle energy analysis of building construction	\$1,697,000	\$2,947,000
7. Developing a performance based building energy code using total energy budget approach	\$579,000	\$734,000
8. Implementation study for a district cooling system at South East Kowloon development	\$329,000	\$77,000

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Roger S. H. LAI

Post Title _____ Director of Electrical and
Mechanical Services

Date _____ 4 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(E)024

Question Serial No.

0788

Head : 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Energy supply; electrical, gas and nuclear safety

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The number of 5-yearly LPG vehicle fuel tank approval and revalidation cases to be processed will peak in 2005-06. Has EMSD allocated adequate resources to deal with these cases? If so, what are the details? If not, why?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

The number of LPG fuel tanks to be approved and revalidated will increase from 1,972 in 2004 to about 6,400 in 2005. The surge is mainly because of the increase in the number of LPG fuel tanks due for the 5-yearly revalidation requirement under the Gas Safety Ordinance (Cap. 51).

EMSD has already established revalidation procedures in conjunction with the LPG vehicle servicing trade and the Transport Department. The actual revalidation work is undertaken by the industry. In order to cope with the surge in the number of LPG fuel tanks due for revalidation in the coming two years, we have facilitated the industry to set up adequate revalidation facilities. The established revalidation facilities for testing and examination of LPG fuel tanks are capable of handling about 10,000 tanks per year.

EMSD has also allocated adequate resources to carry out safety inspections, publicity and monitoring to deal with the surge in revalidation cases. We have widely publicized the need for revalidation, and actively monitored the progress of the revalidation exercise. Pamphlets and guidelines on the requirements and procedures of LPG fuel tank revalidation have been distributed to owners of LPG vehicles and members of the vehicle servicing trade. Further, we have arranged sending letters to owners of LPG vehicles to remind them of the need for revalidation 3 months before the revalidation due date. Vehicle examiners of the Transport Department will also check the validity of LPG fuel tanks during the annual licensing examinations of LPG vehicles.

EMSD will continue to monitor the progress and to carry out safety inspections of the revalidation work on LPG fuel tanks. We will also continue to disseminate the necessary information to the LPG vehicle trade by distributing some 40,000 pamphlets and 6,000 letters in 2005 and announcing the revalidation requirement through the quarterly taxi newsletter issued by the Transport Department and the EMSD website. In collaboration with relevant government departments and trade associations, we will conduct 9 briefings for members of taxi associations through the taxi conferences of the Transport Department and 7 seminars for

members of the vehicle servicing trade and owners of LPG vehicles.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Roger S. H. LAI

	Director of Electrical and
Post Title	Mechanical Services

Date	8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(E)025

0166

Head : 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Energy efficiency and conservation, and alternative energy

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : (A) What were the specific work and expenditure for promoting the use of “renewable energy” in 2004-05?
(B) What are the work plan and estimated expenditure for promoting the use of “renewable energy” in 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

EMSD provides professional support and advice to government bureaux/departments, Council of Sustainable Development and the private sector on issues relating to the development of renewable energy in Hong Kong.

(A) Major work undertaken by EMSD in 2004-05 included:-

- a) Technical support to Council of Sustainable Development in the drafting of the Invitation and Response Document for a public engagement process on Sustainable Development;
- b) Completion of the performance study on the Building Integrated Photovoltaic (BIPV) installations at Wanchai Tower;
- c) Publication of an information booklet on renewable energy;
- d) Carrying out studies on overseas codes and standards on the use of hydrogen as an alternative fuel;
- e) Giving talks on renewable energy and its related technologies to educate the public, including school students, on the benefits of renewable energy;
- f) Installation of 5 wind measurement stations to support the territory-wide wind measurement programme;
- g) Compilation of a set of Guidelines for Grid-connection of small renewable energy installations; and
- h) Commission of a consultancy study on the potential applications of renewable

energy in Hong Kong.

Expenditure in 2004-05 for the research, development and promotion of renewable energy technologies is \$1.1M.

(B) Work to be undertaken by EMSD in 2005-06 include:-

- a) Carrying out studies on overseas practices in providing support to the users of renewable energy;
- b) Further studies on overseas codes and standards on the use of hydrogen as an alternative fuel;
- c) Carrying out studies on measures to enhance the power output of the BIPV installation at Wanchai Tower;
- d) Performance monitoring of the BIPV installation at the new EMSD HQs;
- e) Carrying out studies to identify suitable government premises for renewable energy retrofits;
- f) Carrying out wind resource monitoring at 5 sites;
- g) Promoting the connection of small renewable energy installations to the electricity grid through the publication of a set of technical guidelines and briefing seminars;
- h) Publishing an information booklet to promote the wider use of solar water heating technologies; and
- i) Promoting the adoption of renewable energy technologies in buildings through liaison with developers and property management companies.

Expenditure in 2005-06 in this regard is estimated to be around \$1.45M.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	Roger S. H. LAI
Post Title	Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services
Date	8 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(E)026

Question Serial No.

0807

Head : 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) - Energy efficiency and conservation, and alternative energy

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The Government has indicated that it will promote public awareness of energy efficiency and conservation. What energy saving measures will be included? Have the government departments set their own energy saving targets? What is the Government's estimated expenditure for energy in 05/06? Is it an increase/decrease when compared to 04/05? Why?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwan-yuen, Andrew

Reply :

The Government has been promoting the awareness of energy efficiency and conservation in both the public and the private sector through a series of initiatives:

- issuing energy saving guidelines, eg, setting air-conditioning temperature to 25.5 degree Celsius in the summer months,
- introducing the practice of energy audits for buildings,
- launching an energy saving competition for the private sector,
- administering an energy efficiency registration scheme for buildings,
- administering an energy efficiency labelling scheme for electrical appliances, office equipment and vehicles,
- introducing the wider use of water-cooled air-conditioning systems,
- implementing a series of public education programmes such as maintaining an educational website, organising outreach talks and carnivals, and distributing publicity materials through various channels including the media.

In early 2003, the Government set targets for reducing its electricity consumption by 1.5%, 3%, 4.5% and 6% for each of the four ensuing financial years respectively, with 2002/03 as the base year for comparison.

It is anticipated that in 2005/06, Government Bureaux and Departments can achieve the required target, with due allowances given to activity changes. The electricity expenditure for 2005/06 is estimated to be \$1,852 million, which represents a reduction of 1.5% when compared to 2004/05.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Roger S. H. LAI

Post Title _____ Director of Electrical and
Mechanical Services

Date _____ 8 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(E)027

Question Serial No.

0547

Head : 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Energy efficiency and conservation, and alternative energy

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What substantial progress has been made in promoting wider use of renewable energy? What are the indicators? What are the resources involved?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

EMSD has been providing professional support and advice to government bureaux/departments and the private sector on issues relating to the development of renewable energy in Hong Kong. In addition, EMSD has undertaken a number of tasks to gather relevant information to facilitate the mapping of a long-term direction for the development of renewable energy. Indicators of the work performed are the better understanding and acceptance of renewable energy by the general public, and the increased number of renewable energy installations by both the Government and the private sector.

Major tasks undertaken by EMSD on renewable energy include:-

1. Providing technical support to Council of Sustainable Development in the drafting of the Invitation and Response Document for a public engagement process on Sustainable Development;
2. Commissioning a consultancy study on the potential applications of renewable energy in Hong Kong;
3. Carrying out a performance study on the Building Integrated Photovoltaic (BIPV) installations at Wanchai Tower;
4. Compiling a set of Technical Guidelines for grid connection of small renewable energy installations;
5. Carrying out studies on overseas codes and standards on the use of hydrogen as an alternative fuel;
6. Carrying out wind resource monitoring at 5 sites;
7. Giving talks on renewable energy and its related technologies to educate the public, including school students, on the benefits of renewable energy; and

8. Publishing an information booklet on renewable energy.

The expenditure in 2004-05 for the research, development and promotion of renewable energy technologies is \$1.1M. The expenditure in 2005-06 in this regard is estimated to be around \$1.45M.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Roger S. H. LAI

Post Title Director of Electrical and
Mechanical Services

Date 8 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(E)028

Question Serial No.

0605

Head : 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Energy supply; electrical, gas and nuclear safety

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : One of the matters requiring special attention in 2005-06 for Programme (1) is that EMSD will “monitor the voluntary replacement of diesel light buses with LPG light buses”. What are the progress and results of the replacement scheme? What is the accumulated expenditure? What is the estimated provision for the scheme in 2005-06? Has the department considered strengthening promotion and publicity of the scheme? Will the number of filling stations and maintenance workshops be increased?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

As at mid-March 2005, 1,659 LPG light buses are licensed for use on the roads, representing about 26% of a total of 6,335 public and private light buses. Since the introduction of the voluntary incentive scheme in August 2002, nearly 80% of the owners of the newly registered light buses have chosen LPG models.

The accumulated expenditure under the voluntary incentive scheme for the licensed LPG light buses is around \$92 million as at end-March 2005. Some \$128 million have been budgeted for around 2,130 diesel light buses to switch to LPG ones in 2005-06.

EMSD have regularly disseminated information to the owners of light buses through briefings, seminars, pamphlets, posters, and the EMSD website. We will continue to promote the voluntary incentive scheme through different channels in conjunction with relevant government departments and trade associations.

The Government will continue to look for suitable sites for LPG filling stations for the convenience of LPG vehicle users. The number of LPG filling stations has increased from 45 in 2003 to 50 at present. Six more LPG filling stations are being designed or constructed and they are scheduled for completion between mid-2005 and early 2006. Provided that the safety requirements can be met, the Government will require all new petrol filling stations to provide LPG filling service through land lease conditions. We will also continue to disseminate to the vehicle service trade the requirements for setting up LPG vehicle workshops. As the number of LPG light buses increases, it is expected that the market for the provision of repair service for the LPG fuel system will increase correspondingly.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Roger S. H. LAI

Post Title Director of Electrical and
Mechanical Services

Date 8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)029

Question Serial No.

0610

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (4) Water

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The financial provisions allocated to department(s) related to the monitoring of water quality under this programme for 2005-06 will be 4.3% less than that of 2004-05. Given this reduction in financial provisions, how can the government ensure that the work related to the monitoring of water quality and tackling of water pollution would not be affected, and that problems related to water pollution could be solved the soonest?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : The reduction is the result of a combination of the full-year effect of the 2005 civil service pay cut, efficiency gains, and refocusing of enforcement and complaints-handling efforts. There are no plans to cut back on the existing core monitoring programmes. Similarly there are no plans to reduce the investment in capital infrastructure aimed at solving water pollution problems.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)030

Question Serial No.

1101

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (6) Nature Conservation

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment)
/ Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The estimated provision of \$3.2 million under the Programme "Nature Conservation" for 2005-06 is more or less the same as those for the previous two years. Under such a financial arrangement, how will the administration achieve the policy objectives of further enhancing nature conservation?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply : Following the merger of the Environment Branch of Environment, Transport and Works Bureau (ETWB) and the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) on 1 April 2005, the new EPD will take over the responsibilities of formulating policies and overseeing the implementation of government programmes on nature conservation, which were previously performed by the Environment Branch of ETWB.

While the provision for the Programme "Nature Conservation" of Head 44 under EPD for 2005-06 is more or less the same as those for the previous two years, we have been implementing measures to contain costs through reprioritising duties and streamlining procedures. Such efficiency savings and improvement measures have been factored into the calculation of the provision for the Programme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)031

Question Serial No.

0153

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : It is estimated that the numbers of chemical waste collector licences and chemical waste disposal licences to be issued in 2005 will decrease drastically. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : Most of the chemical waste collectors and disposal facilities have established their business for quite some time and the number of licences in force remains steady in recent years. Therefore, the number of licences issued each year depends mainly on the number of licences expiring during the year. Starting from April 2003, the Environmental Protection Department extended the validity period of waste collector and disposal licences from two to five years and two to three years respectively as a means of helping the trade. As a result of this initiative, substantially less licences will need to be renewed in 2005 as compared with 2004.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)032

Question Serial No.

0155

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Why is the revised estimate for 2004-05 decreased drastically by 25% as compared to the original estimate?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : For 2004-05, the 25% decrease in the revised estimate under Programme 2 as compared to its original estimate is mainly due to reduced cash flow requirements for Item 568 and Item 570 under Subhead 700. Details are given below:

Item 568 - This item covers the one-off grant for the voluntary installation of particulate removal devices onto pre-Euro heavy diesel vehicles. The original estimate of \$199.9 million was based on the full number of vehicles eligible for the grant. This estimate was revised down to \$118 million because some eligible vehicles had retired during the installation phase, and some had opted not to take up the grant.

Item 570 - This item covers the one-off grant for voluntary replacement of diesel Public Light Buses (PLB) by Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) ones. An amount of \$112.2 million was originally budgeted for replacement of about 1870 diesel PLBs older than 10 years. The estimate was revised down to \$62.8 million because of an unexpected interruption in the supply of new LPG PLBs in the second half of 2004. The grant for these delayed replacements had thus been deferred up to the end of 2005.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)033

Question Serial No.

0156

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Please explain the Administration's plan to bring about a significant increase in the percentage of "monitoring stations complying with long-term Air Quality Objectives" from 15% in 2004 to 50% in 2005.

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : To achieve long-term improvements to the air quality in Hong Kong, it is necessary to improve the quality of air in the region as a whole. For this purpose, the governments of the Hong Kong SAR and Guangdong reached a consensus in April 2002 to aim at cutting emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, respirable suspended particulates and volatile organic compounds by 40%, 20%, 55% and 55% respectively in 2010, taking 1997 as base year. Upon the achievement of these targets, the air quality in Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta will significantly improve.

However, the relatively low compliance rate with the long-term Air Quality Objectives (AQO) in 2004 at 15% was the result of not only the emissions in the region but also the frequent days with calm, warm and sunny weather conditions that favoured the formation and accumulation of photochemical smog. In our forecast, 2005 is assumed to be a normal year in terms of weather conditions, which should have a compliance rate with the long-term AQO of around 50%.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)034

Question Serial No.

0157

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Please provide details regarding the investigations on indoor and toxic air pollution to be conducted in 2005-06 and the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : (1) On indoor air pollution, a study is being conducted on existing emission standards for furnishing products such as wood based panels and carpets, and the availability of low-emitting furnishing products in the local market. The findings will help assess the feasibility of introducing new measures for controlling sources of indoor air pollution in Hong Kong. The study will be completed by the second quarter of 2005 and will cost around \$200,000.

(2) In 2004-05, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) monitored the toxic air pollutant levels in Central / Western and Tsuen Wan at a cost of about \$800,000. The average toxic air pollutant levels in Hong Kong are found to be low and comparable to those of other metropolises. In 2005-06, the EPD will continue to monitor toxic air pollutants in the two sites at an estimated annual recurrent cost of \$800,000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)035

Question Serial No.

0159

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What is the estimated expenditure for the commissioning of feasibility studies on extension schemes for existing landfills? What are the details?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The estimated costs for the detailed feasibility studies on the three landfill extension schemes, namely, North East New Territories Landfill Extension, South East New Territories Landfill Extension and West New Territories Landfill Extensions, are \$15 million, \$10 million and \$32.6 million respectively. The scope of these studies includes the carrying out of ground investigation, engineering and environmental impact assessments, outline design, examination of land issues, public consultation and preparation of submission for planning approval.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. KWOK

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)036

Question Serial No.

0160

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (3) Noise

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Among the noise complaints handled by the Department over the past three years, how many of them involved noise generated by vessels in typhoon shelters each year?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : Among the noise complaints handled by the Environmental Protection Department over the past three years, six complaints in 2002, four complaints in 2003 and four complaints in 2004 involved noise generated by vessels in typhoon shelters.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. KWOK

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

4 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)037

Question Serial No.

0161

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (3) Noise

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What is the total estimated expenditure for 2005-06 with respect to enforcing the new provisions of the Noise Control Ordinance holding the management of bodies corporate personally liable for repeated noise offences? What are the details?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The Environmental Protection Department will enforce the new provisions as an integral part of the Noise Control Ordinance using the existing resources. No additional resource is allocated for the purpose in 2005-06.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)038

Question Serial No.

0607

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The risk-based local standards for contaminated land assessment will be reviewed in 2005-06. What are the details of the review? How much resources will be involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The existing contaminated land standards are in need of updating to bring them into line with local conditions and current worldwide practice. The new set of standards will be "risk based", which means that the decision on whether and how to conduct remediation will depend on the risk that a contaminated site poses to human health, taking into account different locally-applicable exposure pathways and land use categories.

We aim at completing the development work within 2005-06. We shall seek comments from stakeholders on the draft standards before implementation.

For 2005-06, we plan to deploy one Environmental Protection Officer on this task. As the review will be carried out by our existing staff, no additional resources are required.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)039

Question Serial No.

0608

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What is the estimated expenditure for implementing the levy of tyre tax? What are the details?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The Environmental Protection Department has completed a study on Product Responsibility Scheme (PRS) for waste tyres. In the study, the impacts, costs and benefits of different PRS options including levies to finance the collection and recycling of waste tyres were examined. The Government is now reviewing the study recommendations before consulting the industry and the public later this year. The estimated expenditure for implementing the levy of tyre tax is not yet available at this stage.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)040

Question Serial No.

0609

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (6) Nature Conservation

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment)
/ Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : For 2005-06, what is the plan to enhance the communication and co-operation with the Mainland on nature conservation issues? How much resources will be involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : In 2005-06, the Administration will continue to work closely with the relevant Mainland authorities on nature conservation through participation in the three special panels under the Hong Kong Guangdong Joint Working Group on Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection. The three panels are:

- (i) the Mirs Bay and Deep Bay (Shenzhen Bay) Areas Environmental Management Special Panel, which is established to strengthen cooperation on environmental management issues and exchange information on projects in Hong Kong and Guangdong that may have environment impacts on the Mirs Bay and Deep Bay areas. This Panel normally meets twice a year;
- (ii) the Hong Kong Guangdong Afforestation and Conservation Special Panel, which is established to maintain close contact and cooperation between Hong Kong and Guangdong on afforestation matters. Training programmes on afforestation will be organized for officials from both sides in 2005-06; and
- (iii) the Hong Kong Guangdong Marine Resources and Conservation Special Panel, which is established to provide a forum for Hong Kong and Guangdong to exchange information on the protection of marine resources and conservation of coral, Chinese White Dolphins and Green Turtles. This Panel normally meets once every year.

The communication work with the Mainland authorities on nature conservation is shared out by officers in the Environmental Protection Department and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department as part of their normal duties.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)041

Question Serial No.

0637

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (5) Environmental Assessment and Planning

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment)
/ Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : 1. How many cases have been found in violation of the conditions included in the environmental permits over the past three years? What actions have the Government taken to punish the violators? What are the resources involved?
2. Under the existing establishment, what is the total number of staff designated to monitor the enforcement of permit conditions? What is the average number of on-site inspections?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : 1. Over the past three years, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has identified 7 cases of non-compliance with environmental permit conditions and issued warning letters to them. Subsequently, 6 of these cases have been rectified and no further enforcement action was taken against them. The remaining one is currently under further investigation.
2. EPD deploys 17 staff on the enforcement of permit conditions under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance. In 2004, the Department carried out an average of 65 on-site inspections a month.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)042

Question Serial No.

0711

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

- Question :
1. Please list out the areas, the maximum design capacities, the existing volume handled and the names of the operators for respective waste transfer stations.
 2. Please list out the expiry dates of the operation contracts for respective waste transfer stations, the fees payable by the Government to the operators for handling waste per tonne and the minimum commitment fee undertaken by the Government to pay to the operators each year.

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

- Reply : 1. The names of the contractors as well as the site areas, maximum design capacities and daily averages of waste handled by the respective refuse transfer stations (RTSs) are listed as follows:

Refuse Transfer Stations	Contractors	Site Area (hectare)	Design Capacity (tonnes/day)	Daily Average of Waste Handled in 2004 (tonnes/day)
Kowloon Bay RTS (KBTS)	Swire SITA Waste Services Ltd	2.2	1,800	379
Sha Tin RTS (STTS)	Ditto	1.8	1,200	628
Island West RTS (IWTS)	Ditto	1.35	1,000	455
Outlying Islands Transfer Facilities (OITF)	Ditto	1.85	611	138
North West New Territories RTS (NWNTTS)	Ditto	1.25	1,100	764
Island East RTS (IETS)	Island East Transfer Station Co. Ltd.	1.2	1,200	842
West Kowloon RTS (WKTS)	South China Transfer Ltd.	1.9	2,500	2,004
North Lantau RTS (NLTS)	Ecoserve Ltd.	1.75	650 (Phase I)	137

2. The contract expiry dates of the RTS contracts, waste handling fees paid to the contractors in 2004, and the respective minimum handling fees are summarised below. The minimum handling fees were determined with respect to the minimum tonnages which were specified by the Environmental Protection Department in the contracts based on the operation mode of the RTSs as well as the planned developments and expected waste throughput of the service regions.

Refuse Transfer Stations	Contract Expiry Date (15-year Contract Period)	Annual Waste Handling Fees in 2004 (\$ million)	Average Waste Handling Cost in 2004 (\$/tonne)	Minimum Amount of Waste to be handled per month (tonnes)	Minimum Monthly Waste Handling Fees (\$ million)
KBTS	Apr 2005	56.2	405	1,000	3.7
STTS	Oct 2009	29.1	127	9,000	2.4
IWTS	Apr 2012	46.0	276	15,000	3.8
OITF	Mar 2013	38.1	754	6,700	3.0
NWNTTS	Sep 2016	19.4	69	7,000	1.1
IETS	Nov 2007	75.2	244	28,000	6.2
WKTS	Jun 2012	70.2	96	39,000	4.9
NLTS	May 2013	20.4	406	3,000	1.7

Signature	
Name in block letters	K. K. Kwok
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection
Date	6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)043

Question Serial No.

0989

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The Policy Address has pointed out that the Programme on Source Separation of Waste will be further promoted. How much expenditure will be involved? What is the breakdown of related expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The Environmental Protection Department will allocate around \$3.7 million in 2005-06 to promote the Source Separation of Waste Programme. About \$2.8 million will be spent on public education and outreach programmes to estates, and the remaining \$0.9 million will be used to provide advice and technical support to the participating housing estates.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)044

Question Serial No.

1640

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What is the government expenditure for implementing policies to improve indoor air pollution in the coming year? What are the major programmes?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : To improve indoor air quality, we have budgeted in the coming year \$725,000 for continuing the operation of:

- (a) the Indoor Air Quality Information Centre to disseminate indoor air quality management information and conduct roadshows to promote public awareness of the importance of indoor air quality; and
- (b) the Indoor Air Quality Certification Scheme to certify office buildings and public places meeting "good" or "excellent" indoor air quality levels.

In addition, a study is being conducted on existing emission standards for furnishing products such as wood based panels and carpets, and the availability of low-emitting furnishing products in the local market. The findings will help assess the feasibility of introducing new measures to control sources of indoor air pollution in Hong Kong. The study will be completed by the second quarter of 2005 and will cost around \$200,000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)045

Question Serial No.

1641

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention that the Administration will continue to explore ways to encourage the use of cleaner vehicles and fuels and technologies in the coming year. In this connection, what are the specific studies being conducted by the Government? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : As an on-going effort, the Administration has been monitoring closely the development of cleaner vehicle fuels, vehicle engines and after-exhaust emission control devices. In the coming year, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) will test the use of advanced traps on local buses and trucks to reduce particulates and nitrogen oxides, and will assist a company in the launch of a trial of a hydrogen vehicle. EPD has reserved \$300,000 for the test of the traps. No expenditure will be required for the trial of the hydrogen vehicle as it is a private sector initiative funded by the company. As preliminary studies, EPD will also explore the feasibility of gas-fuelled buses and extending the use of liquefied petroleum gas vehicles, together with relevant departments and using existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

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Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
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Director of Environmental Protection

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)046

Question Serial No.

1643

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (6) Nature Conservation

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment)
/ Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : With regard to nature conservation, what are the differences between the work of the Environmental Protection Department and that of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department? Is there an issue of overlapping of work?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : Following the merger of the Environment Branch of Environment, Transport and Works Bureau (ETWB) and the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) on 1 April 2005, the new EPD will take over the responsibilities of formulating policies and overseeing the implementation of Government programmes on nature conservation, which were previously performed by the Environment Branch of ETWB.

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is the implementation agent of government programmes on nature conservation. Its responsibilities include management and protection of country and marine parks and special areas, provision of nature conservation advice on development proposals, promotion of public awareness of nature conservation, and licensing control of international trade in endangered species, etc. With the clear demarcation in the roles and responsibilities between the new EPD and AFCD, there is no overlapping of work between them.

Signature _____

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K. K. Kwok

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Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)047

Question Serial No.

1648

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What is the estimated expenditure earmarked for the study to promote the reduction in the use of plastic bags? What are the details of the programme? Regarding the study on plastic bag levy or charges, would the Administration inform us the practices of which places it intends to make reference to? What are the manpower or consultancy fees involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) will continue to reinforce the message of reduction of plastic bags through publicity programmes and campaigns. EPD will organise programmes jointly with the Environmental Campaign Committee with some of the major stakeholders in the retail industry in mid 2005 to promote "Bring your own bag". EPD will also expand the scope of plastic bag recovery under the territory-wide Source Separation of Waste Programme through which plastic bags, bottles and other plastic wastes are collected together for recycling. The cost to be incurred in the Source Separation of Waste Programme will be \$3.7 million. Staff cost will be absorbed by the department.

Separately, EPD will conduct a study to examine options to reduce plastic bag waste and evaluate their impacts and costs/benefits. It will also look into the experiences of different cities in reducing plastic bag waste. The public will be consulted before any decision on the way forward is made. The estimated expenditure for the study on reduction of plastic bags is estimated to be about \$2 million.

Signature _____

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K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)048

Question Serial No.

0061

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Regarding the development of product responsibility schemes, please inform this Council:

- (a) Have any consultancy studies been conducted on such? If yes, please provide details and the consultancy fees involved;
- (b) In respect of the development of such schemes, what is the amount of expenditure earmarked by the Environmental Protection Department in 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply : (a) The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has just completed a consultancy study on Product Responsibility Scheme (PRS) for batteries and waste tyres. The cost of the study is about \$900,000. In the study, the impacts, costs and benefits of different PRS options were examined. For batteries, the Government has adopted the consultant's recommendation to implement a voluntary PRS programme for rechargeable batteries. In this regard, more than 30 battery and electronic equipment producers have agreed to participate and a recycling programme will be launched in April 2005. For waste tyres, the Government is reviewing the study recommendations before consulting the industry and the public later this year.

- (b) In 2005-06, the work to be carried out by EPD for developing PRS includes 2 studies and 3 pilot projects. A study has commenced in February 2005 to examine PRS options for waste electrical and electronic equipment. Another study on beverage containers will be initiated later this year. Apart from these 2 studies, 3 pilot projects to recover and recycle waste tyres as well as electrical and electronic equipment will also be carried out. The total expenditure in 2005-06 for the above 2 studies (\$1.3 million) and 3 pilot projects (around \$4.6 million) is about \$6 million.

In addition to the above expenditure, EPD will also work with the battery trade to implement a voluntary PRS scheme to recover rechargeable batteries for recycling. The programme is funded by the trade but EPD has earmarked about \$0.5 million for public education and promotion of the scheme in 2005-06.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Post Title _____

Date _____

K. K. Kwok

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)049

Question Serial No.

0062

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Regarding the examination of the construction of large-scale waste treatment facilities in Hong Kong, please inform this Council:

- (a) Have any consultancy studies been conducted on such? If yes, please provide details and the consultancy fees involved;
- (b) Details of the overseas visits on this subject for the past 3 years and the expenditure incurred;
- (c) What is the amount of expenditure earmarked by the Government in 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply : (a) A consultancy study on the review of integrated waste management technologies for municipal solid waste was commissioned by the Environmental Protection Department in August 2002 at a fee of \$2 million. This consultancy study aims to assess the Expressions of Interest proposals on various waste treatment technologies submitted by the local and international waste management industry with a view to identifying technology option(s) which are most suitable for the development of large scale integrated waste management facilities in Hong Kong. An Advisory Group on Waste Management Facilities and 5 sub-groups have been set up to assist the Government in evaluating the findings of the study.

(b) A visit to modern waste management facilities in Japan and Korea by 10 members of the Advisory Group on Waste Management Facilities and its sub-groups as well as 2 representatives from the Environment, Transport & Works Bureau and Environmental Protection Department was conducted in November 2004. The total cost for this visit was around \$209,500.

(c) The amount of expenditure earmarked for the above consultancy study in 2005-06 is around \$ 0.663 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

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Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
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6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)050

Question Serial No.

1863

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Subhead (No. & title):
Department

Programme : (1) Waste, (2) Air & (3) Noise

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Concerning the revised estimate in 2004-05, the provision has reduced by 6.8% under Programme (1), 25.3% under Programme (2) and 5.5% under Programme (3). What account for such a great difference as compared to the original estimate?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply : **Programme (1) Waste**

The lower provision of 6.8% in the revised estimate for 2004-05 as compared to its original estimate under Programme (1) is mainly due to less payment for the operation of waste facilities arising from a decrease in chemical waste and oily waste from vessels received at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre as well as a decrease in commercial and industrial waste delivered to refuse transfer stations. Furthermore, the decrease in provision was also attributed to the inclusion of an amount of \$74 million as contingency reserve in the original estimate, which was not required and hence deducted from the revised estimate.

Programme (2) Air

The lower provision of 25.3% in the revised estimate for 2004-05 as compared to its original estimate under Programme (2) is mainly due to reduced cash flow requirements for Item 568 and Item 570 under Subhead 700. Details are given below:

Item 568 - This item covers the one-off grant for the voluntary installation of particulate removal devices onto pre-Euro heavy diesel vehicles. The original estimate of \$199.9 million was based on the full number of vehicles eligible for the grant. This estimate was revised down to \$118 million because some eligible vehicles had retired during the installation phase, and some had opted not to take up the grant.

Item 570 - This item covers the one-off grant for voluntary replacement of diesel Public Light Buses (PLB) by Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) ones. An amount of \$112.2 million was originally budgeted for replacement of about 1,870 diesel PLBs older than 10 years. The estimate was revised down to \$62.8 million because of an unexpected interruption in the supply of new LPG PLBs in the second half of 2004. The grant for these delayed replacements had thus been deferred up to the end of 2005.

Programme (3) Noise

The lower provision of 5.5% in the revised estimate for 2004-05 as compared to its original estimate under Programme (3) is mainly due to reduced cash flow requirement of non-recurrent items and lower than expected requirement in operational expenses.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Post Title _____

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K. K. Kwok

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

8 April 2005

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Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)051

Question Serial No.

1864

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The Department needs to increase 14 non-directorate posts and 4 directorate posts under the establishment ceiling. What are the areas of work for these new posts?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply : The increase in establishment ceiling is mainly a result of the merger of the Environment Branch of the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau (ETWB) with the Environmental Protection Department, with effect from 1 April 2005. Upon the merger, 34 posts, comprising 5 directorate posts and 29 non-directorate posts, are transferred from ETWB, offset by the deletion of 18 posts comprising 3 directorate posts (i.e. 1 Director of Environmental Protection (D5) and 2 Principal Environmental Protection Officer (D1) posts) and 15 non-directorate posts due to natural wastage, deletion of vacancies, etc. during the year. The only new posts created are 1 Administrative Officer Staff Grade B (D3) and 1 Principal Environmental Protection Officer (D1) for handling new and urgent cross-boundary environmental issues.

Signature _____

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K. K. Kwok

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Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

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6 April 2005

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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)052

Question Serial No.

1865

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : An indicator in Programme (1) reveals that the amount of waste received annually has been on the decrease continually. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply : The total quantity of waste disposed of at landfills has decreased by 75,753 tonnes (around 1.2%) from 6,481,394 tonnes in 2003 to 6,405,641 tonnes in 2004. The decrease was mainly due to increased recovery of waste from municipal and construction sources. The Environmental Protection Department will continue to promote waste reduction and recovery in order to divert more waste from disposal to recycling.

Signature _____

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K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)053

Question Serial No.

1866

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : It is stated under Matters Requiring Special Attention in Programme (1) that the Department will "continue to further promote waste separation, recovery and recycling by working together with stakeholders and the community". What is the estimated expenditure involved? And what are the details of the co-operation?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply : In 2005-06, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) will continue to work with stakeholders and the community to promote waste reduction and recycling. Workshops, talks, exhibitions, roadshows, outreach activities and visits featuring waste reduction and recycling will be organized. Educational materials with specific focus on waste will also be produced. The Environmental Resource Centres (ERC) including the Mobile ERC and Green Desk will continue to spread messages on waste reduction and recycling. The estimated expenditure is about \$7.8 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)054

Question Serial No.

1867

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : It is stated in paragraph 9 under Programme (2) that "an air quality monitoring network for the Pearl River Delta is being jointly developed". Has the Department set aside any provisions for such? If yes, what is the amount involved? What are the details of the joint efforts taken?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply : The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has set aside \$4.2 million for development work of the joint air quality monitoring network. The network will be made up of three air quality monitoring stations in Hong Kong and 13 stations in the Pearl River Delta region.

The provision will be used in Hong Kong for enhancement of three existing EPD air monitoring stations, preparation of quality control and assurance manuals to unify the quality standard and operating procedures jointly with Guangdong, and covering the operating costs of a quality assurance programme to manage and monitor daily operations of the stations in the network. As part of the joint effort, EPD and its Guangdong counterparts will also regularly hold joint quality management meetings and conduct inter-laboratory comparisons and quality audits on the operation of the network.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

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Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)055

Question Serial No.

0168

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Regarding the targets set up under this Programme, is it necessary to create a waste reduction target for the annual solid waste produced so as to assess the effectiveness of the measures implemented to promote waste reduction and recycling under this Programme? It is also mentioned in paragraph 75 of the Policy Address about the levying of a tax on plastic bags and that the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau has undertaken to study on the matter. In this connection, will the Administration inform this Council the specific direction of the study, the staffing involved and the funding arrangement?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : In a paper presented to the Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs in September 2001, the following waste reduction targets were set out:

- (a) to contain the quantity of municipal solid waste (MSW) requiring disposal to 3.4 million tonnes in 2004 and 3.7 million tonnes in 2007;
- (b) to raise the overall MSW recovery rate from 34% to 36% in 2004 and 40% in 2007; and
- (c) to raise the domestic waste recovery rate from 8% to 14% in 2004 and 20% in 2007.

With various waste reduction and recycling measures in place, the 2004 targets have been achieved. The progress and achievements have been reported to the Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs on a regular basis.

As regards plastic bag levy, a study on the options to reduce plastic bag waste and the impacts and costs/benefits of these options will be initiated in 2005. The expenditure for this study is estimated to be about \$2 million. The study will be managed by the existing staff of the Environmental Protection Department.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

6 April 2005

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)056

Question Serial No.

1208

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : With respect to the target "monitoring stations complying with long-term Air Quality Objectives (%)" under this Programme, why are both the actual figure in 2004 and the planned figure for 2005 lagging far behind its target? While the number of enquiries/complaints on smoky vehicle matters handled is expected to increase in 2005, why is the number of smoky vehicles tested expected to decrease instead?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : (a) The 2004 actual and 2005 projected percentages of monitoring stations complying with the long-term Air Quality Objectives are substantially lower than the target because Hong Kong's air quality has been significantly affected by regional air pollution. To achieve long-term improvements to the air quality in Hong Kong, it is necessary to improve the quality of air in the region as a whole. For this purpose, the governments of the Hong Kong SAR and Guangdong reached a consensus in April 2002 to aim at cutting the emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, respirable suspended particulates and volatile organic compounds by 40%, 20%, 55% and 55% respectively in 2010, taking 1997 as base year. Upon the achievement of these targets, the air quality in Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta will significantly improve.

- (b) The rise in the number of enquiries and complaints against smoky vehicles in 2004 was mainly attributable to the introduction of an interactive complaint webpage known as the Environmental Protection Interactive Centre on 7 April 2004. The webpage gives added convenience for the public to make enquiries and complaints with the Environmental Protection Department direct. Another possible factor is the rising public awareness of air pollution. Nevertheless, the actual number of smoky vehicles on the road has dropped by 75% since 1999 as a result of various vehicle emission control measures implemented.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

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Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
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Date _____

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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)057

Question Serial No.

0442

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (6) Nature Conservation

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment)
/ Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : In 2005-06, a provision of \$3.2 million is earmarked for the Programme "Nature Conservation". What is the largest expenditure item in the \$3.2 million apart from salary and how will the money be used?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

Reply : Following the merging of the Environment Branch of Environment, Transport and Works Bureau (ETWB) and the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) on 1 April 2005, the new EPD will take over the responsibilities of formulating policies and overseeing the implementation of Government programmes on nature conservation. As a result of the merger, part of the provision for the Programme "Environmental Protection and Conservation" previously under Head 158 of ETWB is transferred to the Programme "Nature Conservation" under Head 44 of EPD. Of the provision of \$3.2 million under the Programme "Nature Conservation", about \$2.9 million is for personal emoluments and the remaining \$0.3 million is for general departmental expenses. The implementation of government's programmes on nature conservation remains the responsibility of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the provision for these programmes is included under Head 22 AFCD.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
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Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)058

Question Serial No.

0443

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The Environmental Protection Department is going to develop product responsibility schemes in 2005-06. How does the Department develop the schemes and what is the estimated provision required?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

Reply : In 2005-06, the work to be carried out by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) for developing product responsibility schemes (PRS) includes 2 studies and 3 pilot projects. A study has commenced in February 2005 to examine PRS options for waste electrical and electronic equipment. Another study on beverage containers will be initiated later this year. Apart from these 2 studies, 3 pilot projects to recover and recycle waste tyres as well as electrical and electronic equipment will also be carried out. The total expenditure in 2005-06 for the above 2 studies (\$1.3 million) and 3 pilot projects (around \$4.6 million) is about \$6 million.

In addition to the above expenditure, EPD will also work with the battery trade to implement a voluntary PRS scheme to recover rechargeable batteries for recycling. The programme is funded by the trade but EPD has earmarked about \$0.5 million for public education and promotion of the scheme in 2005-06.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)059

Question Serial No.

0548

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The Environmental Protection Department will make a new regulation in 2005-06 to reduce petrol vapour emission at petrol filling stations during vehicle refuelling. Please provide the information on a comparison between the new and existing regulations, including emission and air pollution levels. Please inform this Council the timetable for implementing the new regulation. How to assess whether there will be subsequent improvement in air quality? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply : The existing regulation requires the recovery of petrol vapour emitted from petrol filling stations during refilling of their petrol storage tanks by petrol delivery vehicles. The requirement recovers about 270 tonnes of volatile organic compounds a year, which will otherwise be emitted into the atmosphere. The new regulation is to extend the vapour recovery requirement to the refuelling of petrol vehicles. When fully implemented, it can further recover about 740 tonnes of volatile organic compounds a year.

The new regulation is part of the government's efforts to reduce emissions in Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta Region under the consensus reached between the governments of HKSAR and Guangdong in April 2002. The two governments have agreed to aim to reduce the emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, particulates and volatile organic compounds by 40%, 20%, 55% and 55% respectively by 2010, using 1997 as the reference year. When these targets are achieved, Hong Kong will meet the current Air Quality Objectives and the smog problem over the Pearl River Delta Region will also be significantly reduced.

The new regulation took effect on 31 March 2005. Existing petrol filling stations are allowed 36 months for complying with its requirements. It will be enforced by existing staff and will not require additional resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)060

Question Serial No.

0838

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What is the respective number of enquiries and complaints on smoky vehicle matters handled in 2004? Why is the number of enquiries/complaints on these matters expected to increase in 2005?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply : In 2004, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) received some 4,827 enquiries and 7,640 complaints against smoky vehicles.

The increase in the number of complaints/enquiries is mainly attributable to the introduction of an interactive complaint webpage known as the Environmental Protection Interactive Centre on 7 April 2004. The webpage gives added convenience to make enquiries and complaints with EPD direct. Another possible factor is the rising public awareness of air pollution. We believe these two factors would continue to bring about an increase in the number of enquiries and complaints in 2005 despite an overall drop in the number of smoky vehicles running in the street by 75% as a result of various vehicle emission control measures implemented since 1999.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

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Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
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Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)061

Question Serial No.

0162

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The Administration will set up an emissions trading pilot scheme with the power stations in the Pearl River Delta Region in 2005-06. What is the specific work for the scheme and the amount of expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply : To set up an emissions trading pilot scheme, the Hong Kong SAR Government and the Guangdong Provincial Government will be working together in 2005-06 on collection of necessary background information and development of the emission credit trading mechanism as well as the checking and enforcement regimes. The target is to provide a study report to the two governments by mid-2006 and present the details of the Pilot Scheme to the power plants in Hong Kong and Guangdong in the third quarter of 2006 so that the prospective participants can identify their trading partners and draw up the emissions trading agreements. The work will be carried out by staff of the two governments. The Environmental Protection Department will not require additional financial resources for the work.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)062

Question Serial No.

0163

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : In the revised estimated expenditure for 2004-05, there is a sum of \$222,000 for the 'Consultancy study on the air pollution problems in the Pearl River Delta Region'. What is the specific work involved in the study and the breakdown of expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply : In the revised estimated expenditure for 2004-05, the sum of \$222,000 for the 'Consultancy study on the air pollution problems in the Pearl River Delta Region' is for hiring a contractor to compile a "Handbook on Preparing Emissions Inventory in the Pearl River Delta Region", which will be used by the governments of Hong Kong SAR and Guangdong as a standard reference for compiling emission inventories for the whole Pearl River Delta Region.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)063

Question Serial No.

0164

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : (a) The Administration is going to develop "product responsibility schemes" in 2005-06. What is the specific work for the schemes and the expenditure involved?
(b) What is the estimated amount of expenditure required in 2005-06 for implementing the above schemes?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply : (a) & (b)

In 2005-06, the work to be carried out by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) for developing product responsibility schemes (PRS) includes 2 studies and 3 pilot projects. A study has commenced in February 2005 to examine PRS options for waste electrical and electronic equipment. Another study on beverage containers will be initiated later this year. Apart from these 2 studies, 3 pilot projects to recover and recycle waste tyres as well as electrical and electronic equipment will also be carried out. The total expenditure in 2005-06 for the above 2 studies (\$1.3 million) and 3 pilot projects (around \$4.6 million) is about \$6 million.

In addition to the above expenditure, EPD will also work with the battery trade to implement a voluntary PRS scheme to recover rechargeable batteries for recycling. The programme is funded by the trade but EPD has earmarked about \$0.5 million for public education and promotion of the scheme in 2005-06.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)064

Question Serial No.

0165

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (4) Water

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : (a) The Administration has launched the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme (HATS) since 2001 and conducted a consultation exercise in 2004 through community outreach work. The Administration has also initiated a toxic substances marine monitoring programme in this relation and started work according to the Stockholm Convention. What is the amount of expenditure incurred in 2004-05 in respect of the various programmes mentioned above?

(b) What is the estimated amount of expenditure for 2005-06 in respect of the various programmes mentioned above?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply : The Harbour Area Treatment Scheme (HATS) and preparation for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention are separate and unrelated programmes.

Expenditure incurred by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) on the HATS in 2004-05 was \$6.6 million, covering engineering feasibility investigations and community outreach work. In addition, an expenditure of \$277 million was incurred by the Drainage Services Department (DSD) under Head 39 DSD for the operation of HATS Stage 1 and supporting activities. Projected expenditure in 2005-06 is expected to be about \$4 million and \$273 million by EPD and DSD respectively.

Expenditure incurred on toxic substances monitoring in 2004-05 was \$0.9 million. In 2005-06, it is expected to be \$0.65 million.

Preparations for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention are being made internally by existing staff with no additional expenditure in 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)065

Question Serial No.

0167

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The Administration is going to implement the "construction waste disposal charging scheme" in 2005-06. What is the specific work for the scheme and the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply : The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) will implement the construction waste disposal charging scheme at landfills while the Civil Engineering & Development Department (CEDD) will implement the charging scheme at sorting facilities and public fill reception facilities. The EPD will upgrade the weighbridge computer systems and modify the associated waste reception infrastructures at the existing three landfills to prepare for the implementation of the construction waste disposal charging scheme at an estimated cost of around \$23 million. Two construction waste sorting facilities will be set up in 2005-06 by Short Term Tenancies. Should no successful bid be returned, the CEDD would set up these facilities at an estimated capital cost of around \$45 million. The EPD will coordinate the necessary publicity programme as well as the billing accounts at an estimated cost of \$2.35 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)066

Question Serial No.

1148

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What are the details of the work plan, establishment and provisions for continuing to further promote waste separation, recovery and recycling by working together with stakeholders and the community in 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply : In 2005-06, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) will continue to work with stakeholders and the community to promote waste reduction and recycling. Workshops, talks, exhibitions, roadshows, outreach activities and visits featuring waste reduction and recycling will be organized. Educational materials with specific focus on waste will also be produced. The Environmental Resource Centres (ERC) including the Mobile ERC and Green Desk will continue to spread messages on waste reduction and recycling. The estimated expenditure is about \$7.8 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)067

Question Serial No.

1149

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What are the details of the work plan, establishment and provisions for developing product responsibility schemes in 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply : In 2005-06, the work to be carried out by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) for developing product responsibility schemes (PRS) includes 2 studies and 3 pilot projects. A study has commenced in February 2005 to examine PRS options for waste electrical and electronic equipment. Another study on beverage containers will be initiated later this year. Apart from these 2 studies, 3 pilot projects to recover and recycle waste tyres as well as electrical and electronic equipment will also be carried out. The total expenditure in 2005-06 for the above 2 studies (\$1.3 million) and 3 pilot projects (around \$4.6 million) is about \$6 million.

In addition to the above expenditure, EPD will also work with the battery trade to implement a voluntary PRS scheme to recover rechargeable batteries for recycling. The programme is funded by the trade but EPD has earmarked about \$0.5 million for public education and promotion of the scheme in 2005-06.

The above work will be undertaken by the existing staff of EPD comprising 4 professional officers and 4 technical inspectors in addition to their existing waste reduction duties.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)068

Question Serial No.

1150

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What are the details of the work plan, establishment and provisions for continuing to develop the EcoPark in Tuen Mun Area 38 in 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply : The EcoPark will be developed in two phases. The first phase will be commissioned in late 2006 and commissioning of the second phase is estimated to be in late 2009. Detailed design of the EcoPark will commence shortly. A dedicated team comprising a senior professional officer and two professional officers under the supervision of a directorate officer in the Environmental Protection Department is overseeing the design and construction of the project. Details on the mode of management and financial aspects of the EcoPark have yet to be worked out.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)069

Question Serial No.

1016

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : a) Please list out the expenditure and establishment for developing the EcoPark in Tuen Mun Area 38 in 2005-06, and the annual expenditure and establishment required for managing the EcoPark in future.
b) With the EcoPark in Tuen Mun Area 38 coming into operation in 2006, how much savings are expected to achieve in existing landfill space and waste handling charges?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply : (a) The EcoPark will be developed in two phases. The first phase will be commissioned in late 2006 and commissioning of the second phase is estimated to be in late 2009. Detailed design of the EcoPark will commence shortly. A dedicated team comprising a senior professional officer and two professional officers under the supervision of a directorate officer in the Environmental Protection Department is overseeing the design and construction of the project. Details on the mode of management and financial aspects of the EcoPark are yet to be decided.

(b) In 2004, more than 2 million tonnes of recyclable materials were exported for recycling. These accounted for over 90% of the total recyclable materials recovered in Hong Kong. The primary objective of the EcoPark is to assist the recyclers to set up recycling industries in Hong Kong to carry out secondary processing of the local recyclable materials, rather than exporting them for recycling. This will bring about long-term economic and environmental benefits to Hong Kong. While the EcoPark will also help encourage waste reduction and enhance diversion of waste from landfills, the effects in this respect cannot be quantified at this stage.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)070

Question Serial No.

1017

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Please give the results of the investigations of indoor and toxic air pollution conducted by the Environmental Protection Department and the expenditure involved. Will similar investigations be conducted in 2005-06 and what is the estimated expenditure on such?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply : (1) On indoor air pollution, a study is being conducted on existing emission standards for furnishing products such as wood based panels and carpets, and the availability of low-emitting furnishing products in the local market. The findings will help assess the feasibility of introducing new measures to control sources of indoor air pollution in Hong Kong. The study will be completed by the second quarter of 2005 and will cost around \$200,000.

(2) In 2004-05, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) monitored the toxic air pollutant levels in Central / Western and Tsuen Wan at a cost of about \$800,000. The average toxic air pollutant levels in Hong Kong are found to be low and comparable to those of other metropolises. In 2005-06, the EPD will continue to monitor toxic air pollutants in the two sites at an estimated annual recurrent cost of \$800,000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)071

Question Serial No.

1018

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

- Question : a) Please provide a breakdown of the recovery rates for various types of reusable or recyclable waste in 2003-04 and 2004-05 as well as the expected figures in 2005-06.
b) Please list out the expenditure on recovering and handling of recyclable waste in 2004-05 and the estimated expenditure on such in 2005-06. How does the expenditure compare with the savings in landfill disposal charges resulted from waste recycling.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply : a) The recovery rates for different types of recyclable waste in 2003, 2004 and 2005 are listed below:

Types of recyclable waste	2003	2004	2005*
Paper	51%	52%	54%
Ferrous Metals	94%	95%	95%
Non-ferrous Metals	82%	81%	81%
Plastics	27%	31%	34%
Textile/Clothes	25%	22%	25%
Glass	2%	1%	1%
Wood	16%	15%	15%
Rubber Tyre	58%	54%	54%
Electrical & Electronic Equipment	64%	67%	67%
All Other Materials	41%	40%	41%

**Estimated figures*

- b) In 2004-05, the expenditure of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) on programmes related to the recovery and handling of recyclable waste was around \$5.6 million. The estimated expenditure in 2005-06 is about \$5.7 million. These EPD programmes together with the more significant commercial recycling activities have resulted in the diversion of 2.3 million tonnes of waste from landfill disposal in 2004 with a corresponding saving in landfill disposal cost of around \$287 million. For 2005, it is estimated that around 2.4 million tonnes of waste would be recovered for recycling and the corresponding saving in landfill disposal cost would be about \$300 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)072

Question Serial No.

1019

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste, (2) Air & (4) Water & (6) Nature Conservation

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Please provide a breakdown of the activities organised and the actual expenditure involved in 2003-04 and 2004-05, as well as the activities to be organised and the estimated expenditure for 2005-06 to promote the following items by the Environmental Protection Department :

- (1) waste separation, recovery and recycling;
- (2) wider application of renewable energy;
- (3) public education on the importance of protecting our water environment; and
- (4) nature conservation education

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply : Please refer to the Annex.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	K. K. Kwok
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection
Date	8 April 2005

Breakdown of activities organised / to be organised and actual / estimated expenditure to promote the following items:

		2003-04 (Actual)	2004-05 (Actual)	2005-06 (Estimate)
(1)	<u>Waste separation, recovery and recycling (This part is contributed by the Environmental Protection Department)</u>			
	Activities organised / to be organised	In 2003-04, we supported the pilot waste recovery projects and district waste reduction activities. Campaigns and exhibitions promoting waste recycling in housing estates were carried out. Workshops, talks and visits featuring waste recycling and reduction were also organized for different target groups. Messages on waste recycling and reduction were disseminated to the public through the education programmes organized by Environmental Resource Centres (ERC), Mobile ERC and Green Desk.	In 2004-05, education programmes promoting Polluter Pays Principle and "Source Separation of Waste" were launched. Organic planting competitions promoting waste reduction with compost were organized. Workshops, talks and visits featuring waste recycling and reduction were also organized for target groups. Messages on waste recycling and reduction were disseminated to the public through the education programmes organized by Environmental Resource Centres (ERC), Mobile ERC and Green Desk.	In 2005-06, we will continue to promote "Source Separation of Waste" and other government initiatives on waste. Workshops, talks and visits featuring waste recycling and reduction will also be organized for target groups. The Environmental Resource Centres (ERC), Mobile ERC and Green Desk will continue to spread messages on waste recycling and reduction through on-going education programmes.
	Actual / Estimated expenditure (\$million)	7.5	6.5	7.8
		Education materials with specific topics on waste such as guidebooks, leaflets, teaching aids, games, cartoons, etc. were produced for distribution to the general public.	Education materials with specific topics on waste were produced for distribution to the general public.	Various education materials with specific topics on waste will also be produced for distribution to the general public.

Breakdown of activities organised / to be organised and actual / estimated expenditure to promote the following items:

		2003-04 (Actual)	2004-05 (Actual)	2005-06 (Estimate)
(2)	<u>Wider application of renewable energy (This part is contributed by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD))</u>			
	Activities organised / to be organised	<p>a) Completed the public consultation on the findings of Stage 1 of the “Study on the Potential Applications of Renewable Energy in Hong Kong”;</p> <p>b) Commenced the 12-month performance monitoring of the photovoltaic installation at Wanchai Tower, which is the Stage 2 of the “Study on the Potential Applications of Renewable Energy in Hong Kong”;</p> <p>c) Completed the study on siting of wind monitoring stations to support the territory-wide wind measurement programme; and</p>	<p>a) Completed the performance study on the photovoltaic installations at Wanchai Tower;</p> <p>b) Published an information booklet on renewable energy;</p> <p>c) Carried out studies on overseas' codes and standards on the use of hydrogen as an alternative fuel;</p> <p>d) Gave talks on renewable energy and its related technologies to educate the public including school students on the benefits of renewable energy;</p>	<p>a) Carrying out studies on overseas practices in providing support to the users of renewable energy;</p> <p>b) Carrying out studies on overseas codes and standards on the use of hydrogen as an alternative fuel;</p> <p>c) Carrying out studies on measures to enhance the power output of the photovoltaic installation at Wanchai Tower;</p> <p>d) Carrying out performance monitoring of the photovoltaic installation at the new EMSD Headquarters;</p>

Breakdown of activities organised / to be organised and actual / estimated expenditure to promote the following items:

		2003-04 (Actual)	2004-05 (Actual)	2005-06 (Estimate)
		d) Gave talks on renewable energy and its related technologies to educate the public, including school students, on the benefits of renewable energy.	e) Completed the installation of 5 wind measurement stations to support the territory-wide wind measurement programme; and f) Compiled a set of Guidelines for Grid-connection of small renewable energy installations.	e) Carrying out studies to identify suitable government premises for renewable energy retrofits; f) Carrying out wind resource monitoring at 5 sites; g) Promoting the connection of small renewable energy installations to the electricity grid through the publication of a set of technical guidelines and briefing seminars; h) Publishing an information booklet to promote the wider use of solar water heating technologies; and i) Promoting the adoption of renewable energy technologies in buildings through liaison with developers and property management companies.
	Actual / Estimated expenditure (\$million)	0.5	1.1	1.5

Breakdown of activities organised / to be organised and actual / estimated expenditure to promote the following items:

		2003-04 (Actual)	2004-05 (Actual)	2005-06 (Estimate)
(3)	<u>Public education on the importance of protecting our water environment (This part is contributed by the Environmental Protection Department)</u>			
	Activities organised / to be organised	<p>In 2003-04, messages on protecting water resources were disseminated through the education programmes offered by the Environmental Resource Centres (ERC), Mobile ERC and Green Desk. Workshops and talks promoting water conservation were also organized for different target groups.</p> <p>Educational materials for the general public, such as guidebooks, leaflets, and learning kits were produced to promote caring for water resources.</p>	<p>In 2004-05, a community education and publicity programme on the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme (HATS) was launched with roadshows, exhibitions, and talks in public places and schools, as well as publicity activities to invite public comments on Stage 2 of the project.</p> <p>Specific training programmes featuring "Caring for Our Water Resources" as a theme were organized for teachers and students. The Environmental Resource Centres (ERC) and Mobile ERC continued to offer education programmes on water conservation. Educational materials to promote caring for water resources were produced for the general public.</p>	<p>In 2005-06, we would continue to implement community education programmes promoting the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme and the need for sharing the costs of sewage services. We plan to organize workshops, seminars, field visits and outreach programmes featuring "Caring for Our Water Resources" as a theme.</p> <p>Additional educational materials on protecting water resources would also be produced for students. The Environmental Resource Centres (ERC) and Mobile ERC would continue to offer education programmes on water conservation.</p>
	Actual / Estimated expenditure (\$million)	3.1	4.6	3.0

Breakdown of activities organised / to be organised and actual / estimated expenditure to promote the following items:

		2003-04 (Actual)	2004-05 (Actual)	2005-06 (Estimate)
(4)	<u>Nature conservation education (This part is contributed by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD))</u>			
	Activities organised / to be organised	<p>a) Promoted public appreciation of nature through publication of books, leaflets, posters, on-site interpretative materials, special features in local newspapers and websites, and organizing guided field visits;</p> <p>b) Enriched AFCD's websites as a one-stop gateway to provide information on nature conservation;</p> <p>c) Provided visitors with information on nature conservation through the country parks education and visitor centres and the Endangered Species Resources Centre;</p>	<p>a) Promoted public appreciation of nature through publication of books, leaflets, posters, on-site interpretative materials, special features in local newspapers and websites, and organizing guided field visits;</p> <p>b) Enriched AFCD's websites as a one-stop gateway to provide information on nature conservation;</p> <p>c) Provided visitors with information on nature conservation through the country parks education and visitor centres and the Endangered Species Resources Centre;</p>	<p>a) Promoting public appreciation of nature through publication of books, leaflets, posters, on-site interpretative materials, special features in local newspapers and websites, and organizing guided field visits;</p> <p>b) Enriching AFCD's websites as a one-stop gateway to provide information on nature conservation;</p> <p>c) Providing visitors with information on nature conservation through the country parks education and visitor centres and the Endangered Species Resources Centre;</p>

Breakdown of activities organised / to be organised and actual / estimated expenditure to promote the following items:

			2003-04 (Actual)	2004-05 (Actual)	2005-06 (Estimate)
			<p>d) Organized the marine conservation scheme, which includes Marine Parks Ambassador Programme, Marine Park Cleanup Day, public seminars, guided field visits, painting competition, exhibition and publication of leaflets and posters, etc;</p> <p>e) Organized the school visiting programme to spread the message on nature conservation to students.</p>	<p>d) Organized the marine conservation scheme, which includes Marine Parks Ambassador Programme, Marine Park Cleanup Day, public seminars, guided field visits, painting competition, exhibition and publication of leaflets and posters, etc;</p> <p>e) Organized the school visiting programme to spread the message on nature conservation to students.</p>	<p>d) Organizing the marine conservation scheme, which includes Marine Parks Ambassador Programme, Marine Park Cleanup Day, public seminars, guided field visits, painting competition, exhibition and publication of leaflets and posters, etc;</p> <p>e) Organizing the school visiting programme to spread the message on nature conservation to students.</p>
		Actual / Estimated expenditure (\$million)	8.1	8.0	8.0

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)073

Question Serial No.

0444

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : According to the information given, there were 1 and 5 waste import/export permits issued in 2003 and 2004 respectively. In the same period, the numbers of prosecutions for waste import/export offences were 6 and 37 respectively, and it is estimated that the number would even reach 45 in 2005. Please explain the reasons for the substantial increase in the estimated number of cases. Of the prosecutions for waste import/export offences mentioned above, how many cases were convicted with the maximum penalty?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwan-yuen, Andrew

Reply : The increase in prosecution figures in the year 2004 and 2005 was primarily the result of the joint operation of the Environmental Protection Department, the Customs & Excise Department and the Marine Police on the tightening of control over import and export of hazardous electronic waste in mid-2004. The joint operation resulted in the detection of a number of illegal shipments. Investigation into these cases and their prosecution were initiated in the second half of 2004. Based on the number of cases in hand, we estimate that the total number of prosecutions in 2005 will be 45.

The maximum penalty of waste import and export offences under the Waste Disposal Ordinance is a fine of \$200,000 and 6 months' imprisonment. The court has not imposed the maximum penalty to any offence case so far. In the past 3 years, the heaviest penalties imposed by the court were a fine of \$80,000 in one offence case and 2-month imprisonment in another.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)074

Question Serial No.

0445

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Subhead (No. & title):
 Department

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
 (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : In the context of overall waste management, the 2005-06 estimate represents only a 0.1% increase over the 2004-05 revised estimate, which is even less than the 2004-05 original estimate by 6.7%. This estimated provision which is de facto a progressively reduced one, does not seem to chime in with the policy address newly announced and the intention of the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works to actively enhance the waste recycling industry. Would the government list in detail the provisions under Programme (1), the allocation of funds for each item and their increase/decrease in percentage as compared to 2003-04 and 2004-05?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwan-yuen, Andrew

Reply : The allocation for Programme 1 comprises mainly fees for the operation of waste facilities which constitutes about 80% of the estimated expenditure. The overall reduction in resource allocation for the Programme in 2005-06 was attributed to less payment anticipated for the operation of waste facilities. With respect to other expenses, there is actually an increase in 2005-06 of 2.2% (from \$277 million to \$283 million) when compared to the 2004-05 Revised Estimate.

	2003-04 Actual Expenditure (\$ million)	2004-05 Original Estimate (\$ million)	2004-05 Revised Estimate (\$ million)	2005-06 Draft Estimate (\$ million)	Change compared to 2004-05 Revised Estimate Increase / (Decrease)
Fees for operation of waste facilities	1,121	1,238	1,135	1,131	(0.4%)
Other expenses	293	278	277	283	+2.2%
Total	1,414	1,516	1,412	1,414	+0.1%

In addition, around \$322 million have also been earmarked under the Capital Works Reserve Fund for the development of the EcoPark in Tuen Mun for the recycling industry.

Signature	
Name in block letters	K. K. Kwok
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection
Date	7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)075

Question Serial No.

0549

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The Government said that it would continue to implement action programmes on the prevention and recovery of waste. What is the expenditure for publicity and education work to promote these programmes? Please compare the provisions with those for 2003-04 and 2004-05.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwan-yuen, Andrew

Reply : The expenditure in 2005-06 for publicity and education programmes to promote waste prevention and recovery is about \$7.8 million while the expenditures in 2003-04 and 2004-05 were \$7.5 million and \$6.5 million respectively.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)076

Question Serial No.

1062

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : In 2005-06, the Administration will continue to implement in collaboration with the Guangdong authorities an air quality management plan, operate a joint air quality monitoring network for Pearl River Delta region and set up an emissions trading pilot scheme among power stations. Please provide details of these joint efforts, whether these plans/joint efforts have progressed as scheduled, the expenditure involved, staffing arrangements and their effectiveness in improving regional air quality.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, Sophie

Reply : To improve the regional air quality, the governments of the Hong Kong SAR and Guangdong reached a consensus in April 2002 to aim at cutting emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, respirable suspended particulates and volatile organic compounds by 40%, 20%, 55% and 55% respectively in 2010, taking 1997 as base year. Upon the achievement of these targets, the air quality in Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta will significantly improve.

Under the regional air quality management plan, the Hong Kong SAR Government and the Guangdong Provincial Government will continue to make joint efforts in 2005-06 to reduce emissions from various pollution sources. In Hong Kong, we are discussing with power companies about further reducing their emissions, making preparations for tightening vehicle emission standards to the Euro IV level from January 2006, and working out a proposal for reducing volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions from certain VOC containing products. In Guangdong, efforts are being made to retrofit its power stations with flue gas desulphurisation systems by 2007, to construct four liquefied natural gas power plants by 2006 and to further tighten motor vehicle emission standards by 2005. These measures are making progress as scheduled.

To monitor the effectiveness of the measures, both governments are working together on the setting up of a regional monitoring network for the Pearl River Delta region and are preparing a regional emissions inventory. The regional monitoring network has been on trial since January 2005. Subject to the satisfactory completion of the trials, a joint data centre will be set up to announce the monitoring results to the public as soon as possible.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)076

Question Serial No.

1062

Furthermore, both governments are working on an emissions trading pilot scheme for power plants. The necessary background information is being collected, followed by the development of an emission credit trading mechanism as well as the checking and enforcement regimes. The target is to produce a report by mid-2006 and present the details of the pilot scheme to the power plants in Hong Kong and Guangdong in the third quarter of 2006 so that prospective participants can identify their trading partners.

We are implementing the regional air quality improvement measures by the current staff and resources. Additional expenditure in 2005-06 is not required. However, two permanent directorate grade posts have been created in the Environmental Protection Department from 1 April 2005 to strengthen the work related to cross-boundary environmental issues. Tackling the regional air pollution problem will be one of the priorities of this team.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

**Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection**

Date _____

8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)077

Question Serial No.

0922

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What is the progress of the work in examining the type of large-scale waste treatment facilities that should be adopted in Hong Kong?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : The government is planning to develop large-scale waste treatment facilities to manage the huge quantity of municipal solid waste in Hong Kong. To ensure that we would not miss out on any potential new technologies that have emerged in recent years, we launched an expression of interest exercise in 2002 to invite local and overseas companies to propose waste treatment technologies that might be suitable for Hong Kong.

A total of 59 submissions was received. An Advisory Group on Waste Management Facilities, mainly comprising non-government representatives, has been set up to assist in assessing the 59 submissions and to advise the government on the most suitable technology option(s). The assessment is now nearing completion and the Government will consult the public on the technology option(s) to be adopted in Hong Kong later this year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)078

Question Serial No.

0545

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : In 2005-06, it is estimated that the number of smoky vehicles tested will decrease but the number of complaints / enquiries handled is expected to be greater than last year. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply : The number of smoky vehicles running in the street has dropped by 75% as a result of the liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) taxi programme, the tightening of vehicle emission limits, retrofitting of emission control devices and implementation of other vehicle emission control programmes since 1999. We expect this drop to continue in 2005-06. The expected increase in number of complaints/enquiries is mainly attributable to the introduction of an interactive complaint webpage known as the Environmental Protection Interactive Centre on 7 April 2004. The webpage gives added convenience to make enquiries and complaints with the Environmental Protection Department direct. Another possible factor is the rising public awareness of air pollution. We believe these two factors will continue to bring about an increase in the number of enquiries and complaints in 2005-06.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)079

Question Serial No.

0546

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : With respect to working jointly with the Guangdong authorities to set up an emissions trading pilot scheme among power stations in Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta region, are there any specific timetable and performance targets on such? What are the resources involved?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply : To set up an emissions trading pilot scheme, the Hong Kong SAR Government and the Guangdong Provincial Government will be working together in 2005-06 on collection of necessary background information and development of the emission credit trading mechanism as well as the checking and enforcement regimes. The target is to provide a study report by mid-2006 and present the details of the Pilot Scheme to the power plants in Hong Kong and Guangdong in the third quarter of 2006 so that the prospective participants can identify their trading partners and draw up emissions trading agreements. The work will be carried out by staff of the two governments. The Environmental Protection Department will not require additional financial resources for the work.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)080

Question Serial No.

1154

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (4) Water

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : How will the government continue its community outreach work to educate the public on the importance of protecting the water environment of Hong Kong? How much funding will be involved?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply : We will continue to implement community education programmes by organizing workshops, seminars, field visits and outreach programmes featuring "Caring for Our Water Resources" as a theme. We will also produce education materials on protecting water resources for students. In the 2005-06 financial year, about \$3 million will be reserved for these and other activities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)081

Question Serial No.

1155

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (4) Water

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : In respect of the sewerage master plans for Central and East Kowloon, Tuen Mun, Tsing Yi, the Outlying Islands, Hong Kong Island, North District and Tolo Harbour areas which have been reviewed, please explain how the proposals for upgrading works are being pursued on a priority basis.

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply : The proposed improvement works include mainly extension of the public sewer networks and expansion or upgrading of sewage treatment facilities in the various districts. They are necessary to cater for increased sewage flows arising from continuing population growth and developments as well as from the extension of sewer networks into new development areas and village areas. In determining their priority for implementation, we consider the pace of development and population projection in these districts, their existing environmental conditions, the extent of environmental benefits/damage brought about by the works and cost effectiveness. Whilst all these sewerage works constitute essential infrastructure for meeting public sanitation needs and for improving the local environment, we would also regularly review the implementation plans to best utilize public resources and to achieve the environmental benefits at the earliest possible time.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)082

Question Serial No.

1421

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (3) Noise

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : With respect to Programme (3), the Environmental Protection Department will continue to co-ordinate actions to reduce noise impact of existing roads during 2005-06. Please give details of the work and the estimated expenditure involved. To mitigate noise impact of existing roads, will additional noise barriers be retrofitted in 2005-06? If yes, in what districts will additional noise barriers be retrofitted and what is the estimated expenditure on such?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : Using the existing staff resources, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) will continue to co-ordinate the implementation of the noise abatement measures, where practicable, on existing roads. These include engineering measures such as retrofitting noise barriers and applying low noise road surfacing materials on noisy road sections, and non-engineering measures like traffic management schemes.

The details of the three noise barrier retrofitting projects involving expenditure in 2005-06 (under the budgets of the relevant works departments) are set out below:

	Location	Road Section	Estimated Commencement Date	Estimated Completion Date	Estimated Expenditure in 2005-06 (\$million)
1	Sheung Shui	Fanling Highway near Choi Yuen Estate	Aug. 2004 (project under construction)	Dec. 2005	47
2	Fanling	Fanling Highway near Fanling Centre	Aug. 2004 (project under construction)	Dec. 2005	28
3	Tsuen Wan	Cheung Pei Shan Road	Sept. 2005	Mar. 2008	20
Total :					95

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)083

Head : 100 Marine Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Port Services

0865

Controlling Officer : Director of Marine

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What measures will be introduced to reform the outsourcing arrangements for provision of marine cleansing services? What are the expected savings? Please also assess how efficiency can be improved through such arrangements.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply :

The reform measures include: expansion of the scope of outsourcing to include the provision of the remaining services currently undertaken by the Government and the management of the six government marine scavenging vessels and stock of oil pollution cleansing equipment; simplification of contract administration through the consolidation of the existing fragmented contracts into three new contracts only; full adoption of the objective-based approach for performance evaluation; and enhanced flexibility for service providers to introduce innovative ideas and to procure appropriate or advanced technology, vessels and equipment for performing the services by setting a longer contractual period of 5 years. Subject to the tender outcome, savings of approximately \$10 million are anticipated over the five-year contractual period. The overall efficiency and quality of the marine cleansing services will be improved through more flexible deployment of resources, better economy of scale as a result of contract consolidation, less overhead in contract administration, use of better equipment/technology by the contractors, fewer grey areas of responsibility between different contractors, and well-defined ways of assessing and monitoring the performance of the contractors under the objective based approach.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

S.Y. TSUI

Post Title _____

Director of Marine

Date _____

8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)084

Head : 100 Marine Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Port Services

0054

Controlling Officer : Director of Marine

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The department states that one of the matters requiring special attention in 2005-06 under Programme (2) Port Services is "reform the outsourcing arrangements for provision of marine cleansing services". Please list out – (i) the services for outsourcing; (ii) whether services providers would need to have appropriate technology, such as vessels, crew, etc.; (iii) in outsourcing the concerned services, the department's estimated savings in 2005-06; and (iv) the specific details of reform in the outsourcing arrangements for 2005-06.

Asked by : Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply :

- (i) The services are supply of vessels, manpower and equipment for the provision of floating refuse scavenging services, ship refuse collection services, boat refuse collection services, land transport and refuse disposal services, taskforce cleansing services, and marine oil pollution cleansing services.
- (ii) Yes, the service providers will need to have the appropriate technology and the necessary vessels and crew.
- (iii) The primary objective of the reform is to improve the quality of the cleansing services by the adoption of three comprehensive service contracts to replace the present fragmented contracts for 75 contractor vessels and the operation of six vessels by Marine Department staff. Subject to the tender results, savings in the region of \$10 million are anticipated over a five-year contract period.
- (iv) Specific details of the reform include: inclusion of presently Government-performed services in the outsourcing arrangements, consolidation of all services into three contracts only with contractors allowed to bid for all or any combination of the three, inclusion of Government's six marine scavenging vessels and stock of oil pollution cleansing equipment in the outsourcing arrangements, full adoption of the objective-based approach for service performance, allowing service providers to introduce innovative ideas and to bring in appropriate or advanced technology, vessels and equipment for performing the services, and setting a relatively longer contract period of 5 years to encourage the contractors to invest in better equipment and technology.

Signature _____

Name in block letters S.Y. TSUI

Post Title Director of Marine

Date 8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)085

Head : 100 Marine Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Port Services

1745

Controlling Officer : Director of Marine

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : As given in Programme (2), the Department will “reform the outsourcing arrangements for provision of marine cleansing services” in 2005-06. Has the Government conducted any consultancy study or survey on the outsourcing of the above services? If yes, what are the details? What are the expenses involved? When was the consultancy study or survey conducted? To what extent will the establishment be reduced as a result of outsourcing of the above services and what are the posts that will be affected?

Asked by : Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply :

With a view to improving the marine cleansing services, the Marine Department (MD) had enlisted the help of the Efficiency Unit (EU) to conduct a feasibility study on wider private sector involvement to improve or replace the present arrangement whereby 75 vessels have been provided and operated by contractors under fragmented contracts and six vessels by MD itself. In mid 2003 EU engaged its term consultant to carry out the study. The cost incurred was about \$2.2 million.

At present, MD staff engaged in marine cleansing services include 24 posts manning six Government vessels. Upon outsourcing of the remaining services being performed by in-house staff, the 24 posts, including six Senior Launch Masters, six Launch Masters and 12 Launch Assistants, could be deleted. The concerned staff will be internally redeployed to fill vacancies in other divisions of MD as necessary.

Signature _____

Name in block letters S.Y. TSUI

Post Title Director of Marine

Date 7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

ETWB(E)086

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

1527

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What is current progress for conversion of diesel public light buses (PLBs) into environmentally-friendly PLBs? Please provide the number of diesel PLBs converted and the amount of financial subsidy granted each year since implementation of the conversion scheme. What will be the cost incurred for the conversion scheme in 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

An incentive scheme to promote the conversion of diesel PLBs to liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) or electric PLBs was introduced on 27 August 2002. Under the scheme, PLB owners who replace their diesel vehicles with those using LPG or electricity may apply for a one-off grant of \$60,000 or \$80,000 respectively. Up to end 2004-05, a total of 1 620 diesel PLBs have been converted to LPG PLBs. The details of the conversion are as follows-

	<u>2002-03</u>	<u>2003-04</u>	<u>2004-05</u>
Number of diesel PLBs converted to LPG PLBs each year	410*	340	870
Cost incurred for the conversion scheme each year (\$million)	24.0	20.4	47.8

*including some diesel PLBs which were converted to LPG PLB before implementation of the scheme as these PLB owners were also eligible to obtain the grant.

We have budgeted \$128.3 million for conversion of up to 2 138 additional diesel PLBs to LPG PLBs in 2005-06.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 7 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(E)087

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

1313

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : (a) How many diesel public light buses (PLBs) were converted to environmentally-friendly PLBs under the grant scheme in 2004-05? What is the cost incurred for such conversion scheme?

(b) What is the number of diesel PLBs to be converted and the cost incurred for such conversion scheme in 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

- (a) A total of 870 diesel PLBs were converted to liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) PLBs in 2004-05. The grant offered to PLB owners for such conversion scheme was \$47.8 million.
- (b) We have budgeted \$128.3 million for conversion of up to 2 138 additional diesel PLBs to LPG PLBs in 2005-06.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 7 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(E)088

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

1314

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Does the Administration reserve any public funds to educate and encourage the diesel public light bus drivers to obtain the grant to pursue the conversion of diesel public light buses (PLBs) into environmentally-friendly PLBs? If yes, what are the costs incurred for such arrangements?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

To encourage PLB owners (rather than PLB drivers who may not own the vehicles) to replace their diesel light buses with new models using cleaner fuel, a voluntary incentive scheme was introduced with effect from 27 August 2002. Under the scheme, PLB owners who replace their diesel vehicles with those using liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) or electricity may apply for a one-off grant of \$60,000 or \$80,000 respectively. Up to end 2004-05, some 1 620 diesel PLBs have been converted to LPG PLBs, with incentives of some \$92.2 million. In 2005-06, we have budgeted \$128.3 million for conversion of up to 2 138 additional diesel PLBs to LPG PLBs.

Transport Department maintains close liaison with PLB owners to encourage them to obtain the grant for replacement of their diesel PLBs. We will continue our publicity efforts and will arrange more workshops and seminars for the PLB trade to enhance their understanding of the repairs and maintenance requirements of LPG vehicles. No significant cost will be incurred for such arrangements.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

ETWB(E)089

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

0225

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for TransportDirector of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The Transport Department will continue to facilitate the conversion of diesel public light buses to environmentally-friendly public light buses (PLBs) in 2005-06. Please provide the following information:

- (a) What was the number of diesel and environmentally-friendly PLBs in 2003-04 and 2004-05? What was the respective proportion of these PLBs to the entire PLB fleet?
- (b) What were the costs and details of the conversion scheme in 2003-04 and 2004-05?
- (c) What is the target number of PLBs to be converted and the cost incurred for the scheme in 2005-06?
- (d) Any new measures to be introduced in 2005-06 to encourage the PLB trade to support the conversion scheme?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hingReply :

- (a) The number and proportion of diesel and environmentally-friendly PLBs in end 2003-04 and end 2004-05 were :

	<u>2003-04</u>	<u>2004-05</u>
No. of diesel PLBs	3 600 (82.8%)	2 730 (62.8%)
No. of environmentally-friendly PLBs	750 (17.2%)	1 620 (37.2%)

- (b) To encourage PLB owners to replace their diesel light buses with new models using cleaner fuel, a voluntary incentive scheme was introduced with effect from 27 August 2002. Under the scheme, PLB owners who replace their diesel vehicles with those using liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) or electricity may apply for a one-off grant of \$60,000 or \$80,000 respectively. For diesel PLBs aged 10 years or above, the deadline for application of grant was 31 December 2004; while that for diesel PLBs aged below 10 years is 31 December 2005. We have converted 340 and 870 diesel PLBs to LPG PLBs in 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively. The total grant offered to PLB owners under the conversion scheme was \$20.4 million in 2003-04 and \$47.8 million in 2004-05.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)089

Question Serial No.

0225

- (c) We have budgeted \$128.3 million for conversion of up to 2 138 additional diesel PLBs to LPG PLBs in 2005-06.
- (d) Transport Department maintains close liaison with PLB owners and vehicle manufacturers to facilitate smooth implementation of the conversion scheme. We will continue our publicity efforts and will arrange more workshops and seminars for the PLB trade to enhance their understanding of the repairs and maintenance requirements of LPG vehicles. There are at present 50 LPG filling stations. Six more LPG filling stations are being designed or constructed and they are scheduled for completion between mid 2005 and early 2006.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)090

Head : CWRF Head 704 - Drainage Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme :

1597

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Please list out in details the projects in Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin districts under the block allocation Subhead 4100DX "Drainage works, studies and investigations for items in Category D of the Public Works Programme".

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply : The following two projects under Subhead 4100DX are being implemented in Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin districts –

- (a) Installation of an improved odour control system at Kwun Tong preliminary treatment works; and
- (b) Detailed design and investigation works for drainage improvement works in East Kowloon.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ F.K. LAI _____

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services _____

Date _____ 4 April 2005 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)091

Question Serial No.

1696

Head : 705 Civil Engineering

Subhead (No. & title): 5101DX
Environmental works, studies
and investigations for items in
Category D of the Public Works
Programme

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : With regard to the projects under block allocation Subhead 5101DX "Environmental works, studies and investigations for items in Category D of the Public Works Programme", please list out in detail the projects in Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin districts.

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply : A project entitled 'An investigation on sewer flows and capacity in Central and East Kowloon' under Subhead 5101DX is under planning for commencement in 2005-06. This project will cover surveys and investigations in the districts of Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. KWOK

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment) /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

6 April 2005