

**Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members
in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07**

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

Session No.: 18

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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

0151

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

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

Question :

As there are indications that avian influenza spreads through migratory birds, please provide information about the amount of funds earmarked in 2006-07 for measures to be taken in Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site and the new Hong Kong Wetland Park for the prevention, monitoring and control of the spread of avian influenza by migratory birds.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

For the prevention, monitoring and control of the spread of avian influenza (AI) by migratory birds in Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site and the new Hong Kong Wetland Park, patrols for detection of unusual death of waterbirds and collection of faecal samples for AI testing are carried out daily. In the first 11 months of 2005-06, there was no unusual death of waterbirds and all (over 4,000 in number) faecal samples collected were tested negative to the H5N1 virus.

In 2006-07, field staff will continue to be deployed to conduct daily patrols and collect faecal samples for testing in Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site and the new Hong Kong Wetland Park. The estimated provision earmarked in 2006-07 for the work is \$0.32 million consisting mainly of staff cost.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS STELLA HUNG
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	8 March 2006

**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

0152

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

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

Question :

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07, in connection with overseeing the implementation of the pilot scheme on management agreement and public-private partnership promulgated under the new nature conservation policy, please provide the following information: (i) details of the relevant work and the amount of funds involved; and (ii) work progress for enhancing conservation of ecologically important habitats on private land.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The Environment and Conservation Fund has granted a total of \$4.6 million to three non-governmental organizations for implementing pilot conservation management agreement projects, viz. the Tai Po Environmental Association for a project at Fung Yuen (\$1.7 million), the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society for a project in Long Valley (\$1.4 million) and the Conservancy Association for a project also in Long Valley (\$1.5 million). The projects started in November and December 2005. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is monitoring their implementation and will undertake a review upon their completion.

Under the pilot scheme for public-private partnership (PPP), the Administration has received six applications involving land located at Sha Lo Tung, Tai Ho, Tin Fook Wai, Mui Tsz Lam and Mau Ping, Wu Kau Tang and Yung Shue O. An Inter-departmental Task Force, comprising representatives from the Environmental Protection Department, Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau, AFCD, Planning Department and Lands Department, is examining these applications.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS STELLA HUNG
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	8 March 2006

**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

1604

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

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

Question :

Please inform this Committee whether provision has been earmarked for stepping up education and publicity on endangered species protection and taking enforcement action against illegal trade in endangered species following the enactment and commencement of the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Bill. If yes, what is the amount? Please state the enhanced work and the manpower required.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department currently operates an Endangered Species Resource Centre to promote public awareness of endangered species protection.

To step up education and publicity work in relation to the passage and commencement of the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (the Ordinance), we have prepared education and publicity work for 2006-07, including advertisements in buses, MTR (stations and trains) and KCR (stations and trains), radio and TV Announcement of Public Interests (API), exhibitions in public venues, the printing of leaflets and posters, seminars for and circular letters to traders. The estimated expenditure is about \$1.3 million.

The Department will deploy its existing staff and maintain its enforcement momentum to curb illegal trade in endangered species after the passage and commencement of the Ordinance. Information collection and cooperation with other enforcement agencies will be strengthened.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS STELLA HUNG
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	8 March 2006

**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

0226

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

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

Question :

A total of 67 and 44 hill fires were attended to in 2004 and 2005 respectively. (a) What was the staffing arrangement for fighting hill fires in 2005? What was the amount of expenditure involved? (b) Please provide figures of hill fires happened, successfully handled and the percentage of such successful efforts in 2004 and 2005 respectively.

Asked by : Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply :

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department operates a Fire Control Centre to oversee hill fire fighting operations. 20 fire fighting teams were on roster for 24 hours standby duties during the hill fire season from September to April. There were also 10 fire lookouts at strategic locations to monitor and detect hill fires. About 200 staff were involved in performing the above duties. Fighting hill fires only formed part of the routine duties of the fire fighting teams. The amount of expenditure involved in various duties relating to hill fires such as fire fighting, prevention, publicity and standby duties in 2005 was \$34.6 million.
- (b) There were 67 and 44 hill fires within country parks in 2004 and 2005 respectively. All were successfully put out within about 3.5 hours. The success rate was 100 percent.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS STELLA HUNG
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	8 March 2006

**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

0345

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

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

Question :

It is estimated that the number of staff under this programme will be 1,107 as at 31 March 2007. Please provide the following information by service categories such as management of country parks and special areas, management of marine parks and marine reserves, management of Sites of Special Scientific Interest and issue of endangered species certificates: (a) manpower percentage; (b) provision percentage.

Asked by : Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply :

Breakdown of post and financial provision for Programme (2) is given below:-

	Activities	No. of post as at 31.3.2007	%	Financial provision (\$M)	%
2.1	Nature Conservation (including the management of Sites of Special Scientific Interests)	88	7.9	75.9	18.3
2.2	Country Parks, special areas	934	84.4	265.2	63.9
	Marine parks and marine reserves	32	2.9	18.3	4.4
2.3	Control of international trade in endangered species (including the issue of endangered species certificates)	50	4.5	23.4	5.6
2.4	Wetland Parks	3	0.3	32.4	7.8
	Total	1,107	100	415.2	100

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS STELLA HUNG
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	8 March 2006

**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

0346

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

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

Question :

What is the manpower arrangement for the coming territory-wide survey programme for ecological database? Will it affect the operation of existing services? What is the amount of expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply :

1 Forestry Officer and 1 Field Officer I posts are involved in the survey programme for establishing and maintaining an ecological database. The provision is \$2.8 million in 2006-07. It will not affect the operation of existing services.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS STELLA HUNG
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	8 March 2006

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

ETWB(E)007

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

1173

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

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

Question :

Please list out the activities held in 2005-06 and expected to be held in 2006-07 by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department for stepping up education and publicity on endangered species protection and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply :

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department maintains an existing Endangered Species Resource Centre to promote public awareness of endangered species protection.

In 2005-06, we conducted a variety of education and publicity activities in relation to endangered species protection. These included talks to schools and organizations, exhibitions in public venues, advertisements in MTR and KCR stations and trains, circular letters to traders, production of a poster, a seminar for traders and a radio play competition. The expenditure involved was \$0.5 million.

To step up education and publicity work in relation to the passage and commencement of the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance, we have prepared education and publicity work for 2006-07, including additional advertisements in buses, MTR (stations and trains) and KCR (stations and trains), radio and TV Announcement of Public Interests (API), exhibitions in public venues, the printing of leaflets and posters, seminars for and circular letters to traders. The estimated expenditure is about \$1.3 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS STELLA HUNG
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	8 March 2006

**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

1174

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

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

Question :

Please specify the amounts of expenditure used in 2005-06 and expected to be used in 2006-07 by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in the conservation, management and inspection of the Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay Ramsar site and in other work for the wetland park.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply :

In 2005-06, the amount of expenditure for conservation, management and inspection of the Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay Ramsar site was about \$8.6 million. The same provision is earmarked for 2006-07.

In 2005-06, \$15.9 million was allocated for the planning and management of the Hong Kong Wetland Park (HKWP). The provision for this purpose will be increased to \$32.4 million in 2006-07 due to the full operation of the HKWP. In addition, \$3.45 million was allocated for implementing ecological mitigation measures within HKWP in 2005-06. The same provision is earmarked for 2006-07.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS STELLA HUNG
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	9 March 2006

**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

1175

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

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

Question :

In connection with the government proposal to open up the Frontier Closed Area for development, has the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) earmarked funds in 2006-07 to conduct a comprehensive ecological impact assessment on wetlands and other ecological environment which may be affected by the proposal? If yes, what is the amount of expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply :

In the Policy Address by the Chief Executive in October 2005, it was announced that the size of the Frontier Closed Area (the Closed Area) would be reduced significantly and that the Government would commence a planning study for the land that would be released from the Closed Area in the first half of 2006.

In this connection, the Planning Department will commission a consultancy study to examine the development potential, constraints and future land use of the areas to be excised from the Closed Area. Various technical assessments including an ecological impact assessment and a strategic environmental assessment will be conducted as part of the Study.

There is no provision in AFCD for the above consultancy study.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS STELLA HUNG
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	8 March 2006

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

ETWB(E)010

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

1477

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

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

Question :

In connection with the conservation and management of the Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay Ramsar site, are there regular and special arrangements in place to monitor and assess the situation and take contingency measures in controlling the spread of H5N1 virus among resident and migratory birds in the wetland park? If yes, what are the details? What are the expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

For the prevention, monitoring and control of the spread of avian influenza (AI) by resident and migratory birds in Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site and the new Hong Kong Wetland Park, patrols for detection of unusual death of waterbirds and collection of faecal samples for AI testing are carried out daily. In the first 11 months of 2005-06, there was no unusual death of waterbirds and all (over 4,000 in number) faecal samples collected were tested negative for the H5N1 virus.

In 2006-07, field staff will continue to be deployed to conduct daily patrols and collect faecal samples in Mai Po, Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site and the new Hong Kong Wetland Park for testing. The provision earmarked in 2006-07 for the work is \$0.32 million and the manpower involved is 2 Field Assistants.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS STELLA HUNG
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	9 March 2006

**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

1761

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 :

Please list out the civil service permanent posts, non-civil service contract posts and outsourcing contract posts created in 2005-06 under the programme of "Nature Conservation and Country Parks" and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

While no civil service permanent posts and outsourcing contract posts were created in 2005-06, a total of 67 non-civil service contract posts, mainly for the management of the Hong Kong Wetland Park, were created in 2005-06 under the programme of "Nature Conservation and Country Parks". The expenditure involved is approximately \$1.6 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS STELLA HUNG
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	10 March 2006

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

ETWB(E)012

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead : 000 Operational Expenses

1762

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 :

Please give details on the provision of occupational safety equipment for staff under the programme of "Nature Conservation and Country Parks" in 2005-06 and the expenditure involved. What is the estimated expenditure for this area in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

In 2005-06, we carried out a variety of measures in ensuring occupational safety for staff working under "Nature Conservation and Country Parks" Programme. We organized job related safety workshops, training and seminars. We provided staff with safety equipment and clothing such as hiking boots, outdoor jackets, raincoats, fire fighting shoes and overcoats, safety equipment and tools for tree gangs, safety helmets, protective goggles, gloves and facial masks. We also installed safety devices for machines and heavy tools. The total expenditure for occupational safety in 2005-06 was about \$1.7 million.

The estimated expenditure in 2006-07 is about the same as in 2005-06, i.e. \$1.7 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS STELLA HUNG
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	8 March 2006

**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

1894

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

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

Question :

What is the amount of expenditure for stepping up education and publicity on endangered species protection in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

In 2006-07, we plan to conduct a variety of activities to step up education and publicity on endangered species protection, including advertisements in buses, MTR (stations and trains) and KCR (stations and trains), radio and TV Announcement of Public Interests (API), exhibitions in public venues, the printing of leaflets and posters, seminars for and circular letters to traders. The estimated expenditure is about \$1.3 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS STELLA HUNG
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	8 March 2006

**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

1895

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

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

Question :

What is the amount of expenditure for the inspection of marine parks and marine reserves in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

A provision of \$7.0 million involving 43 staff is earmarked for duties related to law enforcement and patrolling in marine parks and marine reserves in 2006-07.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS STELLA HUNG
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	8 March 2006

**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

1896

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

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

Question :

What is the amount of expenditure for the promotion of public education and publicity on nature conservation in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

An estimate of about \$14.2 million is allocated for the promotion of public education and publicity on nature conservation in 2006-07.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS STELLA HUNG
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	8 March 2006

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

ETWB(E)016

Question Serial No.

0236

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 :

For matters requiring special attention in 2006-07, it is mentioned that Civil Engineering and Development Department will commence the cross-boundary delivery of surplus public fill for beneficial reuse in Mainland reclamation projects. What are the details of the arrangement?

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply :

To allow delivery of public fill for use in the Mainland reclamation sites, the Administration signed a Cooperation Agreement with the Mainland authorities in March 2004. We also reached an agreement in principle with the Mainland authorities in June 2005 on the implementation details, including material specifications, delivery requirements, inspection and control measures, to ensure that the use of public fill in reclamation projects will not cause environmental problems. When the scheme is implemented, suitable surplus public fill will be inspected and loaded onto barges for delivery to Mainland reclamation sites. The Mainland authorities have recently identified a suitable reclamation site to receive public fill. We expect that the tender for the transportation of fill to the reclamation sites can be invited in the first quarter of 2006-07 at the earliest.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ John S V CHAI

Post Title Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date _____ 11.3.2006

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

ETWB(E)017

Question Serial No.

0237

Head : 33 Civil Engineering and Development Subhead :
Department

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 :

For matters requiring special attention in 2006-07, it is mentioned that Civil Engineering and Development Department will continue to formulate a long-term strategy to accommodate inert construction and demolition materials. What are the details of the strategy?

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply :

Our long-term strategy to accommodate inert construction and demolition materials is as follows:

- To implement the construction waste disposal charging scheme to provide an incentive for developers and contractors to minimize the generation of construction and demolition waste;
- To reuse inert construction and demolition materials in local reclamation works and other civil engineering works;
- To recycle the hard inert construction and demolition materials for reuse; and
- To reuse surplus public fill in the Mainland reclamation works.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ John S V CHAI

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date _____ 11.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)018

Head : 39 - Drainage Services Department Subhead (No. & title) :
 000 Operational Expenses

Question Serial No.

0962

Programme : (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

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

Question : Please provide the post titles, job functions and reasons for the proposed net deletion of 44 posts in 2006-07.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : Details of the net deletion of the 44 posts are as follows -

<i>Post</i>	<i>No. of posts to be deleted/created</i>	<i>Job functions</i>
Electrical & Mechanical Engineer/ Assistant Electrical & Mechanical Engineer	1	Administration of electrical and mechanical projects
Engineering Laboratory Technician II/ Student Engineering Laboratory Technician	1	Providing laboratory services
Laboratory Attendant	2	
Senior Executive Officer	1	Providing administrative support
Executive Officer I	-1 (creation)	
Assistant Clerical Officer	1	Providing general support
Typist	1	
Timekeeper/Checker	1	
Chainman	1	
Senior Artisan (Electrical & Mechanical)	3	
Artisan (Electrical & Mechanical)	22	Providing operational support to the sewage treatment plants
Workman I	3	
Workman II	7	
Drain Chargeman	1	Handling complaints on blocked drains
Total	44 (net deletion)	

The posts are deleted due to reduced manpower requirements arising from streamlined operations and introduction of new information technologies.

Signature _____

Name in block letters C.K. WONG

Post Title Director of Drainage Services

Date 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)019

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

Question Serial No.

0963

Programme : (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

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

Question : The actual value of contracts under construction for 2005 is \$5,798 million which represents an increase of \$661 million over the estimate of \$5,137 million for 2005, with the rate of increase up to 12.9%. What are the reasons for this?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : The reasons for the increase in actual value of contracts under construction in 2005 are due to the advanced commencement of various works and variation in costs of other minor works, details are as follows –

Item No.	Project Title	Amount of Works (\$M)
4204DS	Wanchai East & North Point Sewerage – Remaining Works	221
4229DS	North District and Tolo Harbour sewerage, sewage treatment and disposal - High Priority Works - Expansion of Shek Wu Hui sewage treatment works and Ting Kok Road pumping station No.5	283
4224DS	Outlying Islands sewerage, stage 1 phase 1C - upgrading of Siu Ho Wan sewage treatment plant (for the part of works on disinfection only)	129
-	Other minor works and variation in values of contracts under construction	28
Total		\$661M

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C.K. WONG

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)020

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

Question Serial No.

0880

Programme : (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

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

Question : The values of projects under detailed design for 2004, 2005 and 2006 are \$7,977,000,000, \$5,847,000,000 and \$8,108,000,000 respectively. Please list out the title, location, value and expected commencement and completion dates of all related projects.

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply : At present, we have a large number of sewerage projects located in both the urban and rural areas at a total project estimate of about \$8.1 billion under detailed design. Since these projects are subject to regular changes due to site availability, design evolution, statutory and administrative requirements, public objections as well as other planning considerations, their details will only be set out in the Printed Estimates as and when the related works are scheduled to commence.

Drainage Services Department is committed to taking forward these projects under design and to expediting the project delivery process as far as practicable.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C.K. WONG _____

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services _____

Date _____ 10 March 2006 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)021

Head : 39 - Drainage Services Department Subhead (No. & title) :
000 Operational Expenses

Question Serial No.

0882

Programme : (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

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

Question : There will be a deletion of 44 posts in 2006-07. Please list out the ranks and the amount of salaries in 2005-06 of these 44 posts.

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply : Details of the net deletion of the 44 posts are as follows -

<u>Rank</u>	<u>No. of posts to be deleted/created</u>
Electrical & Mechanical Engineer/ Assistant Electrical & Mechanical Engineer	1
Engineering Laboratory Technician II/ Student Engineering Laboratory Technician	1
Senior Executive Officer	1
Executive Officer I	-1 (<i>creation</i>)
Assistant Clerical Officer	1
Typist	1
Timekeeper/Checker	1
Senior Artisan (Electrical & Mechanical)	3
Artisan (Electrical & Mechanical)	22
Chainman	1
Laboratory Attendant	2
Drain Chargeman	1
Workman I	3
Workman II	7
Total	<u>44 (net deletion)</u>

The 2005-06 salaries (based on notional annual mid-point salary value) arising from the net deletion are \$6.5 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C.K. WONG

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)022

Question Serial No.

0228

Head : 39 - Drainage Services Department Subhead (No. & title) :
000 Operational Expenses

Programme : (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

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

Question : Regarding the matters requiring special attention in 2006-07, please provide details of the environmental impact assessment and design of the time-critical elements of the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme Stage 2A to be continued.

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply : The funding for the environmental impact assessment (EIA) for the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme Stage 2A and the design of the time-critical elements, that is the sewage conveyance system including the associated ground investigations, was approved by the Finance Committee in December 2005.

The EIA consultancy, which investigates the potential environmental impacts, e.g. visual, odour and water quality impacts arising from the proposed works during the construction and operation stages, and will recommend the required mitigating measures and environmental monitoring and audit programme, commenced in February 2006 for completion in August 2007. The investigation and design consultancy for the sewage conveyance system which entails the construction of about 20 km of very deep tunnels commenced in January 2006. We plan to commence in late 2006 the associated ground investigation to provide geological data for the planning and design of the tunnels.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C.K. WONG

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)023

Head : 39 - Drainage Services Department Subhead (No. & title) :
 000 Operational Expenses

Question Serial No.

0229

Programme : (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

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

Question : Of the 44 posts to be deleted in 2006-07, which type of posts and number of ranks will be involved? How much savings in expenditure will be resulted?

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply : Details of the net deletion of the 44 posts are as follows -

<i>Type</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>No. of posts to be deleted/created</i>
Professional grade	Electrical & Mechanical Engineer/ Assistant Electrical & Mechanical Engineer	1
Technical grade	Engineering Laboratory Technician II/ Student Engineering Laboratory Technician	1
General and Common grades	Senior Executive Officer	1
	Executive Officer I	-1 (<i>creation</i>)
	Assistant Clerical Officer	1
	Typist	1
	Timekeeper/Checker	1
	Senior Artisan (Electrical & Mechanical)	3
	Artisan (Electrical & Mechanical)	22
	Chainman	1
Departmental grade	Laboratory Attendant	2
	Drain Chageman	1
Model Scale I grades	Workman I	3
	Workman II	7
	<i>Total</i>	<i>44 (net deletion)</i>

The savings in notional annual mid-point salary value arising from the net deletion of the 44 posts are \$6.5 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C.K. WONG

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 11 March 2006

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

Head: 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Subhead:
Department

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 matters requiring special attention in 2006-07, it is mentioned that the Department will analyse wind energy data collected from five sites in both rural and urban areas of Hong Kong and encourage the private companies to undertake pilot wind energy projects. Please give (a) detailed information on the five sites; (b) details of how to encourage the private companies to undertake pilot wind energy projects; and (c) an estimate of the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

- (a) The wind measurement programme comprises five temporary wind monitoring stations with four in rural areas and one in the urban area. The stations in rural areas are located at Pottinger Peak, Miu Tsai Tun (in Clearwater Bay), Tung Lung Chau and Town Island. The station in the urban area is located at Government Logistics Centre in Chai Wan.

The one-year wind measurement carried out at Pottinger Peak and Government Logistics Centre was completed in 2005. The one year wind measurement at the remaining three locations started in 2005, and will be completed by mid 2006.

- (b) The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) will make use of computer modelling technique to translate the wind resource data gathered into a wind resource map for the eastern part of Hong Kong. The wind resource map will serve as a useful reference for the Government, professionals and the public, in particular those interested in applying wind power technology in Hong Kong.

EMSD will also establish an Internet Platform for Renewable Energy Technologies by early 2007 to promote and disseminate information on renewable energy technologies (including the wind resource map and wind power technology) in Hong Kong to the public.

- (c) The total estimated expenditure for the wind measurement programme is \$2.45 million. In 2006-07, the expected expenditure for wind measurement and associated studies is estimated to be \$0.7 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Roger S.H. LAI

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date 10.3.2006

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

Head: 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Subhead:
Department

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:

It was proposed in the Policy Address that power consumption be reduced by 1.5%. With regard to the monitoring of the implementation of energy efficiency and conservation programmes, please provide details of the specific measures and the procurement of energy saving products required. What expenditure will be involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply:

The managing department and users of individual Government office buildings will work out and implement an agreed set of measures to meet the 1.5% reduction target for the respective buildings. Examples of such measures are: continuous promotion and implementation of the 25.5°C initiative in summer months; replacement of air-cooled air-conditioning systems with more energy efficient water-cooled air-conditioning systems; retrofit of more energy efficient lighting systems such as T5 fluorescent lamps; installation of automatic lighting on/off control systems; installation of variable speed drives; and reduction of air-conditioning requirements for computer server rooms. The electricity consumption of major Government office buildings will be closely monitored.

A provision of \$70 million has been set aside for implementing the energy saving and renewable energy projects in Government buildings. Individual departments may also install energy saving equipment of their own accord.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Roger S.H. LAI

Post Title _____ Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date _____ 11.3.2006

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

Head: 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Subhead:
Department

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:

Please provide details of the energy audit surveys completed in 2005 and those to be conducted in 2006.

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

Energy audits were performed for the Science Museum and Shatin Town Hall in 2005. In 2006, energy audits will be carried out for one government office and one magistracy lawcourt.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Roger S.H. LAI

Post Title _____ Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date _____ 11.3.2006

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

Head: 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Subhead:
Department

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:

Please provide details of the four grid-connected renewable installations completed in 2005.

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

The four grid-connected renewable energy installations completed in 2005 are photovoltaic installations with details as follows:

- (a) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Headquarters with capacity of 350 kW;
- (b) Penny's Bay Fire Station with capacity of 76 kW;
- (c) Penny's Bay Police Post with capacity of 9 kW; and
- (d) Princess Margaret Hospital with capacity of 18 kW.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Roger S.H. LAI

Post Title _____ Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date _____ 10.3.2006

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

Head: 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Subhead:
Department

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 new indicator as from 2006 is to give advice to the public in the promotion of energy efficiency and conservation. How will this service be provided to the public?

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

“Advice to the public” will be provided by means of the 24-hour hotline “1823” and an email address eepublic@emsd.gov.hk through which the public may obtain information on energy efficiency and conservation matters.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Roger S.H. LAI

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date _____ 11.3.2006

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

Head: 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Subhead:
Department

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:

Please provide details of the energy audit surveys to be conducted in 2006 and the four grid-connected renewable installations completed in 2005. In addition, a new indicator as from 2006 is to give advice to the public in the promotion of energy efficiency and conservation. How will this service be provided to the public?

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

1. Energy audits will be carried out for one government office and one magistracy lawcourt in 2006.
2. The four grid-connected renewable energy installations completed in 2005 are photovoltaic installations. Details are as follows:
 - (a) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Headquarters with capacity of 350 kW;
 - (b) Penny's Bay Fire Station with capacity of 76 kW;
 - (c) Penny's Bay Police Post with capacity of 9 kW; and
 - (d) Princess Margaret Hospital with capacity of 18 kW.
3. "Advice to the public" will be provided by means of the 24-hour hotline "1823" and an email address eepublic@emsd.gov.hk through which the public may obtain information on energy efficiency and conservation matters.

Signature _____

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

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date _____ 11.3.2006 _____

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

Head: 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Subhead:
Department

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:

In 2006-07, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) will monitor the further development and operation of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) filling stations. What are the details?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply:

At present, there are 55 LPG filling stations in Hong Kong. To further expand the LPG network, it is government policy to include LPG filling facilities in all future land sales for petrol stations, subject to safety requirements being met. EMSD will continue to examine the safety aspect of new applications for LPG filling stations and monitor the development of the LPG filling network, including two new petrol cum LPG filling stations being designed and constructed in 2006-07. As regards operation of LPG filling stations, EMSD will carry out quarterly inspections with a view to ensuring gas safety and service quality.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Roger S.H. LAI

Post Title _____ Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date _____ 10.3.2006

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

Head: 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Subhead:
Department

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 liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) fuel tank revalidations to be processed will peak in 2006. Has the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) allocated resources to handle the workload in this peak period? If so, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply:

The actual revalidation work is undertaken by the industry which is aware of the surge in the number of LPG fuel tanks due for revalidation. The EMSD will continue to deploy the existing manpower to monitor the progress of the revalidation exercise and conduct safety inspections to ensure the quality of work. No additional resources will be required.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Roger S.H. LAI

Post Title _____ Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date _____ 10.3.2006

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

Head: 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Subhead:
Department

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:

Please state the number of persons qualified to maintain liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) vehicles and the number of LPG vehicle maintenance workshops.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply:

At present, there are about 1 000 skilled mechanics qualified to carry out works relating to fuel systems of LPG vehicles. There are 35 vehicle workshops considered suitable for carrying out LPG vehicle maintenance work.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Roger S.H. LAI

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date _____ 10.3.2006

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

Head: 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Subhead:
Department

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 public awareness and use of energy efficiency and conservation measures and renewable energy, please provide details of the relevant projects launched in 2005-06 and to be launched in 2006-07 by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) and the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply:

The cost for promotional activities for public awareness on use of energy efficiency and conservation measures and renewable energy in 2005-06 is \$0.6 million and the promotional activities mainly include:

- Production of "Announcement of Public Interest" (API) for the Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme;
- Publication of promotional leaflet for setting air-conditioned room temperature to 25.5°C during the summer season;
- Publication of the technical guidelines for grid connection of small scale renewable energy systems;
- Briefings for professional bodies, property development and management companies, school students and interested groups; and
- Guided tour for organisations like schools, professional bodies and interested groups to the Education Path for energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies in the EMSD Headquarters.

The above-mentioned promotional activities will, after review and refinement as appropriate, continue in 2006-07. In addition, a new internet platform to promote and disseminate information to the public on renewable energy, and energy efficiency and conservation technologies will be established in early 2007. The overall expenditure is estimated to be \$4.7 million in 2006-07.

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) also promotes energy conservation as part of their environmental protection and conservation promotion programme through various publicity programmes such as API, television programme and other education programmes. The amount attributable to energy conservation in 2005-06 was about \$1 million. EPD has earmarked about \$1million in 2006-07 for organizing similar publicity programmes.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Roger S.H. LAI

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date 11.3.2006

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

Head: 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Subhead:
Department

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:

Regarding cases of approval and revalidation of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) fuel tanks in vehicles, the estimated number in 2006 is 9 200, which represents an increase of 7 228 over 2004 (1972) and of 2 332 over 2005 (6 868). What is the reason for this? What is the manpower arrangement for handling the upsurge in workload? What will be the additional expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply:

The increase in the estimated number of LPG vehicle fuel tank approval and revalidation cases in 2006 is primarily owing to the increase in the number of LPG fuel tanks due for the 5-yearly revalidation requirement under the Gas Safety Ordinance (Cap. 51), as many LPG taxis were registered around 2001.

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (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 which is aware of the anticipated surge in the number of LPG fuel tanks due for revalidation. EMSD will continue to deploy the existing manpower to monitor the progress of the revalidation exercise and conduct safety inspections to ensure the quality of work. No additional resource will be required.

Signature _____

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

Post Title _____ Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services _____

Date _____ 10.3.2006 _____

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

Head: 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Subhead:
Department

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 liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) vehicle fuel tank approval and revalidation cases will peak in 2006 (9 200). Have additional resources been allocated to deal with the upsurge in workload? Will the time required for approving these cases be longer in 2006?

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply:

The actual revalidation work is undertaken by the industry which is aware of the anticipated surge in the number of LPG fuel tanks due for revalidation. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department will continue to deploy the existing resources to absorb the additional workload in carrying out inspections on the revalidation work of the industry to ensure its quality and safety standard. The processing time for these cases is expected to remain the same.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Roger S.H. LAI

Post Title _____

Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date _____

11.3.2006

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

Head: 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Subhead:
Department

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 inspections of approved filling stations is expected to increase from 50 in 2005 to 220 in 2006. What is the reason for the substantial increase?

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply:

With a view to enhancing gas safety, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department will step up the inspection frequency of approved liquefied petroleum gas filling stations and the increase in the number of inspections is due to the implementation of a quarterly inspection programme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Roger S.H. LAI

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date _____ 11.3.2006

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

Head: 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Subhead:
Department

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 estimate for 2006-07 is higher than that for 2005-06 and this is mainly due to the procurement of energy saving equipment for various government departments and organisations. Please provide details of the energy saving equipment and the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply:

The estimated expenditure for the procurement of equipment for the implementation of energy saving and renewable energy projects in 2006-07 is \$70 million. The projects mainly include retrofitting of energy efficient lighting, installation of automatic lighting on/off control systems, installation of variable speed drives, replacement of air-cooled air conditioning systems with water-cooled air conditioning systems, application of photovoltaic and solar hot water systems, etc.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Roger S.H. LAI

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date 11.3.2006

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

Head: 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Subhead:
Department

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 on the study of renewable energy in 2006-07?

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply:

The estimated expenditure in 2006-07 for the studies on renewable energy is around \$1.2 million, which covers the following major items:

- (a) Wind measurement programme for three locations – Miu Tsai Tun (in Clearwater Bay), Tung Lung Chau and Town Island;
- (b) Study on the performance of the photovoltaic system at the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Headquarters;
- (c) Study on the effectiveness of solar heat pipe hot water system installation at the Kowloon Bay Fire Station;
- (d) Study on large-scale grid connection practices for renewable energy system; and
- (e) Study on the latest overseas practices in formulating measures to encourage adoption of renewable energy.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Roger S.H. LAI

Post Title _____ Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date _____ 10.3.2006

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

Head: 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Subhead:
Department

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 are the estimated savings achieved through the implementation of energy saving programmes for government departments?

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply:

By implementing energy saving programmes for government departments, the estimated additional savings in government expenditure on electricity in 2006-07 is \$30 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Roger S.H. LAI

Post Title _____ Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date _____ 11.3.2006

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

Head: 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Subhead:
Department

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:

In 2006-07, through what channels will energy efficient technologies be promoted to the public? What are the details of the energy efficient technologies concerned?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply:

Public awareness on energy saving technologies will be promoted through various channels such as the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) website; information leaflets; outreaching programmes, e.g. briefings for professional bodies, property management companies and schools; carnivals and guided tours for various organisations to the Education Path of the EMSD Headquarters.

A variety of energy efficiency technologies are promoted to the public. Examples are energy saving lamps, programmable on/off control for lighting systems, occupancy sensors and dimming control for lighting systems, water cooled air conditioning systems, variable speed drives for various engineering systems and computerized/programmable control for air conditioning systems.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Roger S.H. LAI

Post Title _____ Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date _____ 11.3.2006

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

Head: 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Subhead:
Department

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 liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) vehicle fuel tank approval and revalidation cases will reach 9 200 in 2006. How many LPG vehicles are expected to be due for revalidation in 2006? What is its share of the whole fleet of LPG vehicles in Hong Kong? Is the relevant provision adequate for approving and revalidating the 9 200 LPG vehicles?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

It is expected that about 9 000 LPG vehicles will have their LPG fuel tanks due for the 5-yearly revalidation in 2006, representing 43% of the whole fleet of LPG vehicles registered in Hong Kong. The actual revalidation work is undertaken by the industry which is aware of the surge in the number of LPG fuel tanks due for revalidation. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department will continue to deploy the existing manpower to monitor the progress of the revalidation exercise and conduct safety inspections to ensure the quality of work. No additional resources will be required.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Roger S.H. LAI

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date 11.3.2006

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

Head: 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Subhead:
Department

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 liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) filling stations approved in 2004 and 2005 are four and five respectively. It is expected that the number of filling stations to be approved will only be one in 2006. What is the reason? Will the supply be adequate to meet the demand?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

With the completion of a substantial number of LPG filling stations over the years, it is anticipated that the number of new applications for 2006 will drop. The capacity of 55 LPG filling stations in operation, including 12 dedicated and 43 non-dedicated stations, can adequately meet the demand of LPG taxis and light buses.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Roger S.H. LAI

Post Title _____ Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date _____ 11.3.2006

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

Head: 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Subhead:
Department

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 energy efficiency and conservation and alternative energy, what were the results of the promotion of the voluntary Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme in 2005-06? What will be the expenditure on the promotion of the Scheme in 2006-07?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Ting-kwong

Reply:

In 2005, 344 new product models were registered under the voluntary Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme, representing an increase of about 11% from 2004 (with 309 new models). The estimated expenditure for promoting wider application of this voluntary scheme in 2006-07 is \$50,000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Roger S.H. LAI

Post Title _____ Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date _____ 11.3.2006

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

Head: 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Subhead:
Department

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 provision for 2006-07 is \$27 million (32.7%) higher than that for 2005-06 and this is mainly due to the procurement of energy saving equipment for various government departments and organisations. Please provide details of the energy saving equipment. If the energy saving equipment is to be used in the government departments, what will be the annual energy savings? What are the benefits of using such equipment?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Ting-kwong

Reply:

The estimated expenditure for the procurement of equipment for the implementation of energy saving and renewable energy projects in 2006-07 is \$70 million, which includes the increment in provision. This total provision will be used for the procurement of equipment for the implementation of energy-saving and renewable energy projects. The projects mainly include retrofitting of energy efficient lighting, installation of automatic lighting on/off control systems, installation of variable speed drives, replacement of air-cooled air conditioning systems with water-cooled air conditioning systems, application of photovoltaic and solar hot water systems, etc.

It is estimated that the above projects will bring about savings in government electricity consumption amounting to about \$11 million each year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Roger S.H. LAI

Post Title _____ Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date _____ 11.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)045

Question Serial No.

0254

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

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 2006-07 estimate of \$248.8 million under this programme represents a 37.7% reduction of the original estimate of 2005-06. The Government claimed that the substantial reduction was a result of the completion of the incentive scheme launched to encourage the replacement of diesel public light buses by liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) or electric light buses, which had largely reduced expenditure in this respect. Given the continuous aggravation of air pollution in Hong Kong and the vast reduction in expenditure to be provided to tackle such problem, what practical measures will the Administration take in 2006-07 to bring improvements to the air quality in Hong Kong? And what will be the resources involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : In addition to existing on-going programmes, major measures to be taken in 2006-07 to improve the air quality include:

1. taking up with the power companies on measures to reduce emissions and increase the use of natural gas;
2. preparing a legislative proposal for the introduction of a mandatory energy efficiency labelling scheme;
3. proposing measures to strengthen the control of emissions from petrol and LPG vehicles including the use of roadside remote sensing equipment and the use of dynamometers for emission testing;
4. exploring the feasibility of controlling emissions from off-road mobile sources;
5. making it a mandatory requirement for owners of pre-Euro heavy-duty diesel vehicles that need to operate under long-idling conditions to install emission reduction devices;
6. tightening emission standards for newly-registered heavy-duty vehicles to the Euro IV level;
7. introducing a new regulation to control the contents of volatile organic compounds in paints, printing inks and selected consumer products; and
8. implementing the Regional Air Quality Management Plan with Guangdong authorities to improve the regional air quality.

The above measures will be part and parcel of Programme (2) Air. Resources required will be covered by the total provision of \$248.8 million in 2006-07 under 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 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)046

Question Serial No.

0089

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 : (a) What is the amount of expenditure to be put in 2006-07 to improve the air quality and air pollution in Hong Kong? What are the details?

(b) On co-operation between Hong Kong and Guangdong, what specific measures will be initiated or completed in 2006-07 apart from the operation of an air quality monitoring system? Please provide the details and expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply : (a) The total provision to be put in 2006-07 to improve air quality and air pollution in Hong Kong under the Programme (2) Air is \$248.8 million. Major programmes to be covered by the provision include monitoring of air quality, enforcement of air pollution control legislation, handling of complaints, dissemination of air quality information, implementation of projects, studies of various issues and initiatives as well as development of legislation and new programmes. Major measures to be taken in 2006-07 are highlighted below:

1. taking up with the power companies measures to reduce emissions and increase the use of natural gas;
2. preparing a legislative proposal for the introduction of a mandatory energy efficiency labelling scheme;
3. developing measures to strengthen the control of emissions from petrol and liquefied petroleum gas vehicles including the use of roadside remote sensing equipment and the use of dynamometers for emission testing;
4. exploring the feasibility of controlling emissions from off-road mobile sources;
5. making it a mandatory requirement for owners of pre-Euro heavy-duty diesel vehicles that need to operate under long-idling conditions to install emission reduction devices;
6. tightening emission standards for newly-registered heavy-duty vehicles to the Euro IV level; and
7. introducing a new regulation to control the contents of volatile organic compounds in paints, printing inks and selected consumer products.

(b) Apart from the Regional Air Quality Monitoring Network, Hong Kong and Guangdong will continue to work closely in 2006-07 to implement the Regional Air Quality Management Plan. Major work items will include assessing the progress of various enhanced pollution reduction measures, compiling emission inventories, enhancing technical exchanges and training as well as developing details of the Emission Trading Pilot Scheme for Thermal Power Plants in the Pearl River Delta region. The expenditure to be incurred by the HKSAR Government is part and parcel of the allocation to the Programme (2) Air which amounts to \$248.8 million in 2006-07.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

K. K. Kwok

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

10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)047

Question Serial No.

0908

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

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 provision for 2006-07 is less than the original estimate for 2005-06 by 37.7%. Please
give a breakdown on the details and sums of the items where saving is achieved.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply : The provision for 2006-07 is less than the original estimate for 2005-06 by 37.7% or \$150.8
million. This is mainly due to the completion of the following two items, with the decrease in
provision in bracket:

- Subhead 700 Item 435 - One-off grant to assist owners of pre-Euro diesel heavy vehicles
of long idling operational mode to retrofit their vehicles with emission reduction devices
(\$41.4 million); and
- Subhead 700 Item 570 - One off grant to encourage diesel public light bus owners to
replace their vehicles early with ones that run on liquefied petroleum gas or electricity
(\$122.3 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 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)049

Question Serial No.

0910

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

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 : Regarding the legislative proposal for the introduction of a mandatory energy efficiency labelling scheme, what is the estimated expenditure and how is the work arranged for the coming year?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply : The Government consulted the public on the proposed mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme in 2005. The majority of views received are supportive of the proposed Scheme. Two task forces comprising representatives from the Government, the trade and other stakeholders have been set up to discuss the implementation details of the proposed Scheme. The Government is now preparing the legislative proposal for the Scheme. The Environmental Protection Department is responsible for policy formulation whereas the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) is responsible for implementation of the policies to promote energy saving, including the implementation of the proposed mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme.

In 2006-07, EMSD will spend \$0.929 million to create a senior professional post for the preparatory work of the mandatory Scheme.

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 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)050

Question Serial No.

0911

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

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 : For the tightening of emission standards for heavy-duty vehicles as stated in the estimate for 2006-07, please give details of the measures concerned, the estimated costs incurred and the target to be achieved.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply : Since a heavy duty vehicle meeting Euro IV standards will emit about 30% and 80% less nitrogen oxides and particulates respectively than an existing Euro III one, we plan to propose an amendment regulation to the Legislative Council by May 2006 making Euro IV emission standards mandatory for newly registered heavy duty vehicles (i.e. those over 3.5 tonnes) from 1 October 2006, in tandem with the European Union. The proposal was supported by the Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs at its meeting on 27 February 2006. The cost of implementation of the proposal will be absorbed by existing provisions.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

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

Date _____

10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)051

Question Serial No.

1608

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

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 number of licences renewed for the enforcement of the Water Pollution Control Ordinance is expected to increase by 2.5 fold, from 565 in 2005 to 2 000 in 2006. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply : In 1996, all dischargers were brought under the Water Pollution Control Ordinance (WPCO) licensing control and in the same year, the WPCO licence validity period was changed from 2 years to 5 years. Consequently, a large number of licences that were issued in 1996 as a result of the declaration of the last phase of the Victoria Harbour Water Control Zone are due for renewal in every 5 years. We therefore expect the number of licences to be renewed in 2006 will be more than that in 2005. Our record shows that about 2 000 licences are due to expire in 2006.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

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

Date _____

9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)052

Question Serial No.

0405

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 waste treatment at refuse transfer stations:

- (a) Please list out the areas, the maximum design capacities, the existing volume handled and the names of operators respective refuse transfer stations.
- (b) Please list out the expiry dates of the operation contracts for respective refuse transfer stations, the fees payable by the Government to the operators for handling waste per tonne and the minimum commitment fees payable by the Government to the operators each year.

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : (a) The names of the contractors as well as the site areas, 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 2005 (tonnes/day)
Sha Tin RTS (STTS)	Swire SITA Waste Services Ltd.	1.8	1,200	910
Island West RTS (IWTS)	Ditto	1.35	1,000	486
Outlying Islands Transfer Facilities (OITF)	Ditto	1.85	611	172
North West New Territories RTS (NWNNTS)	Ditto	1.25	1,100	774
Island East RTS (IETS)	Island East Transfer Station Co. Ltd.	1.2	1,200	863
West Kowloon RTS (WKTS)	South China Transfer Ltd.	1.9	2,500	2,053
North Lantau RTS (NLTS)	Ecoserve Ltd.	1.75	650 (Phase I)	151

- (b) The contract expiry dates of the RTS contracts, waste handling fees paid to the contractors in 2005, 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 2005 (\$ million)	Average Waste Handling Cost in 2005 (\$/tonne)	Minimum Amount of Waste to be handled per month (tonnes)	Minimum Monthly Waste Handling Fees (\$ million)
STTS	Oct 2009	32.2	91	9,000	2.4
IWTS	Apr 2012	46.8	264	15,000	3.9
OITF	Mar 2013	38.8	615	6,700	3.2
NWNNTS	Sep 2016	19.6	69	7,000	1.1
IETS	Nov 2007	76.3	242	28,000	6.3
WKTS	Jun 2012	70.8	94	39,000	4.9
NLTS	May 2013	20.7	383	3,000	1.7

Remark : The Kowloon Bay RTS was temporarily closed after expiry of contract in early April 2005.

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 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)053

Question Serial No.

0406

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

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 : On the handling of complaint cases, has the Department received any complaints on light pollution in the years 2004-05 and 2005-06? Please provide the figures and details of these complaint cases. Will the government consider the introduction of mechanism or legislation to handle complaints pertaining to light pollution? What will be the resources involved in related work?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The Environmental Protection Department received 8 and 34 complaints on light pollution in the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively. They were mainly related to light nuisance caused by signboard, neon light and spot light. The EPD resolved these complaint cases through persuasion and will continue to do so in future with existing staff resources. At present, there are no plans to introduce legislation to control the light intensity of these facilities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters K. K. Kwok

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

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)054

Question Serial No.

0407

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 : With regard to waste management, please give an account of the name and total number of housing estates participating in the Programme on Source Separation of Domestic Waste, as well as their respective amount of recovery, volume of waste reduced and income received from recovered waste.

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : As at mid-February 2006, a total of 241 housing estates have signed up to join the Programme on Source Separation of Domestic Waste. This represents 368 000 households and a population of around 1 170 000. A list of the 241 estates is attached at the Annex. In general, the results from participating estates were encouraging with an overall 50% increase in the quantity of recyclables collected and a 3-4% reduction in the amount of waste disposed of. The Environmental Protection Department does not require estates to provide information on the amount of income they have received from the recovered waste, which could be in the order of several thousand dollars every month for large 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 _____

9 March 2006

**List of housing estates participating in
the Programme on Source Separation of Domestic Waste**

No.	Name of Estate	No.	Name of Estate
1.	Ivy On Belcher's	16.	Pacific Palisades
2.	Peaksville	17.	Park Vale
3.	Primrose Court	18.	Sun Tak House
4.	Regence Royale	19.	Taikoo Shing
5.	Robinson Place	20.	The Floridian
6.	Scenecliff	21.	The Orchards
7.	Aldrich Garden	22.	Tung Chung Crescent
8.	Harbour Heights	23.	18 Farm Road
9.	Heng Fa Chuen	24.	Laguna Verde
10.	Island Place	25.	Royal Peninsula
11.	Lei King Wan	26.	Cheung Wo Court
12.	Les Saisons	27.	Sceneway Garden
13.	LeSommet	28.	Woodland Crest
14.	New Jade Garden	29.	Fu Ning Garden
15.	Newton Harbour View Tower, Block 2	30.	La Cite Noble

No.	Name of Estate	No.	Name of Estate
31.	Ocean Shores	48.	The Leighton Hill
32.	Park Central	49.	Winfield Building
33.	The Solemar Villas	50.	Grand View Garden
34.	City One Shatin	51.	Rhythm Garden
35.	Ocean View	52.	Wealth Garden
36.	Sunshin City,The Tolo Place	53.	8 Waterloo Road
37.	Sunshine City Phase 3	54.	King's Park Hill
38.	Mei Foo Sun Chuen (IV)	55.	Sunningdale
39.	Welland Plaza	56.	Coral Garden
40.	Ocean Court	57.	The Parcville
41.	Pacific View	58.	Villa by the Park
42.	Splendour Villa	59.	Lai Tak Estate
43.	Waterfront South	60.	Yiu Tung Estate
44.	Beneville	61.	On Yam Estate
45.	Convention Plaza Apartments	62.	Lei Yue Mun Estate
46.	Monticello	63.	Sau Mau Ping Estate
47.	Starcrest	64.	Yau Tong Estate

No.	Name of Estate	No.	Name of Estate
65.	Chun Shek Estate	78.	NT Depot Police Married Quarters
66.	Lee on Estate	79.	Pik Uk Correctional Services Quarters
67.	Chak On Estate	80.	Po Lo Che Government Quarters
68.	Sam Shing Estate	81.	A Kung Kok Government Quarters
69.	Tin Shui Estate (I)	82.	Lok Fung Path, No.10
70.	Chai Wan Police Married Quarters	83.	Lok Fung Path, No.6
71.	Pamela Youde Hospital Staff Quarters	84.	Glendale
72.	87-91 Broadcast Drive	85.	Ha Hang Departmental Quarters
73.	Customs & Excise Service Inspectors Married Quarters (Tsing Chau Road)	86.	Wong Tai Sin Disciplined Services Quarters
74.	Kwai Fuk Court	87.	Goldwin Heights
75.	Kwai Yuen Disciplined Services Quarters	88.	Hing Wong Building
76.	Lai King Disciplined Services Quarters	89.	Yue Sun Mansion
77.	Shun Lee Disciplined Services Quarters	90.	Braemar Hill Mansions

No.	Name of Estate	No.	Name of Estate
91.	Seaview Crescent	108.	Harbourfront Landmark
92.	Cascades	109.	The Astrid
93.	Parc Palais	110.	Ching Lai Court
94.	The Bloomsville	111.	Horizon Place
95.	Broadview Garden (Block 1-5)	112.	Belair Monte
96.	Tierra Verde	113.	Flora Plaza
97.	Jade Field Garden	114.	Bauhinia Garden
98.	Po Pui Court	115.	Hong Sing Garden
99.	Grand Palisades	116.	Maritime Bay
100.	Serenade Cove	117.	Metro City Phase 1
101.	No.1 Tai Hang Road	118.	Metro City Phase 2
102.	Villa Lotto	119.	Radiant Towers
103.	Sorrento	120.	The Metropolis
104.	The Regalia	121.	Tong Ming Court
105.	Sherwood Court (Kingwood Villa)	122.	Wo Ming Court
106.	Yu Tung Court	123.	Garden Rivera
107.	Dynasty Heights	124.	Mei Chung Court

No.	Name of Estate	No.	Name of Estate
125.	Pristine Villa	142.	Royal Court
126.	Windsor Heights	143.	Scenic View
127.	Broadview Court	144.	The Victoria Towers
128.	Kam Fat Building	145.	Curio Court
129.	Residence Bel-Air	146.	Grand Del Sol
130.	South Wave Court	147.	Jasper Court
131.	Casa Marina II	148.	Royal Plams
132.	Fortune Garden	149.	Sai Wan Estate
133.	Fuller Gardens (Phase I)	150.	Oi Tung Estate
134.	Park Island	151.	Siu Sai Wan Estate
135.	Sea Crest Villa Phase 1	152.	Cheung Kwai Estate
136.	Aegean Coast	153.	Nga Ning Court
137.	Nerine Cove	154.	Ka Wai Chuen
138.	Parkland Villas	155.	Broadview Garden
139.	Siu Lun Court	156.	Cheung Wang Estate
140.	The Seacrest	157.	High Prosperity Terrace
141.	Yuet Wu Villa	158.	Shek Lei Estate (II)

No.	Name of Estate	No.	Name of Estate
159.	Po Tat Estate	176.	Rowen Court
160.	Shun Lee Estate	177.	Tsui King Court
161.	Ming Tak Estate	178.	Tanner Garden
162.	Sheung Tak Estate	179.	Majestic Park
163.	Chung On Estate	180.	Ching Wah Court
164.	Fu Tung Estate	181.	Happy Villa
165.	Kwong Fuk Estate	182.	Lai Yan Court
166.	Choi Fai Estate	183.	Mount Haven
167.	Lower Wong Tai Sin (II) Estate	184.	Hong Shui Court
168.	Tsz Hong Estate	185.	Richland Gardens
169.	Wan Tau Hom Estate	186.	Dawning Views
170.	Tin Yat Estate	187.	Clover Lodge
171.	Tin Yiu Estate	188.	Castello
172.	Chater Hall	189.	Greenery Villas I
173.	Buxey Lodge	190.	Greenery Villas II
174.	Pokfulam Road 122	191.	Jubilee Garden
175.	Wing Ting Road Fire Services Married Quarters	192.	Ka Tin Court

No.	Name of Estate	No.	Name of Estate
193.	Manlai Court	209.	The Paramount
194.	New Town Plaza Phase III Residential	210.	Yee Nga Court
195.	Ravana Garden	211.	Harmony Garden (Block 2)
196.	Sunshine City Phase IV(Block E-M)	212.	Rhine Terrace
197.	Vista Paradiso	213.	Summit Terrace
198.	Yu Chui Court	214.	Beaulieu Peninsula
199.	Parc Oasis II	215.	Blossom Garden
200.	Po Hei Court	216.	Chelsea Heights
201.	127 Repulse Bay Road	217.	Hanford Garden
202.	45 Island Road	218.	Miami Beach Towers
203.	Aberdeen Centre	219.	Siu On Court
204.	Cameo Court	220.	Villa Tiara
205.	Casa Marina I	221.	Illumination Terrace
206.	DeerHill Bay	222.	May Garden
207.	King Nga Court	223.	No.1 Star Street
208.	Ming Nga Court	224.	Portfield Building

No.	Name of Estate	No.	Name of Estate
225.	Foo Tat Building	239.	Kwong Yuen Disciplined Services Quarters
226.	Botania Villa	240.	Tsing Chung Koon Road Government Quarters
227.	Palm Springs	241.	Yuen Long Police Married Quarters
228.	Parkside Villa		
229.	Sun Yuen Long Centre		
230.	Tin Shing Court		
231.	Mei Lam Estate		
232.	Tai Yuen Estate		
233.	Tin Chak Estate		
234.	Tsing Yi Police Married Quarters		
235.	Lai King Terrace Staff Quarters		
236.	Sheung Shui Disciplined Services Quarters		
237.	Sheung Shui Police Married Quarters		
238.	Tseung Kwan O Fire Services Quarters		

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)055

Question Serial No.

0408

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 : With regard to waste management, please give an account of the funding provided to housing estates, through direct government subsidy or the Environment and Conservation Fund, for carrying out waste separation schemes and how the money was spent.

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : To promote source separation of waste, private housing estates can apply for funding support from the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF). Under ECF, \$5 million has been earmarked for providing financial support to private housing estates to implement source separation of waste programme. In 2005-06, 36 applications were received and 12 have been approved so far for a total funding of \$352,000. The funding is used to subsidize the installation of waste separation facilities such as bins, racks or bags on each building floor to facilitate residents in carrying out source separation of waste. For public housing estates and government quarters, the Housing Department and the Government Property Agency are implementing source separation of waste with government funding.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

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

Date _____

9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)056

Question Serial No.

0409

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 : (a) On the implementation of energy efficiency and conservation programmes as well as the promotion of wider application of renewable energy, how is the work divided between the Environmental Protection Department and the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department?

(b) What are the details and expenditure involved in implementing these programmes?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : (a) The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is responsible for policy formulation whereas the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) is responsible for implementation of the policies and measures to promote energy saving and renewable energy.

The Government has formulated a set of comprehensive energy conservation policies to promote energy saving among all sectors and the public. EMSD has been implementing many programmes and projects on energy conservation, such as Voluntary Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme, promotion of effective energy management practices among government bureaux / departments and the public and private sectors, promotion of water-cooled air conditioning systems to improve the energy efficiency of commercial air-conditioning systems, and organization of public education and promotional activities, etc. As for renewable energy, apart from promoting the connection of renewable energy installations to the electricity grid, EPD and EMSD also monitor the progress of the two power companies in setting up production scale wind turbine as demonstration projects. Publicity activities such as educational talks, school visits, and distribution of information leaflets on renewable energy have also been organized by EMSD.

(b) The Energy Efficiency Office of EMSD is responsible for research, development and promotion of energy efficiency and conservation measures, including renewable energy. A provision of \$78.8 million is set aside in 2006-07 for these projects and activities. EPD will also spend about \$1 million in 2006-07 to promote energy conservation through various publicity and education programmes such as Announcement of Public Interests, television programmes and other education programmes.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

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

Date _____

9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)057

Question Serial No.

0581

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 : Please list out the estimated expenditure and details of developing the producer responsibility schemes for tyres, plastic bags and other categories in 2006-07 and the next three years (i.e. 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10) respectively.

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The work to develop the Producer Responsibility Schemes (PRS) for vehicle tyres, plastic bags and other products in 2006-07 and the next three financial years will be undertaken by existing staff of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD).

In addition, the EPD has commissioned two studies and five pilot projects for developing the PRSs. The two studies to examine the PRS options for plastic bags and waste electronic and electrical equipment are in progress and will be completed in 2006-07. The total estimated expenditure for these two studies in 2006-07 is \$1.1 million. For the five pilot projects covering waste tyres, computers, cathode ray tubes, electrical appliances and rechargeable batteries, the total estimated expenditure is \$8.3 million in 2006-07, and will increase to \$10.2 million per annum in the next three years.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **K. K. Kwok**

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

Date _____ 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)059

Question Serial No.

0583

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 : What is the detailed expenditure in 2006-07 for implementing the Charging Scheme for
Construction Waste Disposal, which was introduced in 1 December 2005?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The estimated expenditure in 2006-07 for the implementation of the Construction Waste Disposal Charging Scheme by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) and the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) will be around \$21.6 million. This includes \$17.5 million for the operation and maintenance of the computer systems installed at various waste facilities and EPD's office for billing accounts; and \$4.1 million for additional contract staff, printing, postage and other miscellaneous items. In addition, \$23.9 million will be spent by CEDD in 2006-07 to cover the remaining setting up cost of its two sorting facilities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

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

Date _____

10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)060

Question Serial No.

0587

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 : Both the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and the Environmental Protection Department are responsible for the new nature conservation policy. How is the work divided between them? Will there be an overlapping of functions? What are the manpower and amount of expenditure required by the two departments for the new nature conservation policy?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : Following the merger of the Environment Branch of the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau and the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) on 1 April 2005, EPD is responsible for policy formulation whereas the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is responsible for implementation of the policies on nature conservation, including management and protection of country and marine parks, special areas and marine reserve, conservation and management of the Mai Po, Inner Deep Bay Ramsar site and the Hong Kong Wetland Park, promotion of public awareness of nature conservation, and licensing control of international trade in endangered species, etc. There is a clear demarcation and no overlapping of roles and responsibilities between EPD and AFCD.

The new nature conservation policy includes the implementation of a number of initiatives which aim at regulating, protecting and managing natural resources that are important for the conservation of biological diversity of Hong Kong in a sustainable manner. These initiatives include identifying priority sites for enhanced conservation, implementing and enhancing the existing nature conservation measures, strengthening public education and publicity on the importance of conserving biological diversity and implementing the pilot schemes for management agreements and public-private partnership. The implementation of these initiatives relates to the majority of work under Head 22 Programme (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks of AFCD and Head 44 Programme (6) Nature Conservation of EPD. The following provisions are allocated to the two programmes in 2006-07:

Programme Area	No. of posts	Financial provision (\$ million)
Head 22 Programme (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks	1,107	415.2
Head 44 Programme (6) Nature Conservation	6	5.4

In addition, a sum of \$4.62 million has been allocated from the Environment and Conservation Fund for implementing the pilot scheme on management agreement.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

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

Date _____

9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)061

Question Serial No.

1037

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 : Of the 5 000 or so complaints handled last year, how many cases are related to the
broadcasting system in transport carriers?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply : Of the complaints received by the Environmental Protection Department in 2005, a total of
24 complaints were lodged against broadcasting noise inside public transport.

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 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)062

Question Serial No.

1038

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

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 : Apart from construction noise and road traffic noise, has the Administration evaluated the need to exercise control over such other domains as noise generated within transport carriers and commercial facilities? If so, please give the findings of such evaluation. If not, please state the reasons.

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply : Noise inside transport carriers comes from many sources including passenger activities, vehicle engines and broadcasting of audio-visual programmes. Such noise is also affected by factors such as road conditions and noise outside transport carriers. This issue is related to the provision of comfortable travelling environment for passengers. While it is not practicable to control noise inside transport carriers through legislation, the Government monitors the provision of comfortable travelling environment by the public transport operators and will continue to encourage the operators to implement appropriate improvement measures. Regarding noise inside commercial facilities, it is a matter of the quality of service to the users and would best be dealt with by the operators.

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 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)063

Question Serial No.

1039

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 : It is estimated that the total tonnage of waste received by the strategic landfills in 2006 will amount to 6.35 million, representing a reduction of about 0.1 million tonnes as compared to 2005. On what basis is this projection made?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply : The projected reduction in waste received by the strategic landfills in 2006 is mainly attributed to (a) the reduced quantity of construction waste disposed of at landfills as a result of the introduction of charges for the disposal of construction waste at waste facilities, including landfills, starting on 20 January 2006; and (b) increased recycling of domestic waste as more housing estates join the territory-wide source separation of waste 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 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)064

Question Serial No.

1040

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 with regard to the item "co-ordinate co-operation and exchanges with the Guangdong authorities on cross-boundary waste management issues" during 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply : The Government works closely with the Mainland's authorities to control transboundary waste movements. In 2000, Environmental Protection Department (EPD) signed a memorandum of understanding with the State Environmental Protection Administration on the co-operation arrangement in controlling hazardous waste movements between the Mainland and Hong Kong. Since then, hazardous waste movements between Hong Kong and Guangdong Province need to follow a prior informed consent system. Moreover, the EPD has regular meetings with the Mainland's control authorities. From time to time, the EPD also exchanges intelligence and conducts joint operations with the Guangdong Customs to curb hazardous waste smuggling activities.

EPD will continue to co-ordinate with the Civil Engineering and Development Department in liaising with the relevant Guangdong authorities to make possible the use of surplus inert construction and demolition materials in the Mainland reclamation projects.

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 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)065

Question Serial No.

1041

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 : While the provision for 2006-07 is 0.9% (\$12.6 million) higher than the revised estimate for 2005-06, what is the additional amount to be used on the territory-wide scheme on source separation of waste and what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply : The provision of \$1,411.6 million for 2006-07 is for the operation of waste facilities and other expenses in the Waste Programme. Out of the overall increase of 0.9% (\$12.6 million) when compared with the revised estimate for 2005-06, about \$6 million is allocated for the territory-wide scheme on source separation of domestic waste. This will be used mainly to set up additional teams to encourage more housing estates to join the scheme and to provide follow-up technical support to the participating 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 8 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)066

Question Serial No.

1902

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 : In Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07, it was mentioned that the Department will "continue to explore ways to develop the restored landfills for beneficial uses". Please inform this Council of (a) the details of such work and what is meant by developing the restored landfills for beneficial uses; (b) the details of the ways being explored and the preliminary study results; (c) the expected date of subsequent implementation.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : (a) There are a total of 13 closed landfills in Hong Kong. Restoration works at 12 landfills have been completed while works on the remaining landfill at Pillar Point Valley are expected to be completed in mid-2006. It should be noted that even when the main restoration works have been completed, the landfills will continue to emit landfill gas and leachate for many years as degradation of waste proceeds. The continuous degradation of waste also results in differential ground settlement. Therefore, there are considerable restrictions on the afteruse of restored landfills, e.g. excessive loading or permanent building structures should be avoided. Recreational uses are considered suitable beneficial uses that can be developed at the restored landfills, on the condition that they are compatible with the ongoing landfill aftercare work. The Environmental Protection Department is working with other departments and organisations to plan and develop suitable afteruses at the restored landfills.

(b) & (c)

The status of the current and planned afteruse development at the closed landfills are summarised in the attached Annex. Currently, the golf driving range at Shuen Wan Landfill and the recreation ground at Sai Tso Wan Landfill are already in operation. The Hong Kong Air Cadet Corps is using the top platform of Tsueng Kwan O Stage II/III Landfill as a model aeroplane training field on weekends and public holidays. The Administration is working with the Hong Kong Football Association to develop a Football Academy at Tseung Kwan O Stage I Landfill. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department has also initiated planning work to develop Jordan Valley Landfill and Ngau Chi Wan Landfill into recreation ground.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

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

Date _____

9 March 2006

Landfill Afteruse - Current Status

Closed landfill	Current status
Shuen Wan (Tai Po District)	It is currently used as a golf driving range. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is considering the feasibility of inviting the private sector to replace the driving range by a golf course.
Ngau Chi Wan (Wong Tai Sin District)	The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) has initiated planning work to develop the site as a recreation ground. The facility is scheduled to be commissioned in 2010.
Sai Tso Wan (Kwun Tong District)	The recreation ground was opened to the public in April 2004. The facilities include a multi-purpose grass pitch for football and baseball, two baseball batting cages, one children's playing area and a jogging trail.
Ma Yau Tong West (Kwun Tong District)	LCSD planned to develop the site as a rest park. EPD will discuss with LCSD on suitable afteruse of the site.
Ma Yau Tong Central (Kwun Tong District)	LCSD planned to develop the site as part of Lam Tin Park. EPD will discuss with LCSD on suitable afteruse of the site.
Jordan Valley (Kwun Tong District)	LCSD has initiated planning work to develop the site as a recreation ground. The facility is scheduled to be commissioned in 2010.
Tseung Kwan O Stage I (Sai Kung District)	The Hong Kong Football Association is planning to develop a Football Academy on the flat area of the site on a self-financing basis. The construction of the Football Academy is scheduled to be completed in end-2007.
Tseung Kwan O Stage II/III (Sai Kung District)	Since August 2004, the Hong Kong Air Cadet Corps has been using the upper platform as a model aeroplane training field during Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays. Due to geotechnical constraint of the site, there is no long term committed use.
Ngau Tam Mei (Yuen Long District)	General landscaping has been provided. Given the small size of the site with limited access, the Administration is of the view that it should remain as part of the local green scenery.
Ma Tso Lung (North District)	The site was returned to the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals in August 2000 for recreational use.
Siu Lang Shui (Tuen Mun District)	It is part of the Green Belt area. EPD is now considering suitable afteruse in consultation with relevant departments and interested parties.
Gin Drinkers Bay (Kwai Tsing District)	LCSD is conducting an investigation on the feasibility of opening part of the site as a park under minor works project vote.
Pillar Point Valley (Tuen Mun District)	Landfill restoration works are in progress and scheduled to be completed in mid-2006.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)067

Question Serial No.

1903

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 2006-07 Budget, it was mentioned that the Bureau intends in the longer term to introduce legislation prohibiting free distribution of plastic bags and to levy a tax on plastic bags. Please provide details of the work, including the method to be employed for implementing the above proposal, as well as the expected date of subsequent implementation and the resources involved.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : The Government aims to introduce the Product Eco-responsibility Bill into the Legislative Council in 2006. The bill will provide a legal framework for the Producer Responsibility Schemes (PRS). We are planning to introduce subsidiary legislation for the Producer Responsibility Scheme to restrict distribution and to levy a tax to reduce indiscriminate use of plastic bags in 2007. Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is developing the Scheme and regulatory measures. The above work will be undertaken by the existing staff of EPD, including one Senior Administrative Officer and two professional officers, who will also carry out other existing waste management duties.

Furthermore, the EPD has commissioned a consultancy study to support the development of the PRS for plastic bags. The estimated expenditure of the plastic bag study in 2006-07 is \$0.7 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 _____

9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)068

Question Serial No.

0600

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 : During 2006-07, facilitation and promotion of wider application of renewable energy will continue. Please provide specific details of the programme and the expenditure to be involved.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

Reply : The Environmental Protection Department is responsible for policy formulation whereas the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) is responsible for implementation of the policies and measures to promote renewable energy in Hong Kong.

In 2006-07, EMSD will continue to provide professional support and advice to government bureaux/departments and the private sector on issues relating to the development of renewable energy in Hong Kong. Major activities include:

- (a) The wind measurement programme at Miu Tsai Tun (in Clearwater Bay), Tung Lung Chau, and Town Island;
- (b) Performance monitoring of the photovoltaic installation at the EMSD Headquarters;
- (c) Promoting grid connection of small scale renewable energy system;
- (d) Promoting public awareness and use of renewable energy; and
- (e) Providing information on renewable energy through the establishment of an Internet Platform for Renewable Energy Technologies.

The expenditure in 2006-07 for the development and promotion of renewable energy is estimated to be \$2 million under Head 42 EMSD.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **K. K. Kwok**

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

Date _____ 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)069

Question Serial No.

0601

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 original estimate for 2005-06 is \$3.2 million but the revised estimate is increased to \$5 million. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

Reply : Following the merger of the Environment Branch of the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau (ETWB) and the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) on 1 April 2005, the new EPD took 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 2005-06 revised estimate was \$1.8 million higher than the original estimate. The increase was mainly due to adjustment made to the provision to better reflect the staff cost for this programme after the merger of the Environment Branch of ETWB with EPD.

Signature _____

Name in block letters K. K. Kwok

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

Date 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)071

Question Serial No.

0372

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

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 : On improving regional air quality, please inform the Council:

- (a) What is the estimated expenditure in 2006-07 for the operation of the air quality monitoring network for Pearl River Delta region jointly managed by Hong Kong and Guangdong? What is the effectiveness of the network so far as assessed by the Government?
- (b) Have the Hong Kong and Guangdong Provincial Governments considered any new cooperation plans that seek to improve the air quality? If yes, what are the details? What is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply : (a) To participate in the Regional Air Quality Monitoring Network, the estimated expenditure in 2006-07 is \$3.3 million for operation of three air quality monitoring stations in Hong Kong. The Guangdong side pays for and operates 13 other monitoring stations in the Mainland. The whole Network has been operating effectively and smoothly since its launch on 30 November 2005. Regional Air Quality Indices have been reported on a daily basis, providing information of the levels and geographical distribution of regional air pollution in the Pearl River Delta (PRD) without interruption.

- (b) Apart from the Network, Hong Kong and Guangdong will continue to work closely in 2006-07 to implement the Regional Air Quality Management Plan. Major work items include assessing the progress of various enhanced pollution reduction measures, compiling emission inventories, enhancing technical exchanges and training as well as developing details of the Emission Trading Pilot Scheme for Thermal Power Plants in the PRD region. The two sides will also regularly explore further cooperative items for inclusion into the Management Plan. The expenditure to be incurred by the HKSAR Government is part and parcel of the allocation to Programme (2) Air.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

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

Date _____

9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)072

Question Serial No.

0373

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

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 regard to the study of petrol/electric hybrid vehicles (environmentally friendly vehicles hereunder), the Government has mentioned that when further models are available on the market, it will consider using such vehicles itself more extensively and introducing measures to promote their use by the public.

- (a) Will the Government encourage car dealers to bring in more varieties of environmentally friendly vehicles, so that more choices will be on offer to the public?
- (b) Will the Government encourage the public to purchase the few models of environmentally friendly vehicles presently available from parallel importers?
- (c) Have the Government conducted initial studies on providing tax concessions for the purchase of environmentally friendly vehicles? If yes, what is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply : (a) to (c)

When more models are available on the market, the Government will consider using such vehicles itself more extensively and introducing measures to promote their use by the public. The Government will consider adopting measures to encourage vehicle manufacturers and car dealers to provide Hong Kong with more models and encourage the public to purchase these vehicles from parallel importers or the authorized agents of vehicle manufacturers. We will also closely monitor the situation and review the appropriateness and desirability of providing tax incentives to encourage the use of hybrid vehicles.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

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

Date _____

10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)073

Question Serial No.

1207

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 : Regarding the introduction of levies on tyres and plastic bags to reduce the amount of waste, what is the estimated expenditure for such each year? Please provide a breakdown of the expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply : The Government aims to introduce the Product Eco-responsibility Bill into the Legislative Council in 2006 which provides a legal framework for the Producer Responsibility Schemes (PRS). Product-specific measures will be introduced through subsidiary legislation subsequently according to the timetable set out in the "Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste (2005-2014)" published on 15 December 2005.

On tyres, the Government plans to levy a fee to support waste tyre management. On plastic bags, we are considering to introduce legislation to restrict distribution and to levy a tax to reduce indiscriminate use of plastic bags. The Environmental Protection Department is developing the respective schemes and regulatory measures. The estimated expenditure for implementing the PRS and regulatory measures for vehicle tyres and plastic bags 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 _____

9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)074

Question Serial No.

1256

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 2006-07, the Environmental Protection Department will continue to explore ways to encourage the use of cleaner vehicles and fuels and technologies that can help reduce air pollution.

- (a) Please provide the direction and details of such studies.
- (b) What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply : (a) In 2006-07, the Environmental Protection Department will continue to explore ways to encourage the use of cleaner vehicles and fuels and technologies that can help reduce air pollution through monitoring the development of and collection of information on new products, technologies and standards in various places. When there are new practicable technologies that can help reduce motor vehicle emissions, we shall examine the feasibility of introducing and applying them to Hong Kong.

- (b) This is part and parcel of the on-going functions and activities. There is no separate budget. Expenditure involved will be absorbed by existing provisions.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

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

Date _____

9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)075

Question Serial No.

1257

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 2006-07, the Environmental Protection Department will explore the feasibility of controlling emissions from off-road mobile sources. Please provide details, including targets, work schedules and expenditures involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply : Off-road mobile sources include mainly movable fuel using equipment and unregistered vehicles used by various sectors such as construction and other industries. We will collect information on the practices overseas in controlling emissions from these sources and examine the feasibility of introducing similar controls in Hong Kong. Our target is to put up a proposal for consultation with stakeholders in 2007. The work will be absorbed by existing provisions.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **K. K. Kwok**

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

Date _____ 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)076

Question Serial No.

1258

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 estimated that the number of smoky vehicle reports processed in 2006 will reduce by about 1 300 as compared with 2005. What are the reasons? Will the Government step up efforts in this aspect so as to reduce the number of smoky vehicles on the road? What is the expenditure to be involved in 2006-07 for handling smoky vehicles?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply : The number of smoky vehicles has been on a substantial decreasing trend since 1999, due to the implementation of a number of vehicle emission control measures including:

- completed the incentive schemes for replacing diesel taxis with liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) taxis, and replacing diesel light buses with LPG or electric light buses;
- introduced Euro III emission standards for newly registered vehicles in 2001;
- made installation of particulate emission reduction devices mandatory for pre-Euro light duty diesel vehicles (i.e. those failing to comply with Euro I emission standards);
- completed a one-off grant scheme to assist pre-Euro heavy duty diesel vehicles to be installed with particulate emission reduction devices;
- made ultra-low sulphur diesel, a cleaner form of diesel, a mandatory minimum requirement for motor vehicle diesel in April 2002;
- introduced an advanced smoke test to check diesel vehicle smoke to screen out for repair vehicles with excessive smoke emissions;
- increased the fixed penalty fine for smoky vehicles from \$450 to \$1,000; and
- stepped up enforcement by the Environmental Protection Department/Police against smoky vehicles.

By the end of 2005, there were about 80% less smoky vehicles spotted as compared with 1999. We expect the number of smoky vehicle to decrease further by about 1 300 in 2006 because of the Euro IV emission standards being introduced in tandem with the European Union, and the requirement of particulate emission reduction devices extended to pre-Euro heavy duty diesel vehicles. We will continue to implement the vehicle emission control programme and tighten up the control requirements in future which will help further reduce the number of smoky vehicles.

Combating smoky vehicles is part and parcel of many programmes and activities under the Programme (2) Air. The expenditure required in 2006-07 will be covered by the total provision of \$248.8 million for Programme (2).

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

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

Date _____

9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)078

Question Serial No.

1260

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 : Regarding the coordination of cooperation and exchange activities with the Guangdong authorities on cross-boundary waste management issues in 2006-07, please provide specific details on the cooperation between both sides. What are the actual benefits gained from such cooperation and exchange activities in terms of waste reduction in Hong Kong? What is the expenditure for such activities?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply : The HKSAR Government works closely with the Mainland authorities to control transboundary waste movements. In 2000, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) signed a memorandum of understanding with the State Environmental Protection Administration on the cooperation arrangement in controlling hazardous waste movements between the Mainland and Hong Kong. Since then, hazardous waste movements between Hong Kong and Guangdong Province need to follow a prior informed consent system. Moreover, the EPD has regular meetings with the Mainland control authorities. From time to time, the EPD also exchanges intelligence and conducts joint operations with the Guangdong Customs to curb hazardous waste smuggling activities.

Also, the EPD will continue to coordinate with the Civil Engineering and Development Department to liaise with the relevant Guangdong authorities to make possible the reuse of surplus inert construction and demolition materials in the Mainland reclamation projects.

The co-ordination work with the Mainland authorities is carried out by deploying existing staff 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 _____

10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)079

Question Serial No.

1261

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 commissioning of Phase I of the EcoPark in Tuen Mun towards the end of 2006,

- (i) What is the estimated annual expenditure involved?
- (ii) What is the estimated number of companies that will take on a lease in the EcoPark?
- (iii) Will the Government introduce any measures or plans to attract the industrial and commercial sectors to join in the environmental and recycling industries and take on a lease in the EcoPark? If yes, what are the details? And what are the resources involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply : (i) The estimated recurrent cost for Phase I of the EcoPark in 2006-07 is \$2 million. The annual recurrent cost will increase to about \$11 million when both Phase I and Phase II of the EcoPark are fully operational.

(ii) Phase I of the EcoPark will provide 4 hectares of land for tenants. We estimate that around 7 to 10 tenants can be accommodated in Phase I. For Phase II which will provide 10 hectares of land for tenants, we estimate that about 15 tenants can be accommodated. The actual number of companies will however depend on the scale of the individual industries established and cannot be ascertained at this stage.

(iii) Specific measures and facilities in the EcoPark to support the recycling and environmental industries include:

- Lots will be leased to the industries at affordable costs with tenancies long enough to attract investment;
- Lots will be properly paved and provided with public utilities;
- A management operator will be employed by the Government to manage the daily operation of the EcoPark and to provide support to the tenants;
- A marine frontage area with 8 berthing spaces and equipped with loading and unloading facilities will be provided to the tenants to facilitate bulk transfer of goods and products; and
- Other common facilities including a product gallery, meeting rooms, an exhibition hall, a resources centre, etc., will be made available for use by the tenants.

Apart from the estimated recurrent cost provided in (i) above, the estimated total construction cost of the EcoPark (Phase I & II) is about \$300 million, of which \$90 million is expected to be spent in 2006-07.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **K. K. Kwok** _____

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

Date _____ 13 March 2006 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)080

Question Serial No.

1085

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, twelve priority sites have been identified for a pilot scheme on enhanced conservation, and the work will continue in 2006-07. Please inform this Council:

- (a) what is the expenditure involved in 2006-07? What is the percentage change as compared to 2005-06?
- (b) what is the estimated time schedule for full implementation of the pilot scheme?
- (c) will free technical support on nature conservation or financial assistance be given to landowners joining the scheme? If so, please give the details.
- (d) will the Government consider setting up funds to ensure that land development projects under the enhanced conservation scheme will not be suspended due to insufficient funding?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Wai-keung, Daniel

Reply : (a) Under the new nature conservation policy, 12 priority sites have been identified for enhanced conservation. We undertook to implement Pilot Schemes for Management Agreements (MA) and Public-private Partnership (PPP) to enhance conservation of these sites.

In October 2005, the Environment and Conservation Fund approved an allocation of \$4.62 million to three non-governmental organizations for the implementation of Pilot MA projects at Fung Yuen and Long Valley from end-2005 to end-2007.

The Administration has received six applications under the Pilot Scheme for PPP. We are currently examining these applications. The resource implications for each recommended PPP pilot project will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

- (b) We will review the implementation of the Pilot Schemes in two to three years' time after their implementation. We will take into account the review findings and the corresponding resource implications before deciding the way forward.
- (c) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and the Environment Protection Department will oversee the implementation of the pilot projects. The two departments will provide professional advice to the project proponents. Under the pilot MA projects, non-government organizations provide the landowners or operators with financial incentives in exchange for the management rights over their land or their co-operation in enhancing conservation of the sites involved in the pilot projects. For the pilot PPP projects, we are still studying the six applications, including their resource implications to the Government.
- (d) In examining the applications under the pilot MA projects, we have evaluated the sustainability of the projects, taking into account factors such as the participation of landowners and local communities, as well as the reliability and enforceability of the agreements. Proper monitoring mechanism has been put in place to oversee the implementation of these projects.

Establishment of a nature conservation trust can facilitate pooling of funds for the protection and conservation of the natural heritage from different sources. However, the sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the trust are issues of concern. Many of the PPP applications received suggested the establishment of project specific trusts to implement long-term nature conservation measures within the concerned sites. We are now examining these applications, including studying the feasibility of setting up project specific trusts. We will draw on the experiences gained in the pilot PPP projects to further examine the feasibility of setting up a nature conservation trust for Hong Kong.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Post Title _____

Date _____

K. K. Kwok

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

9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)082

Question Serial No.

1163

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

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 state the details and provisions earmarked for the following items in 2006-07: (a) introduce a new regulation to control the volatile organic compounds in paints, printing inks and selected consumer products, (b) propose measures to strengthen the control of emissions from petrol and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) vehicles.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply : (a) To help achieve the 55% reduction pledged for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) emissions by 2010, the Government will introduce a set of regulations to impose direct content limits on the maximum VOCs contained in paints, printing inks and selected consumer products. These statutory content limits will come into force in phases from early 2007 onwards. Products with VOCs exceeding the limits may not be imported or manufactured in Hong Kong in future. In 2006-07, a provision of \$1.8 million has been earmarked for introducing the control scheme.

(b) Owing to development in technology, it has become feasible to use remote sensing equipment to identify petrol and LPG vehicles emitting excessive carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides. We are working on a proposal to apply the technology in Hong Kong for screening out these vehicles for an emission test by way of a dynamometer. The plan is to put up the proposal for consultation in 2007. The estimated expenditure in 2006-07 is about \$4 million, which covers trials and setting up of equipment.

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 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)083

Question Serial No.

1164

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 state in 2006-07, what specifically will be done to explore ways to encourage the use of cleaner vehicles, fuels and technologies?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply : In 2006-07, the Environmental Protection Department will continue to explore ways to encourage the use of cleaner vehicles and fuels and technologies that can help reduce air pollution through monitoring the development of and collection of information on new products, technologies and standards in various places. When there are new practicable technologies that can help reduce motor vehicle emissions, we shall examine the feasibility of introducing and applying them to Hong Kong.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

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

Date _____

9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)084

Question Serial No.

2227

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) Will the Government set up recovery channels and mechanism to facilitate waste collection of business operators in the EcoPark, which will be commissioned by the end of 2006? What are the specific details and the estimated expenditure on such?
- (b) Has the Government specified the proportion of the types of waste to be treated in the EcoPark? What are the specific details and the estimated expenditure on such?
- (c) Has the Government specified the proportion of local and overseas waste to be treated in the EcoPark? What are the specific details and the estimated expenditure on such?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply : (a) As set out in the "Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste (2005-2014)" (Policy Framework) published in last December, apart from the commenced source separation scheme, the Government will introduce Producer Responsibility Schemes (PRS) to enhance the recovery of recyclable materials. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) will also continue with the identification and leasing of suitable short-term tenancy (STT) sites exclusively to waste recyclers in different districts on a case-by-case basis. The Product Eco-responsibility Bill will be introduced in 2006 to provide the legal framework for the PRS. As for STT sites, a total of 30 STT sites have been leased to recyclers so far. All these will facilitate collection and recovery of recyclable materials for the future business operators in the EcoPark.

EPD has commissioned two studies (including plastic bags and waste electrical and electronic equipment) and five pilot projects (covering waste tyres, computers, cathode ray tubes, electrical appliances and rechargeable batteries) for developing the proposed PRSs. The total estimated expenditure of these studies and pilot projects in 2006-07 is \$9.4 million. On the Domestic Waste Source Separation programme, the total estimated expenditure is \$7.8 million in 2006-07.

- (b) The objective of the EcoPark is to encourage value-added recycling of local waste materials. While the EcoPark will cater for the processing of the most common recyclable materials collected in Hong Kong, priority will be given to the recyclable materials that are targets of the proposed PRS and other materials that are otherwise difficult to recycle. It is anticipated that the EcoPark will be able to handle a significant percentage of these target materials such as rubber tyres and Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) bottles, that are generated locally.
- (c) EPD shall specify clearly in the tenancy agreement that the lots in EcoPark should be used primarily for processing and recycling of local waste materials. Unless prior and specific approval from the EPD is obtained, no imported materials will be allowed for processing in the EcoPark.

The estimated total construction cost for the EcoPark (Phase I & II) is about \$300 million, of which \$90 million will be spent in 2006-07. The recurrent cost for Phase I of the EcoPark in 2006-07 will be \$2 million. This will increase to about \$11 million per annum when both Phase I and Phase II of the EcoPark are fully operational.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

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

Date _____

10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)085

Question Serial No.

2228

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 : Will the Producer Responsibility Schemes to be developed by the Department cover electronic waste? What are the criteria used to define electronic waste? What is the specific work to be done and the estimated expenditure to be involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply : The Government aims to introduce the Product Eco-responsibility Bill into the Legislative Council in 2006. The bill will provide a legal framework for the Producer Responsibility Schemes (PRS). The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is developing specific PRSs for a number of products including electrical and electronic waste. It is reviewing the international practice and experience; developing the regulatory measures for PRS on waste electrical and electronic equipment; considering the range of products (such as bulky electrical appliances and computer related equipment items) to be covered; and evaluating the costs, benefits and impacts of different options. It will seek views from the stakeholders on the Scheme for waste electrical and electronic equipment in 2006 with a view to introducing the relevant subsidiary legislation in 2007.

EPD has commissioned a study to support the development and evaluation of the Scheme. The total cost of the study is \$1.2 million and the estimated expenditure in 2006-07 is \$0.5 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 _____

9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)086

Question Serial No.

2315

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

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 formulating the "Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution", the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe has set restrictions on emissions of various pollutants, including persistent organic pollutants, heavy metals, sulphur emissions and volatile organic compounds. While air pollution in Hong Kong is becoming worse, the Government has yet to formulate comprehensive policies and legislations to control pollutants. Will the Government make reference to and initiate study on the above convention in 2006-07 to consider formulating policies and legislations that can fully monitor pollutant emissions in Hong Kong? If yes, what are the specific details and estimated expenditure on such? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply : The "Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution" adopted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe aims to deal with cross-boundary air pollution in the European Community, Canada, the USA and some countries in Central Asia. It does not apply to the Asia Pacific region.

To improve cross-boundary air pollution in the Pearl River Delta region, the Administration is committed to working closely with Guangdong. Hong Kong and Guangdong reached a consensus in April 2002 to reduce 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 the base year. To achieve these targets, a Pearl River Delta Regional Air Quality Management Plan (the Management Plan) has been agreed by the two governments. A Special Panel on Pearl River Delta Air Quality Management and Monitoring has been set up under the "Hong Kong - Guangdong Joint Working Group on Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection" to closely monitor the implementation progress of various cooperative items under the Management Plan.

In formulating policies for the control of air pollution, the Administration will make reference to experiences of all advanced countries and economies, including the international conventions and protocols. For persistent organic pollutants, the Administration is finalising an implementation plan to minimize the release of these pollutants into the environment for fulfilling the obligations under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

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

Date _____

9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)087

Question Serial No.

2318

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

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 : According to the legislation, a contractor with a Construction Noise Permit issued by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) can carry out construction work any time during the night or on public holidays (including Sundays). However, there is no restriction as to the decibel of noise generated by such work. In exercising control over construction works, the EPD will measure the decibel generated by certain midnight works, which will be taken as the indicator for noise control. Will the Administration study the above legislation and make the necessary amendments in 2006-07 to develop an indicator for the control of decibel of noise generated by midnight works? What are the specific details and estimated expenditure on such?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply : Under the Noise Control Ordinance, construction work using powered mechanical equipment during the night or on public holidays is not allowed unless with a valid construction noise permit. Noise limits are stipulated in the Technical Memoranda issued under the Noise Control Ordinance to control nighttime construction works. In processing permit applications, the EPD will follow strictly the Technical Memoranda to assess the noise emission from all proposed equipment. The EPD would ensure that noise emission from nighttime construction works would comply with the relevant noise limits before a construction noise permit is issued. The permit conditions would stipulate and control the time and duration allowed for the works, the equipment used and mitigation measures adopted. When conducting site enforcement, the EPD and the Police will check whether the contractors have complied with the permit conditions.

As the noise limits have already been stipulated in the Technical Memoranda for the granting of permits, an additional indicator for the control of noise generated by construction works during night time is not necessary and hence no additional expenditure would be required. We would continue to enforce the relevant provisions of the Noise Control Ordinance.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

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

Date _____

9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)088

Question Serial No.

0888

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 : What are the details of the work plan, establishment and provisions for further promoting waste separation, recovery and recycling by working together with stakeholders and the community in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply : In 2006-07, the Environmental Protection Department will continue to work with stakeholders and the community to promote waste reduction and recycling. Publicity programmes promoting government initiatives on waste will be launched through the mass media such as television and radio. Workshops, talks, exhibitions, roadshows, outreach activities and visits featuring waste reduction and recycling will be organized. 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 \$8.4 million. In addition, the Environment and Conservation Fund has allocated \$5 million for providing financial support to private housing estates to implement source separation of waste.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

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

Date _____

9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)089

Question Serial No.

0889

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 : What are the details of the work plan, establishment and provisions for developing
Producer Responsibility Schemes in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply : The Government aims to introduce the Product Eco-responsibility Bill into the Legislative Council in 2006. The bill will provide a legal framework for the Producer Responsibility Schemes (PRS). The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is developing PRSs and regulatory measures for vehicle tyres, plastic bags and waste electrical and electronic equipment, and will seek views from the stakeholders on these PRSs in 2006-07. We are planning to introduce the subsidiary legislation for these PRSs in 2007. The above work will be undertaken by the existing staff of the EPD, including one Senior Administrative Officer, five professional officers and three technical inspectors; who will also carry out other existing waste management duties.

Furthermore, EPD has commissioned two studies and five pilot projects for developing the PRSs. For the two studies to examine the PRS options for plastic bags and waste electrical and electronic equipment in 2006-07, the total estimated expenditure is \$1.1 million. For the five pilot projects covering waste tyres, computers, cathode ray tubes, electrical appliances and rechargeable batteries, the total estimated expenditure is \$8.3 million in 2006-07.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

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

Date _____

9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)090

Question Serial No.

0890

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 : What are the details of the work plan, establishment and provisions for developing Phase I
of the EcoPark in Tuen Mun Area 38 in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply : The EcoPark will be developed in two phases. We are planning to commission Phase I of
the EcoPark for occupation by tenants towards the end of 2006, while Phase II is scheduled
for commissioning in late 2009.

The design of the EcoPark and the preparation of the tender documents were undertaken by a
consultant under a conventional design and construction consultancy contract. The
estimated expenditure for the consultancy in 2006-07 is \$1.5 million. The estimated total
construction cost for the EcoPark (Phase I & II) is about \$300 million, of which \$90 million
will be spent in 2006-07. The recurrent cost for Phase I of the EcoPark in 2006-07 will be
\$2 million. This will increase to about \$11 million when both Phase I and Phase II of the
EcoPark are fully operational. In addition, the EcoPark project is overseen by the existing
staff of the Environmental Protection Department including a senior professional officer and
two professional officers under the supervision of a directorate officer.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

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

Date _____

9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)091

Question Serial No.

0891

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 : What are the details of the work plan, establishment and provisions for conducting the
feasibility study on the West New Territories Landfill Extensions in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply : To address the objection raised by the Tuen Mun District Council in 2004 and early 2006,
the Environmental Protection Department is currently reviewing the project programme as
well as the funding submission and deployment of resources for the feasibility study on the
West New Territories Landfill Extensions with a view to commencing the study in the
second quarter of 2006-07.

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 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)092

Question Serial No.

1176

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 : Regarding the development of phase I of the EcoPark in Tuen Mun Area 38, please state the expenditure and staff establishment in 2005-06 and the estimated provision of such for 2006-07.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply : The EcoPark will be developed in two phases. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is planning to start the construction works in July 2006 with a view to commissioning Phase I of the EcoPark for occupation by tenants towards the end of 2006. Phase II is scheduled for commissioning in late 2009.

The design of the EcoPark and the preparation of the tender documents were undertaken by a consultant under a conventional design and construction consultancy contract. The expenditure for the consultancy in 2005-06 is \$2.4 million and that for 2006-07 is estimated to be \$1.5 million. The estimated total construction cost for the EcoPark (Phase I & II) is about \$300 million, of which \$90 million will be spent in 2006-07. The recurrent cost for Phase I of the EcoPark in 2006-07 will be \$2 million. This will increase to about \$11 million per annum when both Phase I and Phase II of the EcoPark are fully operational. In addition, the EcoPark project is overseen by the existing staff of the EPD including a senior professional officer and two professional officers under the supervision of a directorate officer.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

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

Date _____

9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)093

Question Serial No.

1177

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, in answering the enquiries from members of the Legislative Council concerning "the review of Air Quality Objectives in Hong Kong", the Environmental Protection Department revealed that it would make references to relevant review results in countries such as the United States and the European Union, in addition to the information obtained from local long-term studies before considering whether there was a need to make changes to the Air Quality Objectives in Hong Kong from the scientific point of view. The review exercise conducted by the European Union was expected to complete in the second half of 2005.

Has the Department set aside provisions for the purpose of reviewing "Air Quality Objectives in Hong Kong" in 2006-07? If yes, what is the amount? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply : The findings of the ambient air quality review exercises of the European Union and the United States will be available only in 2007. We have thus not set aside provisions for the purpose of reviewing Hong Kong's Air Quality Objectives in 2006-07.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ K. K. Kwok

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

Date _____ 9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)094

Question Serial No.

1478

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

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 : Regarding the continued operation with Guangdong authorities, what is the expenditure involved in the joint air quality monitoring network for Pearl River Delta region? Please account for the operation of the monitoring network.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : On the Regional Air Quality Monitoring Network, the estimated expenditure in 2006-07 is \$3.3 million for operation of three air quality monitoring stations in Hong Kong. The Guangdong side pays for and operates 13 other monitoring stations in the Mainland.

The whole Network has been operating effectively and smoothly since its launch on 30 November 2005. Regional Air Quality Indices are now reported on a daily basis, providing information of the levels and geographical distribution of regional air pollution in the Pearl River Delta.

Signature _____

Name in block letters K. K. Kwok _____

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

Date 9 March 2006 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
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Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)095

Question Serial No.

1479

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 : Regarding the finalisation of the Emissions Trading Pilot Scheme among power plants in Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta region, what are the details? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : Details of the Emissions Trading Pilot Scheme being developed include, amongst others, criteria for participation by the power companies in the Pearl River Delta region, the mechanism for determining emission allowances for trading, the arrangements for emission trading transactions, and the monitoring regime upon implementation of the Pilot Scheme. The Hong Kong-Guangdong Joint Working Group on Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection agreed in December 2005 to finalise the details in 2006. Upon the approval of the two Governments, the details of the Pilot Scheme will be presented to power plants in Hong Kong and Guangdong so that prospective participants can identify their trading partners and draw up the emissions trading agreements. The work is carried out in-house by the Environmental Protection Department and no additional expenditure is envisaged.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

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

Date _____

9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)096

Question Serial No.

1480

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

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 revised estimate for 2005-06 is less than the original estimate by 24.2%. Why is there such a great discrepancy? The Policy Address 2005-06 has stated that vigorous measures would be taken to make sustained improvement to air quality. The provision, however, is decreased by 17.9% in the 2006-07 estimate . What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : The reduced provision in the revised estimate for 2005-06 was mainly due to reduced cash flow requirements of the programme on one-off grants for the installation of particulate removal devices to pre-Euro diesel heavy vehicles of long idling operational mode (\$19.8 million) and the replacement of diesel public light buses by Liquefied Petroleum Gas or electric ones (\$80.4 million).

The reduction in the provision for 2006-07 is mainly due to the completion of the above two programmes which will result in a reduced cash flow requirement of \$63.5 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

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

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9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)097

Question Serial No.

1481

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

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 additional provision needed for the implementation of the gross emitter control programme for petrol vehicles? What is expected to be the impact on the air quality of Hong Kong? What are the specific details of the programme?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : Owing to development in technology, it has become feasible to use remote sensing equipment to identify petrol and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) vehicles emitting excessive carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides. We are working on a proposal to apply the technology in Hong Kong for screening out these vehicles for an emission test by way of a dynamometer. We have earmarked about \$4 million in 2006-07 to cover trials and setting up of equipment needed for implementing the programme. We intend to put up the proposal for consultation in 2007.

Gross emitters could emit up to 10 times more pollutants than properly maintained vehicles. Similar to overseas findings, our survey shows that about 10-20% of our petrol and LPG vehicle fleet are gross emitters. The proposal can help identify these gross emitters for vehicle maintenance so as to reduce their vehicles' emissions of hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides that can contribute to the formation of regional photochemical smog.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

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

Date _____

9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)098

Question Serial No.

1482

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

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 : Of the enquiries received / complaints handled regarding smoky vehicle matters in 2005 and 2006, how many cases were related to public transport? Please give a breakdown, by types of vehicles, the number of cases handled and prosecutions instituted.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : We handled 1 621 and 315 enquiries on smoky vehicle matters in 2005 and in the first two months of 2006 respectively. There is no breakdown by vehicle type. Enquiries were information seeking and did not result in enforcement actions.

For smoky vehicle complaints, 9 921 cases were handled in 2005 with 3 098 cases relating to public transport. The corresponding figures for the first two months of 2006 were 881 and 265. Since these complaints were made by members of the public instead of trained spotters of smoky vehicles, for each complaint, we issued a letter to advise the vehicle owner concerned of the complaint and the need to send the vehicle for repair. A breakdown of the complaints by vehicle type is as follows:

Public Transport by type	2005	2006 (Jan & Feb only)
1. Taxis	67	11
2. Public Light Buses	1 247	90
3. Public Buses	964	105
4. Franchised Buses	820	59
Total	3 098	265

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

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

Date _____

10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)099

Question Serial No.

1483

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Subhead (No. & title): 700
Department General non-recurrent

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 current progress of the 'Consultancy study on the air pollution problems in the Pearl River Delta Region' under Item 548? State in detail how the balance of \$1,597,000 of the Item will be utilized.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply : The main consultancy under Item 548 was completed in April 2002. Its recommendations form the basis of the Pearl River Delta Regional Air Quality Management Plan agreed with Guangdong in 2003. The balance of the Item is used to fund follow-up studies on air pollution data arising from the consultancy study.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

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

Date _____

10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)103

Question Serial No.

0186

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

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 : Despite the fact that Air is an important programme of great public concern, the provision to be allocated to this programme in 2006-07 only accounts for 12.2%. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwan-yuen, Andrew

Reply : The provision to be allocated to an individual programme in a specific year will depend on resources required to implement the planned activities in that year. The provision for Programme (2) Air in 2006-07 will be sufficient in providing us with the necessary resources to introduce a range of effective measures to tackle the problem of air in the financial 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 _____

9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)104

Question Serial No.

0187

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

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 : Despite the serious air pollution problem, provision for the Programme Air in 2006-07 is 17.9% lower than the revised estimate for 2005-06. Please list out the items to be affected and their respective amount reduced. What specific measures will be taken in 2006-07 to improve the air quality?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwan-yuen, Andrew

Reply : The reduction in the provision for the Programme (2) Air in 2006-07 is mainly due to the completion of the programmes for providing one-off grants to assist owners of pre-Euro diesel heavy vehicles of long idling operational mode for retrofitting emission reduction devices, and replacing diesel public light buses with liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) or electric ones, which will result in reduced cash flow requirements of \$21.6 million and \$41.9 million respectively.

In addition to existing on-going programmes, major measures to be taken in 2006-07 to improve the air quality include:

1. taking up with the power companies on measures to reduce emissions and increase the use of natural gas;
2. preparing a legislative proposal for the introduction of a mandatory energy efficiency labelling scheme;
3. proposing measures to strengthen the control of emissions from petrol and LPG vehicles including the use of roadside remote sensing equipment and the use of dynamometers for emission testing;
4. exploring the feasibility of controlling emissions from off-road mobile sources;
5. making it a mandatory requirement for owners of pre-Euro heavy-duty diesel vehicles that need to operate under long-idling conditions to install emission reduction devices;
6. tightening emission standards for newly-registered heavy-duty vehicles to the Euro IV level;
7. introducing a new regulation to control the contents of volatile organic compounds in paints, printing inks and selected consumer products; and
8. implementing the Regional Air Quality Management Plan with Guangdong authorities to improve the regional air quality.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

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

Date _____

9 March 2006

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)106

Question Serial No.

0189

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

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 the Budget that when further options of hybrid vehicles are available in the market, the Government will consider using such vehicles more extensively. Please explain the meaning of "when further options" of hybrid vehicles are available in the market".

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwan-yuen, Andrew

Reply : At the moment, only one hybrid vehicle model is being supplied to Hong Kong by its manufacturer through an authorised dealer. Hence, the Government's decision is to consider using hybrid more extensively when further options of hybrid vehicles are available in the market, i.e. when more models of hybrid vehicles become available on the local market.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

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

Date _____

9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)107

Question Serial No.

0868

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 : (a) While the provision for 2006-07 is \$2,044.5 million, how much will be used to
implement the waste tyres handling charge and plastic bags levy?

(b) Please explain the details of implementing the two schemes.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwan-yuen, Andrew

Reply : (a) The Government aims to introduce the Product Eco-responsibility Bill into the
Legislative Council in 2006 which provides a legal framework for the Producer
Responsibility Schemes (PRS). We are also planning to introduce the subsidiary
legislation for the PRS in 2007 to regulate plastic bags and waste tyres. The two
schemes will come into effect after 2006-07 and hence no provision has been made in
2006-07 for their implementation.

(b) On tyres, the Government plans to levy a fee to support waste tyre management. On
plastic bags, we are considering to introduce legislation to restrict distribution and to levy
a tax to reduce indiscriminate use of plastic bags. The Environmental Protection
Department is developing the respective schemes and regulatory measures.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

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

Date _____

10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)108

Question Serial No.

1206

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

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 air quality monitoring network for the Pearl River Delta (PRD) has commenced operation in 2005. What is the expenditure to be involved in 2006-07 for its operation? Please also provide details of other proposed measures that seek to improve air quality in the PRD and the resources involved.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwan-yuen, Andrew

Reply : For participating in the Regional Air Quality Monitoring Network, the estimated expenditure in 2006-07 is \$3.3 million for operating three air quality monitoring stations in Hong Kong. The Guangdong side pays for and operates 13 other monitoring stations in the Mainland.

Apart from the Network, Hong Kong and Guangdong will continue to work closely in 2006-07 to implement the Regional Air Quality Management Plan. Major work items include assessing the progress of various enhanced pollution reduction measures, compiling emission inventories, enhancing technical exchanges and training as well as developing details of the Emission Trading Pilot Scheme for Thermal Power Plants in the Pearl River Delta region. The expenditure to be incurred by the HKSAR Government is part and parcel of the allocation to Programme (2) Air.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

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

Date _____

9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)109

Question Serial No.

0860

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

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 : Apart from exempting electric vehicles from first registration tax for a further three years, what measures will the Government take to promote the wider use of cleaner vehicles, such as petrol/electric hybrid vehicles which produce fewer emissions, so as to improve the air quality, including the granting of concession to or waiving of licence fees?

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

Reply : To encourage light bus owners to replace their diesel light buses with liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) light buses, one more LPG filling station will commence operation and construction of another one will start in 2006-07. Since a heavy-duty vehicle meeting Euro IV standards will emit about 30% and 80% less nitrogen oxides and particulates respectively than an existing Euro III one, we will propose an amendment regulation to the Legislative Council making Euro IV emission standards mandatory for newly registered heavy duty vehicles (i.e. those over 3.5 tonnes) from 1 October 2006, in tandem with the European Union.

Petrol/electric hybrid vehicles produce fewer emissions than petrol-only vehicles. When more options are available in the market, the Government will consider using such vehicles more extensively and introducing measures to promote their use by the public. The Government will consider adopting measures to encourage vehicle manufacturers and car dealers to provide Hong Kong with more models. We will also closely monitor the situation and review the appropriateness and desirability of providing tax incentives to encourage the use of hybrid vehicles.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

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

Date _____

10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)110

Question Serial No.

1901

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 : It is proposed that four permanent posts will be deleted in 2006-07. What are the details and how much savings will be achieved?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : In 2006-07, there will be a net reduction of four posts under Head 44 – Environmental Protection Department (EPD). The details are as follows –

<u>Post</u>	<u>Creation(+)/ Deletion(-)</u>	<u>Savings (\$)</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
(a) Environmental Protection Officer	-1	-386,880	} Lapse of time-limited posts
(b) Senior Environmental Protection Inspector	-1	-365,160	
(c) Environmental Protection Inspector	-1	-216,120	
(d) Supplies Supervisor II	-1	-162,180	Existing vacancy
(e) Foreman	-1	-162,180	Natural wastage
(f) Laboratory Attendant	-1	-142,860	Natural wastage
(g) Environmental Protection Inspector	+1	+216,120	Planned creation for service need
(h) Workman II	+1	+106,512	Separation of the administrative support services for Transport branch and the former Environment Branch of the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau, upon the merger of the latter with the EPD.

Net deletion = 4 posts \$-1,112,748

=====

The corresponding savings in notional annual mid-point salary would be \$1,112,748.

Signature	
Name in block letters	K. K. Kwok
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) / Director of Environmental Protection
Date	9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)111

Question Serial No.

2224

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 : Since the implementation of the new nature conservation policy, the Department has been exploring the viability of establishing a nature conservation trust.

- (a) What is the progress of the study? When is it expected to complete?
(b) What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply : (a) Establishment of a nature conservation trust can facilitate pooling of funds for the protection and conservation of the natural heritage from different sources. However, the sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the trust are issues of concern. Under the New Nature Conservation Policy, the Government undertook to implement a Pilot Scheme for Public-private Partnership (PPP). Six PPP applications have been received under the Pilot Scheme. Many of the applications suggested the establishment of project specific trusts to implement long-term nature conservation measures within the concerned sites. We are now examining these applications, including studying the feasibility of setting up project specific trusts. We will draw on the experiences gained in the pilot PPP projects to further examine the feasibility of setting up a nature conservation trust for Hong Kong.

- (b) The resource implications for each recommended PPP pilot project will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Officers in the Environmental Protection Department and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department are involved in the work of examining the feasibility of setting up a nature conservation trust as part of their duties under the Nature Conservation 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 _____

9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)112

Question Serial No.

2225

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 : (a) 'Percentage of time with all monitoring stations complying with short-term Air Quality Objectives' and 'monitoring stations complying with long-term Air Quality Objectives(%)' have been replaced by two new targets, what are the reasons?
(b) Taking the 'Percentage of time with all monitoring stations complying with short-term Air Quality Objectives' and 'monitoring stations complying with long-term Air Quality Objectives(%)' as the basis of calculation, please state the actual figures for 2005 and estimated figures for 2006 respectively.

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

- Reply : (a) The previous targets were using monitoring stations as a basis and did not reflect directly the changes in air quality. After making reference to the practices of other countries and the Mainland, and taking into account that the public is more familiar with the Air Pollution Index, we have replaced them with the new ones, which are easier to understand by the public, and can better reflect year-to-year changes in air quality.
(b) The actual figures for 2005 and the projected figures for 2006 of these two previous targets are as follows:

	2005 (actual)	2006 (projected)
Percentage of time with all monitoring stations complying with short-term Air Quality Objectives (%)	94%	94%
Monitoring stations complying with long-term Air Quality Objectives(%)	29%	29%

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

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

Date _____

9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)113

Question Serial No.

2226

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 : (a) What is the detail of the study on the feasibility of a sludge treatment facility in
2006-07?

(b) What is the estimated length of time required for the study and what is the expenditure
involved?

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply : (a) Currently, sludge produced by sewage treatment works is dewatered and disposed of at
landfills. The study aims to identify the technical feasibility and environmental
requirements for developing a sludge treatment facility to ensure that the increasing
sewage sludge arising could be properly disposed of and to reduce the burden on the
limited landfill capacity.

(b) The study on technical feasibility and environmental requirements is scheduled to be
completed in end-2006 and the estimated expenditure in 2006-07 is around \$1.3 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 _____ 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)114

Question Serial No.

2270

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 : On further promoting waste separation, recovery and recycling by working together with stakeholders and the community:

- (a) Apart from the pilot Personal Computer (PC) Recycling Programme launched since January 2006, what other measures will be taken in 2006-07 to further promote the separation, recovery and recycling of electronic waste? Which organizations will the Government work with in promoting such activities?
- (b) What is the estimated expenditure on such activities? What will be the expected results?
- (c) Does the Government have any plans to develop the pilot PC Programme launched since January 2006 into a regular programme? If yes, what is the estimated expenditure on such? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply : (a) The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has launched a 6-month pilot computer recovery programme with the Chamber of the Hong Kong Computer Industry in January 2006. Apart from this pilot programme, the EPD has also engaged Caritas Hong Kong to run a computer recovery programme since 2003 and this programme will continue in 2006-07.

- (b) The estimated expenditure for the pilot programme with the Chamber of the Hong Kong Computer Industry is about \$0.6 million. For the programme with Caritas Hong Kong, the estimated expenditure in 2006-07 is about \$2.8 million. The two programmes together would recover over 40 000 computer items in 2006-07 for reuse and recycling.
- (c) The main purpose of the above programmes is to gather information on the operational requirements and costs for running a territory-wide computer recovery programme. The information will be used by the EPD to develop a Producer Responsibility Scheme for continuous management of used computers in Hong Kong starting in 2007-08.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

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

Date _____

9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)115

Question Serial No.

2091

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Subhead (No. & title):
Department 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 : As regards general departmental expenses, the estimate for 2006-07 is more than \$40 million over the revised estimate for 2005-06. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply : Under general departmental expenses, the increase of \$41.3 million in the 2006-07 estimate as compared to the 2005-06 revised estimate is mainly due to increased requirements for the implementation of the territory-wide source separation of waste programme, gross emitter control programme for petrol vehicles, retrofitting programme to address traffic noise of existing roads, development of the EcoPark, developing regulatory control on volatile organic compounds (VOC) emission, and other new initiatives (e.g. setting up a dedicated waste recycling website).

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

K. K. Kwok

Post Title _____

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

Date _____

9 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)116

Question Serial No.

2077

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 : Regarding the maintenance of 118 kilometres of seawalls, 306 piers, all fairways, anchorage areas and major tidal river channels, please inform this Council:

In the face of insufficient berth spaces for the current recycling industry, what measures will be taken in 2006-07 to solve the problem? What are the details? What is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : There are at present eight Public Cargo Working Areas (PCWA) in Hong Kong managed by the Marine Department, namely Cha Kwo Ling, Chai Wan, Kwun Tong, New Yaumatei, Rambler Channel, Tuen Mun, Stonecutters Island and Western District. A total of 34 marine berths with a total marine frontage length of 1 264 metres have been leased to local waste recyclers in seven of these PCWAs.

Apart from the PCWAs, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has been identifying and leasing suitable sites exclusively for the recycling industry on a case-by-case basis. Among these short term tenancy (STT) sites, the three sites in Chai Wan, Yau Tong and Cheung Chau have a total marine frontage length of 94 metres for use by recyclers. The EPD will continue to identify suitable STT sites with marine berths.

Apart from the berthing spaces at PCWA and the STT sites, the EcoPark in Tuen Mun Area 38 being developed in two phases will also provide additional berthing spaces for the recycling businesses in the EcoPark. Phase I of the EcoPark, to be commissioned for occupation by tenants in late 2006, will provide five berthing spaces with a total marine frontage length of 280 metres. Phase II of the EcoPark, to be commissioned in 2009, will provide another three berthing spaces with a total marine frontage of 180 metres. The estimated expenditure in 2006-07 for the construction of the marine berthing spaces, the marine frontage management office and associated facilities in the EcoPark is in the order of \$10 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 _____

10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(E)117

Question Serial No.

1089

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

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 the details of the measures and the estimated expenditure for plans to strengthen the control of emissions from petrol and liquefied petroleum gas vehicles including the use of roadside remote sensing equipment and the use of dynamometers for emission testing in 2006-07.

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply : Owing to advances in technology, it has become feasible to use remote sensing equipment to identify petrol and liquefied petroleum gas vehicles emitting excessive carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides. We are working on a proposal to apply the technology in Hong Kong for screening out these vehicles for emission testing on a dynamometer. The plan is to put up the proposal for consultation in 2007. The estimated expenditure in 2006-07 is about \$4 million which covers trials and setting up of equipment.

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 March 2006** _____

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

Head: 100 Marine Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Port Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Marine

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

Question:

As regards the outsourcing arrangements for provision of marine cleansing services, what are the actual expenditure for the past two years (i.e. 2004 and 2005) and the estimated expenditure for 2006? Will there be any room for manpower increase or reduction upon completion of the review? Please also provide information on any other improvement measures for enhancing work efficiency and controlling cost.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply:

The reformed outsourcing arrangements of marine cleansing services took place from July 2005. The reform aimed at improving the overall operational efficiency by replacing the old fragmented contract arrangements whereby about 70 vessels have been provided and operated by contractors and six "Sea Cleaners" by the Marine Department itself. The current reformed outsourcing arrangements have consolidated the contracts into three new contracts and also included the management of six "Sea Cleaners" by the contractors. The actual expenditure on the above services in 2004-05 was \$38 million and the corresponding estimated expenditure in 2005-06 and 2006-07 is \$34.9 million and \$35.7 million respectively.

The reformed outsourcing arrangements have adopted more stringent outcome-oriented performance standards and have achieved a reduction in operational and maintenance costs, and better value for money for the contracts. We will keep under review the reformed outsourcing arrangements and continue to work with the contractors to explore new cleansing arrangements and methodologies to further improve operational efficiency and cost-effectiveness. There may be room for a limited further reduction in manpower dealing with marine cleansing services.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ROGER TUPPER

Post Title _____

Director of Marine

Date _____

10 March 2006

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

Head: 100 Marine Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Port Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Marine

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

Question:

Please provide details of the review on the reformed outsourcing arrangements for provision of marine cleansing services for 2006-07.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply:

The outsourcing arrangements, which were implemented on 1 July 2005, have achieved a reduction in operational and maintenance costs, and better value for money for the contracts. In 2006-07, the Marine Department will keep under review the outsourcing arrangements and continue to work with the contractors to better deploy information technology for contract management and to explore new cleansing arrangements and methodologies to further improve operational efficiency and cost-effectiveness. There may be room for a limited further reduction in manpower dealing with marine cleansing services over time. The review will give some useful pointers on formulating the next contract arrangements in 2010.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ROGER TUPPER**

Post Title _____ Director of Marine

Date _____ 10 March 2006

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

Head : 706 Highways Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

1267

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : What are the progress of the retrofitting of noise barriers on Fanling Highway near Choi Yuen Estate, Sheung Shui and Fanling Centre commenced in 2005? Can these projects be completed on schedule? Please provide details on the retrofitting projects of noise barriers to be carried out by the Administration in various districts of Hong Kong in 2006-07 to 2009-2010.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : The installation of noise barriers at Fanling Highway near Choi Yuen Estate and Fanling Centre has been substantially completed in February 2006. Of the other 19 retrofitting projects with funding sought, works on Cheung Pei Shan Road commenced in September 2005 and are scheduled for completion by March 2008. Details of the projects to be carried out between now and 2010 are listed below -

Item no.	Road Section	Tentative Schedule	
		Commencement date	Completion date
Project under Detailed Design			
1	Tuen Mun Road (Sam Shing Hui)	Jul 2007	Mar 2011
2	Tuen Mun Road (Castle Peak Bay)	Jul 2007	Mar 2011
3	Tuen Mun Road (Tsuen Wan)	Oct 2007	Feb 2011
4	Tuen Mun Road (Yau Kom Tau)	Oct 2007	Feb 2011
5	Tseung Kwan O Road (near Hing Tin Estate)	Dec 2007	Dec 2009
6	Tseung Kwan O Road (near Tsui Ping (South) Estate)	Dec 2007	Dec 2009
7	Tsing Tsuen Bridge (Tsuen Wan and Tsing Yi)	Dec 2007	Dec 2010
8	Tuen Mun Road (Tsing Lung Tau)	Jan 2008	Aug 2012
9	Tuen Mun Road (Anglers' Beach)	Jan 2008	Aug 2012
10	Tuen Mun Road (Sham Tseng)	Jan 2008	Aug 2012
11	Tai Chung Kiu Road	Jun 2008	Nov 2010
12	Che Kung Miu Road	Jun 2008	Nov 2010
13	Hung Mui Kuk Road / Che Kung Miu Road	Jun 2008	Nov 2010
14	Tin Sam Street	Jun 2008	Nov 2010
15	Sha Tin Road	Jun 2008	Nov 2010
16	Kwun Tong Bypass	Jun 2008	Jun 2010

Reply Serial No.

Question Serial No.

We are reviewing two remaining projects to retrofit noise barriers along Ma On Shan Road and Yuen Shin Road (near Kwong Fuk Estate), in consultation with the relevant District Councils.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 8 March 2006

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

ETWB(E)121

Question Serial No.

2159

Head: 707 New Towns and Urban Area
Development

Subhead: 7780TH

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

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

Question :

What is the latest progress of the project - Retrofitting of noise barriers on Cheung Pei Shan Road, Tsuen Wan? Why was no expenditure incurred in 2004-05?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The project funding was approved by the Finance Committee in May 2005, hence no expenditure was incurred in 2004-05. Work on this project commenced on 23 September 2005. About 5% of the project work has been completed to date.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ John S V CHAI

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date _____ 11.3.2006