

**Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members
in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09**

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Session No. : 20

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

Reply Serial No.

ENB001

Question Serial No.

0617

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

Are there any specific measures for strengthening the visitor services of Lantau Country Parks?
What is the amount of expenditure involved in each measure?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply :

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has been strengthening the visitor services of Lantau Country Parks in the following ways:

- a. Establishment of a nature centre at Ngong Ping to highlight the ecology, geography and heritage of Lantau Island to serve both local and overseas visitors. A video to depict the natural wonders of Lantau Island will also be produced. The expenditure for these measures is about \$1.2 million.
- b. Guided tours in several languages are provided to promote nature appreciation among visitors. The department also works closely with the Hong Kong Tourism Board to promote these tours to overseas visitors. The expenditure for these measures is about \$0.75 million.
- c. In collaboration with the Islands District Council and Ngong Ping 360, leaflets and publications are produced for distribution to visitors. The total expenditure for these measures is about \$0.3 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS CHEUNG SIU HING

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 17 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

ENB002

Question Serial No.

0618

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

How many country parks need to carry out improvements in strengthening their visitor services apart from Lantau Country Parks? What is the expenditure involved? What improvement in visitor number can be expected after the services are strengthened?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply :

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department carries out improvement measures in various country parks to maintain their attractiveness and user-friendliness on an on-going basis. In 2008-09, apart from the Lantau Country Parks, the more significant visitor service improvements will include the following –

- (a) converting the existing visitor centre in the Aberdeen Country Park into a thematic tree centre;
- (b) upgrading 10 existing tree walks and nature trails in various country parks.

The total expenditure for these improvements is about \$2.5 million.

The improvements are part of the on-going effort to upkeep our country parks, and we do not have estimates on the increase in visitor numbers due to these improvements.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS CHEUNG SIU HING

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 17 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09

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

Reply Serial No.

ENB003

Question Serial No.

2448

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

It is estimated that 900 000 seedlings will be planted in 2008. Please provide the estimated expenditure involved in planting native tree seedlings.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

The estimated number of native tree seedlings to be planted in 2008 is 520 000. The expenditure involved is about \$5.1 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MISS CHEUNG SIU HING _____

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date _____ 19 March 2008 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

ENB004

Question Serial No.

2449

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

The numbers of hill fires actually attended to in 2006 and 2007 were 41 and 42 respectively, while the estimated number of hill fires attended to in 2008 is 40. Please provide information on the sizes of the areas affected by hill fires, the numbers of trees damaged and the expenditure involved in fire fighting in 2006 and 2007. What is the estimated expenditure for hill fire fighting in 2008?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

In 2006, a total of 41 hill fires broke out in country parks, damaging 872 hectares of country park land and 75 400 trees. In 2007, a total of 189 hectares of country park land and 20 600 trees were damaged by the 42 cases of hill fires in country parks. The expenditure involved in various duties, activities and facilities relating to preventing and fighting hill fires in 2006 and 2007 was \$35 million and \$37 million respectively. The expenditure in 2008 is estimated to be \$39 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS CHEUNG SIU HING

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 19 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09

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

Reply Serial No.

ENB005

Question Serial No.

2450

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

It is estimated that 600 000 seedlings will be produced in 2008. Please provide the estimated expenditure involved in producing native tree seedlings in 2008.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

The estimated number of native tree seedlings to be produced in 2008 is about 336 000 with an expenditure of about \$3.9 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS CHEUNG SIU HING

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 19 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

ENB006

Question Serial No.

2451

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

Provision for 2008-09 is 2.1% higher than the revised estimate for 2007-08, which is mainly due to increase in expenses relating to the strengthening of visitor services of Lantau Country Parks. Please give details on the expenses.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has been strengthening the visitor services of Lantau Country Parks in the following ways:

- a. Establishment of a nature centre at Ngong Ping to highlight the ecology, geography and heritage of Lantau Island to serve both local and overseas visitors. A video to show the natural wonders of Lantau Island will also be produced. The expenditure for these measures is about \$1.2 million.
- b. Guided tours in several languages are provided to promote nature appreciation among visitors. The department also works closely with the Hong Kong Tourism Board to promote these tours to overseas visitors. The expenditure for these measures is about \$0.75 million.
- c. In collaboration with the Islands District Council and Ngong Ping 360, leaflets and publications are produced for distribution to visitors. The total expenditure for these measures is about \$0.3 million.

We will also enhance the law enforcement and management work of the Lantau Country Parks. The additional expenditure is about \$2 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MISS CHEUNG SIU HING

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date _____ 18 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09

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

Reply Serial No.

ENB007

Question Serial No.

0186

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

During the Chung Yeung Festival in 2007, many hill fires broke out in the territory, destroying a large number of trees. What is the financial provision for producing and planting seedlings in the estimate for 2008-09? Is it adequate for making up for the loss of trees destroyed in the hill fires?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

During the Chung Yeung Festival in 2007, there were six hill fires in country parks, damaging 6 000 trees.

In 2008-09, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will continue to carry out tree planting in the country parks and to rehabilitate sites damaged by hill fires. Some 900 000 seedlings will be planted. The financial provision for producing and planting the seedlings is about \$16 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS CHEUNG SIU HING

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 17 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

ENB008

Question Serial No.

0828

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

There are no measures to prevent precious animals and plants from being stolen from country parks under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2008-09. What were the measures taken in 2006-07 and 2007-08 to prevent such precious species from being stolen from country parks? What was the expenditure involved? Will there be an increase in provision to improve the situation in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply :

Animals and plants in country parks are protected under the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap 208), Forests and Countryside Ordinance (Cap 96), and Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap 170), and applicable legislation against theft and smuggling.

Some 150 park wardens are deployed in conducting law enforcement duties, visitor services and conservation education in country parks and special areas. The annual provision in 2006-07 and 2007-08 was about \$33 million. In 2008-09, an increase of about \$2 million has been earmarked.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS CHEUNG SIU HING

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 19 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

ENB009

Question Serial No.

1174

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

A number of major hill fires broke out in the territory last year. However, the numbers of seedlings estimated to be produced or planted in 2008-09 are less than those actually produced or planted in 2007. What are the reasons? Is it because the Administration considers that the damage done to trees by hill fires is not serious? Or is it because the Administration does not attach importance to plantation or rehabilitation work?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Wai-keung, Daniel

Reply :

The major hill fires that broke out in the territory in 2007 were outside country parks. During the year, 42 hill fires broke out in country parks as compared to 41 cases in 2006. A total of 20 600 trees in country parks were damaged by hill fires, fewer than the 75 400 trees in 2006.

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will continue to carry out tree planting in country parks to rehabilitate sites damaged by hill fires. A total of 900 000 seedlings will be planted in country parks in 2008. The number is slightly lower than that in 2007 (932 000 seedlings) as sites suitable for large-scale tree planting are not easily available.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS CHEUNG SIU HING

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 17 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

ENB010

Question Serial No.

0764

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

Are there any specific measures for strengthening the work on fire prevention in woodlands and country parks? With regard to the trees damaged in areas affected by hill fires earlier, are there any replanting programmes? If yes, please give the details. If no, please explain why.

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

In 2008-09, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will continue to implement various fire prevention measures in the country parks. AFCD will maintain 26 fire fighting teams and 11 fire lookouts at strategic locations to detect and fight hill fires during the dry season. Educational programmes and publicity activities on hill fire prevention will be strengthened through public announcements, production and distribution of leaflets, village visits, media briefing and press tours. During days of high fire risks, country park patrols will be stepped up to advise visitors to prevent hill fires and to enforce against any unauthorized use of fire.

AFCD will continue to carry out extensive tree planting in the country parks to rehabilitate sites damaged by hill fires. It plans to plant some 900 000 seedlings in the country parks in 2008.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS CHEUNG SIU HING

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 17 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

ENB011

Question Serial No.

0765

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

Buddhist pines and other plants growing wild in our countryside have been felled illegally by some mainlanders in the past. Will the Department strengthen its effort in combating the illegal tree-felling activities? If yes, please state the resources earmarked for this purpose.

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

The felling of wild Buddhist pines and other wild plants in the countryside is usually related to theft and smuggling activities involving illegal immigrants. The Department has been supporting the Police in the enforcement work against these offences in the country parks. Besides stepping up patrols at black spots, we have been encouraging hikers and members of the public to promptly report to the Police any irregularities detected.

Some 150 park wardens are deployed in carrying out law enforcement duties, visitor services and conservation education in our country parks and special areas. The estimated expenditure in 2008-09 is \$35 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS CHEUNG SIU HING

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 19 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

ENB012

Question Serial No.

1499

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

In 2008-09, the Department will enhance the biodiversity in country parks and special areas. Please inform this Committee the effectiveness of the enhancement work in 2007-08, and how does the result contribute to conservation of nature.

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has taken various conservation measures to enhance the ecological diversity in country parks. These include creating suitable habitats for special species; propagating rare and special plant species; and enhancing the species diversity of plantations. These ecological enhancement projects have been successful in attracting wildlife and enhancing local biodiversity. For example, in the past few years field trials of nesting boxes for bird breeding in various country parks revealed that over 20% of them were occupied, with two owl species. The AFCD has also successfully raised species of ecological interest such as the protected Birdwing Butterfly and Hong Kong Paradise Fish. Rare plants such as Grantham's Camellia and Fortune's Keteleeria have also been successfully propagated and planted in country parks.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS CHEUNG SIU HING

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 17 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

ENB013

Question Serial No.

1500

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

Please provide information on:

- a) the location of country parks and special areas where new species of plants or animals will be planted or reared in 2008-09.
- b) the estimated funding to be allocated for this project.

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

In 2008-09, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has no plan to plant or rear any new plant or animal species in country parks.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS CHEUNG SIU HING

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 17 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

ENB014

Question Serial No.

1513

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

Regarding matters requiring special attention in 2008-09, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will promote public education and publicity on nature conservation and compatible use of country parks and marine parks. What are the details of the project including scope, expenditure and implementation timetable?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

In 2008-09, the department will promote public education and publicity on nature conservation and compatible use of country parks and marine parks with the following means:

- a. The department runs seven visitor centres for nature education. All visitor centres are provided with nature appreciation messages to serve both local and overseas visitors.
- b. Guided tours to promote nature appreciation and conservation will be provided to the public and school parties and we will publicize the services to overseas tourists. At selected centres, multi-lingual guided tours will be offered.
- c. In collaboration with District Councils and non-government organizations, various leaflets, publications and nature books will be produced to promote nature appreciation and compatible use of country parks and marine parks.
- d. Talks and seminars will be arranged for schools and the public to promote nature conservation. The department also runs various school programmes to cater for the needs of school children and teachers.
- e. The department will also revamp its two popular websites to further promote nature conservation and encourage enjoyment of our country and marine park resources.
- f. The total expenditure for these measures is about \$11 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS CHEUNG SIU HING

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 17 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

ENB015

Question Serial No.

2056

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

Regarding the initiation of statutory procedures to designate the Lantau North (Extension) Country Park, please advise on:

- a. the relevant details; and
- b. the estimated expenditure needed.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- a. The draft map of the proposed Lantau North (Extension) Country Park was made available for public inspection for 60 days in accordance with the Country Park Ordinance on 4 January 2008. The public inspection period ended on 3 March 2008. We plan to designate the proposed country park within 2008 after the necessary statutory procedures are completed.
- b. The initiation of statutory procedures to designate the Lantau North (Extension) Country Park does not incur any expenditure. However, the estimated yearly expenditure for the management and control of the proposed country park is about \$5 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS CHEUNG SIU HING

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 20 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

ENB016

Question Serial No.

2512

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead :

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

During 2008-09, the Department will give emphasis to implement a territory-wide survey programme to collect information required for maintaining and updating an ecological database. When will it be completed? How much expenditure and manpower will be required?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply :

The survey programme has started since 2002-03. It covers different habitats; the location, status and composition of about 100 plant communities; and the distribution and abundance of about 1,000 animal species, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, freshwater fish, dragonflies and butterflies. We have established a geographic information system (GIS) version of the ecological database to enable the storage of data in digital format and analysis of spatial data using computer GIS. A simplified internet version of the database may now be accessed through the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department's website. Since ecology is dynamic, we have to follow up the surveys with monitoring and repeated surveys to update the database from time to time.

A provision of \$2.7 million has been earmarked for the programme in 2008-09, including two professional officer and three field officer posts.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS CHEUNG SIU HING

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 17 March 2008

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

Head: 33 – Civil Engineering and
Development Department

Subhead:

Programme: (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: The provision for 2008-09 is \$113.6 million (30.5%) higher than the revised estimate for 2007-08. One of the main reasons is due to the increased provision for implementing the scheme on cross-boundary delivery of surplus public fill. Please advise on the details and expenditure involved for the scheme. According to the scheme, cross-boundary delivery of surplus public fill to the Mainland for reuse commenced in July 2007. Please advise on the quantity of public fill and expenditure involved for the scheme since July 2007.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

Arising from the recent running down of reclamation projects in Hong Kong, a large amount of surplus public fill generated locally is being stockpiled in the two temporary fill banks at Tseung Kwan O and Tuen Mun, which are approaching the limits of their storage capacities. The Civil Engineering and Development Department has therefore entered into an agreement with the Mainland authorities for delivering the surplus public fill for beneficial reuse in the Mainland. The Department awarded a two-year contract in November 2006 to implement this cross-boundary delivery scheme with a contract sum of \$768 million for the operation of the local public fill reception facilities and the cross-boundary delivery of surplus public fill. The estimated expenditure in 2008-09 for contract payments, related staff costs and administrative overheads is \$486.3 million. The contractor started delivering the surplus public fill in July 2007. Up to March 2008, about four million tonnes of surplus public fill has been delivered to the Mainland for beneficial reuse under the contract. The expenditure during the period for contract payments, related staff costs and administrative overheads is about \$342.8 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOHN S V CHAI

Post Title Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date 27 March 2008

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

Head: 33 – Civil Engineering and
Development Department

Subhead:

Programme: (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: Please advise on the details of the Administration's work on promoting the reuse of construction and demolition (C&D) materials in the past. What were the ratios of reusing C&D materials in the past three years? Has the performance of the above work been assessed? Will target ratio for the reuse of C&D materials be considered to be established?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

We have required all contractors of government works contracts to minimise the generation of C&D materials and maximise their reuse; urged the project proponents of public works projects to maximise the reuse of C&D materials in land formation projects; set up recycling plants at fill banks, established construction waste sorting facilities, and processed hard inert C&D materials in local quarries to facilitate their reuse; and introduced the Construction Waste Disposal Charging Scheme to provide incentive for the trade to reuse C&D materials. We have established two temporary fill banks for stockpiling these surplus materials for later reuse. We have also implemented the cross-boundary delivery scheme to transport surplus C&D materials for beneficial reuse in the Mainland.

The reuse of C&D materials is being closely monitored. The ratios of their reuse in 2005, 2006 and 2007 were about 95%, 100% and 70%, respectively. The reuse ratios for 2005 and 2006 were higher than that of 2007 because the C&D materials could be reused in local reclamation projects in 2005 and 2006. With the running down of reclamation projects in Hong Kong since 2007, as there are no new major receptor sites to receive the materials, the reuse ratio of C&D materials has started to decline. The declining trend of the reuse ratio is expected to continue in the coming few years.

As the reuse ratio of C&D materials is highly dependent on the availability of suitable receptor sites, it is considered inappropriate to establish a target ratio for their reuse.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

JOHN S V CHAI

Post Title _____

Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date _____

27 March 2008

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

Head: 33 – Civil Engineering and
Development Department

Subhead:

Programme: (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: Regarding matters requiring special attention in 2008-09, it is mentioned that the Department will continue to plan for setting up long-term construction and demolition (C&D) materials handling facilities. Would the Administration advise the latest progress of the planning work, including the proposed sites and estimated construction cost?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

We are planning to set up and operate long-term C&D materials handling facilities, which will replace the existing temporary handling facilities in Tseung Kwan O Area 137 and Tuen Mun Area 38. The handling facilities will comprise public fill reception facilities and construction waste sorting facilities, and the operation will include the delivery of surplus public fill for beneficial reuse in the Mainland. We are carrying out a consultancy study to examine the feasibility of involving private sector's participation in the setting up and operation of the handling facilities. Preliminary findings of the study, including the required handling capacity, would be available in the second half of 2008. The estimated expenditure for setting up these facilities will be ascertained after details of the handling facilities and the mode of operation are confirmed.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

JOHN S V CHAI

Post Title _____

Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date _____

31 March 2008

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

Head: 33 – Civil Engineering and
Development Department

Subhead:

Programme: (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: The financial provision for 2008-09 is some \$110 million (about 30.5%) higher than the revised estimate for 2007-08. The increase is mainly due to the increased provision for implementing the scheme on cross-boundary delivery of surplus public fill and creation of four posts. Please give the following information:

- (1) details of the scheme and the posts to be created, and their respective provisions;
- (2) reasons for the considerable increase in the estimate for 2008-09 given that the scheme has started in July 2007; and
- (3) reasons for creation of the four posts.

Asked by: Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply:

Arising from the recent running down of reclamation projects in Hong Kong, a large amount of surplus public fill generated locally is being stockpiled in the two temporary fill banks at Tseung Kwan O and Tuen Mun, which are approaching the limits of their storage capacities. The Civil Engineering and Development Department has therefore entered into an agreement with the Mainland authorities for delivering the surplus public fill for beneficial reuse in the Mainland. The Department awarded a two-year contract in November 2006 to implement this cross-boundary delivery scheme with a contract sum of \$768 million for the operation of the local public fill reception facilities and the cross-boundary delivery of surplus public fill. The contractor started delivering the surplus public fill in July 2007. The estimated expenditure in 2008-09 for contract payments, related staff costs and administrative overheads is \$486.30 million, of which about \$0.76 million is the total staff cost, in terms of notional mid-point salary value of the four Works Supervisor II posts to be created to enhance the supervision of the operation of the public fill reception facilities and the delivery work. The increase in the estimate for 2008-09 is mainly due to the full-year effect of the delivery scheme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

JOHN S V CHAI

Post Title _____

Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date _____

27 March 2008

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

Head: 33 – Civil Engineering and
Development Department

Subhead:

Programme: (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: Regarding matters requiring special attention in 2008-09, the Civil Engineering and Development Department will continue to plan for setting up long-term construction and demolition (C&D) materials handling facilities. What are the details of the plan including the scope of the project, the target (i.e. the handling capacity), estimated expenditure, and the proposed sites for setting up these facilities?

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

We are planning to set up and operate long-term C&D materials handling facilities, which will replace the existing temporary handling facilities in Tseung Kwan O Area 137 and Tuen Mun Area 38. The handling facilities will comprise public fill reception facilities and construction waste sorting facilities, and the operation will include the delivery of surplus public fill for beneficial reuse in the Mainland. We are carrying out a consultancy study to examine the feasibility of involving private sector's participation in the setting up and operation of the handling facilities. Preliminary findings of the study, including the required handling capacity, would be available in the second half of 2008. The estimated expenditure for setting up these facilities will be ascertained after details of the handling facilities and the mode of operation are confirmed.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

JOHN S V CHAI

Post Title _____

Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date _____

31 March 2008

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

Head : 33 – Civil Engineering and Development Department Subhead :

Programme : (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The expenditure has substantially increased under this Programme, which is partly contributed by the scheme on cross-boundary delivery of surplus public fill. What are the details and the estimated expenditure of this scheme? What benefits will this scheme bring?

Asked by Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply :

Arising from the recent running down of reclamation projects in Hong Kong, a large amount of surplus public fill generated locally is being stockpiled in the two temporary fill banks at Tseung Kwan O and Tuen Mun, which are approaching the limits of their storage capacities. The Civil Engineering and Development Department has therefore entered into an agreement with the Mainland authorities for delivering the surplus public fill for beneficial reuse in the Mainland. The Department awarded a two-year contract in November 2006 to implement this cross-boundary delivery scheme with a contract sum of \$768 million for the operation of the local public fill reception facilities and the cross-boundary delivery of surplus public fill. The contractor started delivering public fill in July 2007, and it is estimated that about ten million tonnes of surplus public fill will be delivered by mid-2008 to the Mainland for beneficial reuse. The estimated expenditure in 2007-08 and 2008-09 for contract payments, related staff costs and administrative overheads are \$372.7 million and \$486.3 million respectively. This sustainable scheme will put large quantity of surplus public fill being generated locally into beneficial reuse, reduce stockpiling and help vacate the land now used as temporary fill banks at Tseung Kwan O and Tuen Mun for other developments.

Signature _____

Name in block letters **JOHN S V CHAI** _____

Post Title Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date 25 March 2008

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

Head: 39 – Drainage Services Department Subhead:

Programme: (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: How many appeal cases of sewage charge and trade effluent surcharge were there in 2005, 2006 and 2007? Of which, how many were from the restaurant trade? How many appeal cases were approved? Of which, how many were from the restaurant trade? What is the average time needed to complete the processing of a case?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The number of applications and approved cases for reassessment of trade effluent surcharge (TES) rate (i.e. COD reassessment) and discharge factor for sewage charge and TES in the past three years are as follows:

| | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 (for 11 months only) |
|--|----------------|----------------|--|
| No. of applications received for reassessment of TES rate | | | |
| All trades | 819 | 690 | 325 |
| Restaurant trade | 715 | 595 | 254 |
| No. of applications approved | | | |
| All trades | 527 | 734 | 457 |
| Restaurant trade | 440 | 640 | 435 |
| No. of applications received for reassessment of discharge factor | | | |
| All trades | 42 | 49 | 36 |
| Restaurant trade | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| No. of applications approved | | | |
| All trades | 33 | 44 | 32 |
| Restaurant trade | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Note :

1. As there is a time lag for processing the applications, the number of applications approved within a year may exceed the number of applications received.
2. The drop in number of applications received in 2007-08 is mainly due to the extension of the validity period of TES reassessments from one year to two years with effect from 1 July 2007.
3. A discharge factor of 80% is adopted for eight trades in the TES scheme to take into account the fact that a proportion of the metered water supplied may be used in the operating process and not discharged to sewer.

It normally takes three to four months to process a case.

Signature _____
Name in block letters K K LAU
Post Title Director of Drainage Services
Date 20 March 2008

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

Head: 39 – Drainage Services Department Subhead:

Programme: (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: “Continue to operate and maintain sewage treatment facilities in a cost-effective manner” is one of the matters requiring special attention in 2008-09. What are the expenditure involved and manpower required for repair and maintenance of sewage treatment facilities in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The apportionment of the expenditure involved and number of staff required for repair and maintenance of sewage treatment facilities in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 are listed below:

| | 2005-06 (Actual) | 2006-07 (Actual) | 2007-08 (Revised Estimate) |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Expenditure (\$ million) | 566 | 563 | 559 |
| Number of staff | 693 | 669 | 635 |

Signature _____

Name in block letters K K LAU

Post Title Director of Drainage Services

Date 25 March 2008

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

Head: 39 – Drainage Services Department Subhead:

Programme: (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: Are there any assessment of the depreciation rate of sewers and any plan to contract out the related repair and maintenance works? If yes, please provide the details.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The depreciation rate of sewers is taken as 2.5% per annum based on an estimated average useful life of 40 years. The Department has outsourced the sewer repair and maintenance works to contractors. The cost of the outsourced works in both 2006-07 and 2007-08 was about \$102 million per annum.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **K K LAU** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Drainage Services** _____

Date _____ **26 March 2008** _____

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

Head: 39 – Drainage Services Department Subhead:

Programme: (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: During 2008-09, the Department will continue with the design and construction of the sewerage works under the sewerage master plans. Will these plans include sewers rationalisation to improve their compatibility with the surrounding environment? With the emphasis on the town development planning in recent years, has the Department conducted any studies on rationalisation of sewers? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply:

Sewers are for the purpose of conveying wastewater and are all enclosed and underground, their compatibility with the surrounding environment is generally not an issue. The public sometimes complain that particular nullahs are not compatible with the environment. Since nullahs are stormwater drains, they are not included in sewerage master plans. However, their improvement works, if any, are implemented under the Public Works Programme.

As announced in the 2005 Policy Address, there are 16 nullahs to be improved in ten years for enhancing the living environment. The works are in progress. Of these 16 nullahs, for instance, the Kai Tak Nullah, is to be improved by a combination of rehabilitation and decking that is compatible with the surrounding environment. In addition to the improvement works of these 16 nullahs, a study for the rehabilitation of Yuen Long Town nullah is in progress, of which the expenditure involved is \$11.8 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ K K LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 26 March 2008

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

Head: 39 – Drainage Services Department Subhead:

Programme: (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: With regard to the works of the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme (HATS), please advise:

- (a) the expected completion date of HATS Stage 2A;
- (b) on completion of the Stage 2A works, whether the water quality of Victoria Harbour will be fit for recreational purposes; and
- (c) whether the Government is set to proceed with the construction of Stage 2B? If yes, what are the details? If not, what is the reason?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply:

- (a) We plan to complete HATS Stage 2A in 2014.
- (b) On completion, HATS Stage 2A will result in improved water quality of Victoria Harbour to a state fit for recreational purposes.
- (c) The Government is committed to implementing HATS Stage 2B to provide biological treatment in order to sustain the benefits of HATS Stage 2A. The timing of the implementation of Stage 2B depends on the completion of the necessary statutory land rezoning exercise (targeted for 2010) and a review of population growth, sewage flow build-up and harbour water quality trend to be conducted in 2010-11.

Signature _____

Name in block letters K K LAU

Post Title Director of Drainage Services

Date 28 March 2008

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

Head: 39 – Drainage Services Department Subhead: 603

Programme: (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: Under Capital Account subhead 603, there was no expenditure for 2007-08 for the commitment for item 864 “Supply and installation of two sets of filter plates at Shek Wu Hui sewage treatment works”. What is the reason for this?

Asked by: Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply:

Funding for item 864 “Supply and installation of two sets of filter plates at Shek Wu Hui sewage treatment works” under subhead 603 was approved in late 2007. Expenditure on this new project will start to be incurred in 2008-09.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **K K LAU** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Drainage Services** _____

Date _____ **20 March 2008** _____

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

Head: 39 – Drainage Services Department Subhead: 603

Programme: (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: Under Capital Account subhead 603, there was no expenditure for 2007-08 for the commitment for item 865 “Supply and installation of one set of filter plates at Tai Po sewage treatment works”. What is the reason for this?

Asked by: Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply:

Funding for item 865 “Supply and installation of one set of filter plates at Tai Po sewage treatment works” under subhead 603 was approved in late 2007. Expenditure on this new project will start to be incurred in 2008-09.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **K K LAU** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Drainage Services** _____

Date _____ **20 March 2008** _____

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

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead:

Programme: (1) Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: In 2008-09, the Administration will provide expert and technical advice on the liquefied natural gas terminal proposed by CLP Power Hong Kong Limited and Castle Peak Power Company Limited. What are the details of the relevant work and the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

The expert and technical advice provided by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) is related to the gas safety of the liquefied natural gas supply infrastructure in accordance with the requirements of the Gas Safety Ordinance. EMSD will redeploy existing resources for the work and there is no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **HO KWONG WAI** _____

Post Title _____ Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services _____

Date _____ **26 March 2008** _____

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

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
Subhead:

Programme: (3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: What is the estimated expenditure on the research and development works on the application of innovative energy efficiency technologies in 2008-09? What are the details of the relevant work plans?

Asked by: Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply:

The estimated expenditure on the research and development studies on the application of innovative energy efficiency technologies in 2008-09 is \$0.65 million. Details are as follows:

| Study | Aim | Estimated Expenditure | Target Completion Date |
|--|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Sun Tracking Photovoltaic System | To test the effectiveness of the technology in enhancing electricity generation of the photovoltaic system in local context. | \$0.50 million | September 2008 |
| Oil-free Variable Speed Compressor Chiller | To evaluate the effectiveness of the chiller using the advanced technology in achieving energy saving for air-conditioning system. | Nil (equipment cost of \$1.48 million incurred in 2007-08) | January 2009 |
| Refrigerant Oil Contamination Purger | To test the effectiveness of the technology in up-keeping the energy performance of the chiller in the air-conditioning system. | \$0.15 million | March 2009 |

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **HO KWONG WAI**

Post Title _____ **Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services**

Date _____ **20 March 2008**

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

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead:

Programme: (3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: There were four grid-connected and four non grid-connected renewable energy installations completed in 2007. What are the details?

Asked by: Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply:

The four grid-connected renewable energy facilities are photovoltaic panels installed at the Airport Police Station, the Government Flying Services Headquarters, the Kowloon Hospital Rehabilitation Block and the Hong Kong Science Museum. The four non grid-connected renewable energy facilities are solar water heating systems installed at the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Headquarters, King's College, Pak Sha Wan Correctional Institution and the Government House.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **HO KWONG WAI** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services** _____

Date _____ **25 March 2008** _____

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

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
Subhead:

Programme: (3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: How much funding has been earmarked for research and promotion of renewable energy in 2008-09? What are the details of the relevant plan?

Asked by: Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply:

The estimated expenditure for research works on renewable energy in 2008-09 is \$0.5 million. Details are as follows:

| Study | Aim | Estimated Expenditure | Target Completion Date |
|----------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sun Tracking Photovoltaic System | To test the effectiveness of the technology in enhancing electricity generation of the photovoltaic system in local context. | \$0.5 million | September 2008 |

In 2008-09, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department will continue to maintain the thematic website, the “HK RE Net” (<http://re.emsd.gov.hk>), providing both technical and general information on various renewable energy technologies with a view to facilitating their adoption. The Department has also earmarked about \$0.1 million for publishing information leaflets and guidance notes, and organising seminars and talks to students, stakeholders and the public to promote renewable energy.

Signature _____

Name in block letters HO KWONG WAI

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date 20 March 2008

**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

Question: The Administration estimates that the number of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) filling stations approved in 2008 will be zero, which will be lower than two number of LPG filling stations approved in 2007 and one in 2006. What is the reason for the difference?

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

The estimated number of LPG filling stations approved in 2008 is zero as there will be no new LPG filling station scheduled to be completed in 2008. The difference in the respective numbers of LPG filling stations approved in 2006, 2007 and 2008 is due to variance in completion schedule of new LPG filling stations from year to year.

At present, there are 58 LPG filling stations in the territory, the capacity of which is sufficient to meet the demand of LPG taxis and light buses. To make refilling more convenient for LPG vehicles, the Administration has a standing policy since 2000 to include LPG filling facility requirement in land sales for petrol filling stations, subject to safety requirements being met.

Signature _____

Name in block letters HO KWONG WAI

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date 17 March 2008

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

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead:

Programme: (3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: Under the indicator on “Energy audit – audit surveys completed”, the estimated figure for 2008 is 24, which exceeds the actual completed audits of 15 nos. in 2007 by nine. Please explain the reasons and criteria for setting the target.

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

A total of 39 energy audits have been planned for 2007 and 2008. They are for those government buildings with high electricity consumption and which have not been audited for the past four years. In 2007, 15 energy audits were completed. The remaining 24 energy audits will be completed in 2008.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **HO KWONG WAI** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services** _____

Date _____ **17 March 2008** _____

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

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead:

Programme: (1) Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: In 2008-09, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) will commence studies on the long-term market structure for the electricity market. Please provide details of the concerned studies. How long will the studies take? What is the amount of expenditures involved?

Asked by: Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply:

EMSD will provide technical support to the Environment Bureau (ENB) to conduct the studies on the long-term market structure for the electricity market. It is expected that the studies will take about two years to complete. As the officers providing the technical support to ENB also handle other duties concurrently, it is not possible to separately itemise the expenditure for each task.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **HO KWONG WAI**

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date _____ 26 March 2008

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

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
Subhead:

Programme: (1) Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: In 2008-09 the Administration will monitor the accelerated replacement programme of town gas medium-pressure ductile iron (MPDI) underground pipes having service life exceeding 20 years. Please advise:

- (a) what are the details of the replacement programme in 2007-08? What is the expenditure? What is the expected completion date? And
- (b) has the Administration deployed additional resource to deal with the accelerated programme? If yes, what is the expenditure incurred? How many years will the programme be expected to advance in completion?

Asked by: Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply:

- (a) The accelerated replacement programme, which covers a total length of 150 km town gas MPDI underground pipes having a service life exceeding 20 years, commenced in July 2006. As at February 2008, The Hong Kong and China Gas Co. Ltd. (HKCG) has completed about 107 km MPDI pipes. The replacement cost of the MDPI pipes is borne by HKCG.

To ensure compliance with the replacement programme, the Gas Standards Office of the Department has been closely monitoring HKCG's planning and replacement work. As the officers concerned also handled other duties concurrently, there is no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved for undertaking the monitoring duties.

With the accelerated replacement programme in steady progress, the work is expected to be completed by mid-2008.

- (b) No additional resources are required as the workload relating to the monitoring of the replacement programme can be absorbed by the Department. The accelerated replacement programme is targeted to be completed within two years from the beginning, no further advancement is expected.

Signature _____

Name in block letters HO KWONG WAI

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date 26 March 2008

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

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
Subhead:

Programme: (1) Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: Regarding liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) vehicle safety, the number of enquiries/complaints handled in 2007 greatly decreased as compared with that in 2006. What is the reason for the decrease?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply:

The number of enquiries/complaints handled in 2007 decreased as compared with that in 2006 for the following reasons:

- (a) LPG fuel tanks used in vehicles require revalidation every five years. The number of LPG fuel tanks requiring revalidation in 2006, which matched with the five years interval, was about 8 400. This was reduced to about 1 900 in 2007. Hence, there was a corresponding decrease in the number of enquiries relating to the LPG fuel tank revalidation; and
- (b) The operation of LPG filling stations has improved since the implementation of the revised pricing adjustment mechanism for dedicated LPG filling stations in March 2006, resulting in a drop in the number of complaints in 2007.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **HO KWONG WAI** _____

Post Title _____ Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services _____

Date _____ 17 March 2008 _____

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

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
Subhead:

Programme: (3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: For the item relating to implementation of the second phase of the mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme (EELS), please advise:

- (a) what products the Government plans to include in the second phase of the mandatory EELS, and whether the types of products will be increased after taking into account the views of the public?
- (b) the timetable for the public consultation and legislative process of the second phase of the mandatory EELS; and
- (c) as other countries have imposed the Minimum Energy Performance Standards for certain electrical products, will the Government consider to include such requirements in the mandatory EELS? If yes, what are the details? If not, why?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply:

- (a) The first phase of the mandatory EELS covers three types of products, namely room air-conditioners, refrigerating appliances and compact fluorescent lamps, which together account for about 70% of the electricity consumption in a household. For the second phase of the mandatory EELS, the Government is considering other products under the existing voluntary EELS such as washing machines, dehumidifiers and electric storage water heaters. We will conduct market surveys to assess the market situation and potential energy savings, and take the views of the public into account, before finalising the proposal.
- (b) We will conduct market surveys this year to assess the market situation and potential energy savings, and take the views of the public into account, before finalising the proposal for the second phase of the mandatory EELS. We plan to submit the legislative proposal to the Legislative Council in 2009.
- (c) The mandatory EELS enables consumers to be better informed of the energy efficiency of the products, and to become more conscious of the energy consumption when making their purchase decision. It is expected that the mandatory EELS will encourage product suppliers to supply more energy-efficient products to meet customers' needs, and will phase out the products with low energy efficiency performance by market force. The Government will review the effectiveness of the mandatory EELS before considering whether Minimum Energy Performance Standards should be introduced.

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Signature | _____ |
| Name in block letters | HO KWONG WAI |
| Post Title | Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services |
| Date | 26 March 2008 |

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

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead:

Programme: (3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: Regarding Voluntary Energy Efficiency Registration Scheme, please advise:
(a) what are the penetration rates of registered energy efficiency labelling products (please list out all 19 types of electrical appliances, gas appliances and vehicle); and
(b) in case the result of voluntary Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme (EELS) is not desirable, will the Government consider including all product types under the mandatory EELS? If doing so, how about the details?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply: (a)

| Products | Estimated Penetration Rates (based on sales quantity) | Products | Estimated Penetration Rates (based on sales quantity) |
|--------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Room Air-conditioners | 82% | Television Sets | <15% |
| Refrigerators | 65% | LCD Monitors | < 5% |
| Compact Fluorescent Lamps | 14% | Electronic Ballasts | < 5% |
| Washing Machines | 15% | Fax Machines | < 5% |
| Electric Storage Water Heaters | 35% | Electric Clothes Dryers | 0% |
| Dehumidifiers | 25% | Computer | 0% |
| Multifunction Devices | 50% | Cold/Hot Bottled Water Dispensers | N/A (to be launched in mid-2008) |
| Photocopiers | 20% | Domestic Gas Instantaneous Water Heaters | <10% |
| Laser Printers | 15% | Petrol Passenger Cars | < 5% |
| Electric Rice-cookers | < 5% | | |

(b) The first phase of the mandatory EELS covers three types of specified products (room air-conditioners, refrigerators and compact fluorescent lamps), which account for 70% of the electricity consumption in a household. The Government will implement the second phase of the mandatory EELS and is considering other products under the voluntary EELS, such as washing machines, dehumidifiers and electric storage water heaters. We will continue to review the extent of products covered under the mandatory scheme, taking into account the potential energy savings, views of the public and the trade, overseas practices and experience, etc.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

HO KWONG WAI

Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

28 March 2008

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

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
Subhead:

Programme: (3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: Based on the performance indicator of renewable energy projects for Government and public bodies, please advise:

- (a) the details of the grid-connected renewable energy installations completed in 2007-08; and
- (b) does the Government have a plan to assist energy users in grid connection and to promote the private organisations or residential buildings to develop renewable energy installations. If so, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply:

- (a) Four grid-connected renewable energy installations for Airport Police Station, Government Flying Services Headquarters, Kowloon Hospital Rehabilitation Block and Hong Kong Science Museum were completed in 2007-08.
- (b) The Government is committed to promoting the development of renewable energy in Hong Kong. Technical advice and guidelines are provided to encourage wider application of renewable energy, such as the “Technical Guidelines on Grid Connection of Renewable Energy Power Systems” prepared by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department. The Department also set up a thematic website, the “HK RE Net” (<http://re.emsd.gov.hk>), in 2007 providing information on various renewable energy technologies with a view to facilitating their adoption. Separately, under the new post-2008 Scheme of Control Agreements, the power companies will offer standardised arrangement for back-up power supply for customers with embedded renewable energy systems in Hong Kong.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **HO KWONG WAI** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services** _____

Date _____ **25 March 2008** _____

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

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead:

Programme: (3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: Please list out the ranks, duties and department of the six posts to be created in 2008-09.

Asked by: Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply:

The net increase of six posts in 2008-09 arises from the creation of seven posts and the deletion of one post. All the posts concerned are under the Energy Efficiency Office of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department.

The posts to be created in 2008-09 are:

| Rank | No. of Posts to be Created | Duties |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| Electrical and Mechanical Engineer/ Assistant Electrical and Mechanical Engineer | 1 | To provide professional and technical expertise for energy efficiency and conservation programmes. |
| Electrical Inspector | 1 | |
| Assistant Electrical Inspector | 3 | |
| Personal Secretary II | 1 | To provide secretarial and clerical support. |
| Assistant Clerical Officer | 1 | |

The post to be deleted in 2008-09 is ranked at Technical Officer/Technical Officer Trainee (Electrical and Mechanical).

Signature _____

Name in block letters HO KWONG WAI

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date 25 March 2008

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

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead:

Programme: (1) Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: The number of inspections of approved liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) filling stations was 232 in 2007 and 243 in 2006. What is the reason for the decreased number of inspections in 2007?

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply:

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department conducts regular inspections of approved LPG filling stations to ensure gas safety and to closely monitor their operation. The operation of LPG filling stations has been improved since the implementation of the revised pricing adjustment mechanism for dedicated LPG filling stations in March 2006, contributing to a drop in the number of complaints received and hence the reduced number of follow-up inspections in 2007.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **HO KWONG WAI** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services** _____

Date _____ **26 March 2008** _____

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

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
Subhead:

Programme: (3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: (a) Please list out the name, content, budgetary expenditure and time frame of the research and development studies on renewable energy in 2008-09.
(b) Please provide the estimated energy savings in expenditure for the Government in 2008-09 through implementation of energy saving projects/programmes.

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply:

(a) The following research and development study on the application of innovative renewable energy technology will be carried out in 2008-09:

| Study | Aim | Estimated Expenditure | Target Completion Date |
|----------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sun Tracking Photovoltaic System | To test the effectiveness of the technology in enhancing electricity generation of the photovoltaic system in local context. | \$0.5 million | September 2008 |

(b) The Government has implemented 52 energy saving projects in 2007-08, which is expected to result in an estimated annual energy saving of 8.7 million kWh when all projects are completed, representing about \$8.7 million per annum in monetary terms.

Signature _____

Name in block letters HO KWONG WAI

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date 25 March 2008

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

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead:

Programme: (1) Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: Regarding matters requiring special attention in 2008-09, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) will commence studies on the long-term market structure for the electricity market. What is the scope of the studies? Please specify the time frame to be covered by this study. What target groups will be included in the public consultation? What are the commencement date and completion date of the studies?

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

EMSD will provide technical support to the Environment Bureau to conduct the studies on the long-term (i.e. post-2018) market structure for the electricity market. It is expected that the studies will take about two years to complete. Taking into account the findings of the studies, we will formulate the proposal for the regulatory framework of the future electricity market, of which we will consult the public.

Signature _____

Name in block letters HO KWONG WAI

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date 25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB046

Question Serial No.

2497

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

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : How will the Administration implement the territory-wide Programme on Source Separation of Waste in 2008-09? How much resources will be provided? How much will be spent on education?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN FANG On-sang, Anson

Reply :

The Environmental Protection Department will continue to implement the territory-wide Programme on Source Separation of Waste in 2008-09. We will continue to work with the building and property management sectors, Housing Department, Hong Kong Housing Society and Government Property Agency to enlist more estates and buildings to join the Programme. Technical assistance as well as financial support from the Environment and Conservation Fund if required will be provided to all participating estates and buildings to enhance recovery of waste at source. We will liaise with the recycling industry to ensure proper collection of the recovered materials for recycling. We will also organize publicity and promotional programmes to further promote the Programme to the general public. These include broadcasts on television, radio and electronic media; advertisements on public transport and in newspapers; distribution of leaflets, posters and banners in participating housing estates; forums, talks, exhibitions and road shows as well as award presentation ceremonies. The total expenditure for the Programme on Source Separation of Waste is estimated to be about \$11 million in 2008-09, of which about \$6.5 million is for the publicity and promotional programmes.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

20 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB047

Question Serial No.

2498

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

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : What are the recovery programmes for used computer equipment and electronic equipment in 2008-09? What are the details? How much resources will be provided?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN FANG On-sang, Anson

Reply :

A voluntary Computer Recycling Programme (the Programme) has recently been launched by 20 major local and international computer equipment suppliers with the support of the Environmental Protection Department. The Programme aims to encourage the public to recover their used computer equipment for recycling. There are currently fifteen designated public collection points to collect used computer equipment from the public, and a collection service will be provided at over 600 participating public and private residential estates and industrial and commercial buildings according to a district collection schedule. The Programme aims to recover 50 000 items of used computer equipment annually in its first two years of implementation. About 10 percent of the better quality computer equipment collected will be set aside for donation to the needy through a charitable organization, while the remaining equipment will be recycled by the Programme's recycler. The Programme is funded by the trade with an estimated budget of around \$620,000 for its first year of operation.

We are in parallel exploring the feasibility of introducing a similar voluntary producer responsibility scheme for other waste electrical and electronic equipment. A consultant has been engaged for the purpose and the related expenditure is around \$125,000 in 2008-09.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

20 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB048

Question Serial No.

2499

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

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : What are the long-term plans for the treatment of bulk waste and construction waste? How to achieve bulk reduction of municipal solid waste? Are additional resources provided in this regard?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN FANG On-sang, Anson

Reply :

In line with the polluter pays principle, we introduced the Construction Waste Disposal Charging Scheme in December 2005. As at February 2008, the amount of construction and demolition waste disposed of at our landfills has reduced by 48% since the introduction of the charging scheme. The generation of construction waste has also reduced by 27% over the same period. We will continue to closely monitor the effectiveness of the charging scheme and encourage the public to reduce disposal at source.

For the long term bulk reduction of municipal solid waste, we will develop Integrated Waste Management Facilities (IW MF) with incineration as the core technology. We have identified two potential sites for developing the first phase of IW MF and will commence the engineering and environmental impact assessment studies on these two sites within this year. A decision on the final site will be made after these studies are completed. We will then apply for funding to develop the first phase of IW MF with a view to commissioning it by mid-2010s. Meanwhile, we will continue our effort in implementing various waste reduction and recycling initiatives set out in "A Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste (2005 – 2014)", including source separation of domestic, commercial and industrial wastes, introduction of producer responsibility schemes for plastic shopping bags and other products, provision of support for the recycling industry and sustained public education on waste reduction and recovery, etc.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

28 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB049

Question Serial No.

2500

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

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Air pollution is a major problem which Hong Kong needs to face. What is the amount of resources to be deployed in 2008-09 with a view to reducing emissions from vehicles and improving air quality? What specific work will be carried out?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN FANG On-sang, Anson

Reply :

To improve air quality, we will continue to implement measures to reduce emissions from motor vehicles and other pollution sources and collaborate with the Guangdong Provincial Government to reduce emissions in the Pearl River Delta (PRD) Region. In 2008, the HKSAR Government will:

- continue to implement/develop measures to reduce vehicle emissions. Major measures include the incentive scheme to encourage early replacement of pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles with Euro IV models and promoting the use of more environment friendly private and commercial vehicles, consulting the public on a legislative ban on idling vehicles with running engines, proposing a scheme to strengthen the control of emissions from petrol and liquefied petroleum gas vehicles by using roadside remote sensing equipment and dynamometers for emission testing, developing specifications for using biodiesel as motor vehicle fuel, etc.;
- continue to progressively tighten emissions caps on power stations;
- enforce the new regulation on the control of volatile organic compounds in architectural paints, printing inks and selected consumer products in phase;
- propose mandatory use of ultra-low sulphur diesel in industrial and commercial sectors;
- explore feasibility of controlling emissions from off-road mobile sources and the use of cleaner fuels for ferries; and
- launch a technical support programme to promote the adoption of cleaner production processes by Hong Kong-owned factories in the PRD Region.

The measures mentioned above are part and parcel of Programme (2) Air. Resources required for 2008-09 will be covered by provision under the programme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB050

Question Serial No.

2501

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

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The estimated provision for Programme (2) in 2008-09 is 248.4% higher than the revised estimate in 2007-08. In what aspects will the additional resources be used?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN FANG On-sang, Anson

Reply :

Since April 2007, the Administration has implemented a voluntary one-off grant scheme to encourage early replacement of pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles with new vehicles complying with the prevailing statutory emission standard. As the deadlines for application of this one-off grant scheme are approaching – 30 September 2008 for pre-Euro vehicles and 31 March 2010 for Euro I vehicles, it is likely that more owners of the remaining eligible vehicles will consider joining the scheme. We have therefore earmarked a larger provision for 2008-09 which could enable replacement of around 29 000 pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles, or about half of the remaining eligible vehicles, under the scheme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB051

Question Serial No.

2502

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

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : How effective is the air quality management plan being implemented in collaboration with the Guangdong authorities? Is there a review on its value for money?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN FANG On-sang, Anson

Reply :

To improve the long term regional air quality in the whole Pearl River Delta Region (including Hong Kong), the HKSAR Government and the Guangdong Provincial Government reached a consensus in April 2002 to jointly reduce emissions of four major air pollutants, namely, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, respirable suspended particulates and volatile organic compounds, in their best endeavours, by 20% to 55% by year 2010, using 1997 as the base year. In December 2003, the two governments jointly drew up the Regional Air Quality Management Plan (RAQMP), which comprises a series of air quality improvement measures formulated by the two governments respectively, with a view to meeting the above emission reduction targets.

In order to assess the effectiveness of the emission reduction measures contained in the RAQMP and recommend necessary additional emission control measures, both sides conducted a Mid-term Review of the RAQMP, which was completed in December 2007. The Review found that the preventive and control measures being implemented by both sides under the RAQMP would bring about positive effects on abating air pollutant emissions in the region. Upon implementation of the current and committed emission reduction measures under the RAQMP, the HKSAR Government should be able to meet the mutually agreed emission reduction targets by 2010. The Guangdong Provincial Government has agreed to proactively implement the existing control measures, and to introduce additional measures as recommended in the Mid-term Review Report, such as requiring all new coal-fired power plants to install de-NO_x equipment; introducing more stringent local emissions standards for boilers; strengthening the implementation of cleaner production standards for industries on VOC-containing products; restricting VOC-containing consumer products; and strengthening the control of emissions from local vessels. With such steps taken, it is projected that the Guangdong side could also achieve the emission reduction targets by 2010. Progress reports on the air quality improvement measures will be submitted to the Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs on a half-yearly basis.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB052

Question Serial No.

2503

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

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : How is the progress of work for the progressive tightening of emissions caps on power stations? Will there be further proposals for legislative amendments?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN FANG On-sang, Anson

Reply :

The emission caps of 2008 and 2009 for the Castle Peak Power Station, Black Point Power Station and Penny's Bay Gas Turbine Power Station have been imposed and tightened up during their licence renewals in 2007. For the Lamma Power Station, its licence will be due for renewal by end 2008. In renewing the licence, the Environmental Protection Department will further tighten up the emission caps to ensure that the 2010 emission reduction targets agreed with the Guangdong Provincial Government in 2002 can be achieved.

To ensure a smooth, timely and transparent implementation of the emission caps for the power sector for 2010 and beyond, the Government has introduced in February 2008 the Air Pollution Control (Amendment) Bill to, inter alia, stipulate the maximum quantity of permissible emission from power plants.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB053

Question Serial No.

0991

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

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The Administration will continue with the leasing of lots in the EcoPark in Tuen Mun Area 38 in 2008. Please advise on the current progress of leasing and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

The EcoPark is developed in two phases. While we have met with two problematic cases which have been terminated, the leasing of lots in the EcoPark is making progress in the right direction. Three of the six lots in Phase I were leased in 2007 for recycling of waste wood, used cooking oil and computers and we are supporting these serious tenants in setting up their operations at the EcoPark. The tenders for another two lots were invited in February 2008 and the tenancies will be awarded in mid 2008. The last lot will be tendered as soon as possible thereafter. Planning for development of the Phase II lots will commence as the area currently occupied as a fill bank is anticipated to be available towards the end of 2008. As an integral part of the EcoPark development, the expenditure of the leasing activities is funded by existing resources in the Environmental Protection Department. There is no additional expenditure in 2008-09 for this work.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

20 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB054

Question Serial No.

1062

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

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Under this programme, the Administration said it would implement a recovery programme for used computer equipment and explore the feasibility of developing a similar programme for other waste electrical and electronic equipment in 2008. Please inform this Council of the details of those initiatives and the expenditures involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

A voluntary Computer Recycling Programme (the Programme) has recently been launched by 20 major local and international computer equipment suppliers with the support of the Environmental Protection Department. The Programme aims to encourage the public to recover their used computer equipment for recycling. There are currently fifteen designated public collection points to collect used computer equipment from the public, and a collection service will be provided at over 600 participating public and private residential estates and industrial and commercial buildings according to a district collection schedule. The Programme aims to recover 50 000 items of used computer equipment annually in its first two years of implementation. About 10 percent of the better quality computer equipment collected will be set aside for donation to the needy through a charitable organization, while the remaining equipment will be recycled by the Programme's recycler. The Programme is funded by the trade with an estimated budget of around \$620,000 for its first year of operation.

We are in parallel exploring the feasibility of introducing a similar voluntary producer responsibility scheme for other waste electrical and electronic equipment. A consultant has been engaged for the purpose and the related expenditure is around \$125,000 in 2008-09.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

20 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB055

Question Serial No.

1063

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

Programme : (4) Water

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Will the Administration inform this Council of the expenditure on the water quality of gazetted beaches in Tsuen Wan District in 2007? Are there any measures in place to revive the water quality of gazetted beaches in Tsuen Wan to good ranking soonest possible?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

In 2007, the expenditure associated with monitoring the water quality of the eight gazetted beaches in the Tsuen Wan District amounted to about \$1.1 million. This included the estimated staff and other costs for making field measurements, collecting water samples, conducting laboratory tests, and analyzing and disseminating the monitoring data.

To improve the water quality of the Tsuen Wan beaches, the Administration is advancing the construction of a disinfection facility at the Stonecutters Island Sewage Treatment Works, to be commissioned in 2009 at an estimated capital cost of approximately \$110 million. At the same time, we are progressing with the installation of new public sewers costing approximately \$110 million in the beach hinterlands at Sham Tseng and Ting Kau, and the works are scheduled to be completed within 2009. When the local public sewers are in place the unsewered properties will be connected to them. In addition, the background pollution in the harbour waters influencing the Tsuen Wan area will be dealt with under Harbour Area Treatment Scheme Stage 2A to be commissioned in 2014.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

31 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB056

Question Serial No.

2454

Head : 44 Environmental Protection
Department

Subhead (No. & title): 700
General non-recurrent
(Item 564 Study to evaluate the
adverse impact of
environmental noise on public
health in Hong Kong)

Programme : (3) Noise

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental
Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding a study to evaluate the adverse impact of environmental noise on public
health in Hong Kong, the approved commitment is \$3.5 million and the revised
estimated expenditure for 2007-08 is \$42,000. Please advise on the details of the
study and its progress.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

Evaluating the adverse impact of environmental noise on public health is still a research subject internationally. There is not any consensus yet. With the approved commitment of \$3.5 million, we are taking a step-by-step approach for the study to evaluate the adverse impact of environmental noise on public health in Hong Kong. Phase one of the study took measurements to appraise the noise environment of Hong Kong. The \$42,000 expenditure in 2007-08 was for additional assignments which included a literature search on health effects of environmental noise and a pilot survey on people's perception to environmental noise. Building on the information, we are now planning for the next phase of the Study which includes a more detail survey and will look at the possible related impacts and the extent. A budget of \$0.8 million has been earmarked in 2008-09 for this part of the study which is expected to commence around the fourth quarter of 2008.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

27 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB057

Question Serial No.

2455

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

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The Environmental Protection Department will implement the producer responsibility scheme (PRSs) covering plastic shopping bags through the Product Eco-responsibility Bill. Please provide details of the PRSs for plastic shopping bags and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The Administration introduced the Product Eco-responsibility Bill (the Bill) into the Legislative Council in January this year to provide a legal framework for implementing producer responsibility schemes (PRSs) in Hong Kong, with the PRSs on plastic shopping bags as the first scheme under the Bill. The objective of the PRSs is to reduce the indiscriminate use of plastic shopping bags through a direct economic incentive. A phased approach would be adopted whereby an environmental levy of 50 cents on each plastic shopping bag would be introduced at chain or large supermarkets, convenience stores and personal health and beauty stores in the first phase.

On the expenditure side, the Environmental Protection Department has been allocated four posts for coping with the initial additional workload of implementing the Bill. The recurrent cost involved is \$3.02 million per annum. The long-term staffing requirement would be ascertained upon full implementation of the PRSs, and where necessary, sought through the established resources allocation mechanism.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

20 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB058

Question Serial No.

0518

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

Programme : (4) Water

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The Administration will put forward proposals in 2008-09 to revise the Trade Effluent Surcharge (TES) rates under the TES scheme on the basis of the results of the effluent surveys and in accordance with the "polluter-pays" principle. Please provide details, including when the proposals will be announced and when they will be implemented.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

We completed a trade-specific survey of the strength of sewage of all 30 trades under the TES scheme in 2007. According to the outcome of the survey, the strength of effluents, in terms of generic chemical oxygen demand (COD) values, discharged by most of the trades are different from those prescribed in the Sewage Services (TES) Regulation for the purpose of calculating the TES rates.

In order to ensure a fair and equitable share of the operating costs of sewage services is borne by the trades, and bearing in mind the need to achieve full recovery of the operating cost for providing such services based on the polluter-pays principle, we aim to revise the generic COD values and TES rates accordingly.

We have consulted the Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs at its meeting held on 18 March 2008 and with the general support of the Panel we would introduce amendments to the subsidiary legislation with a view to implementing the revised TES rates within the 2008-09 financial year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

20 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB059

Question Serial No.

0519

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

Programme : (4) Water

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the consultancy study on Water Quality Objectives (WQOs), what is the expenditure involved? What are the details of the study? What is the estimated completion date of the study? To what areas can it be applied?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

The WQOs which have been promulgated under the Water Pollution Control Ordinance, Chapter 358, define the quality of marine and river waters in Hong Kong (in both quantitative and descriptive terms) that is to be achieved and maintained in order to promote the conservation and best use of those waters in the public interest. The consultancy study aims to bring the marine WQOs in line with the latest scientific developments and with the practices of other jurisdictions around the world. The study is planned to start in September 2008. It is estimated to take 24 months. The cost of the study will be subject to the results of a tender in accordance with established procedures.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

27 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB060

Question Serial No.

0975

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

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Please list out the quantity of construction and demolition waste received at landfills, public filling areas and the construction and demolition waste material sorting facilities as well as the expenditure involved in the respective years of 2005, 2006 and 2007 since the implementation of the charging scheme for construction waste.

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

Since the implementation of charging scheme for the disposal of construction waste at Designated Waste Disposal Facilities (DWDFs) including landfills, sorting facilities and public fill reception facilities on 20 January 2006, the average daily amount of construction waste disposed of at these DWDFs has decreased to 21 800 tonnes per day in 2006 and 21 100 tonnes per day in 2007 when compared with 29 100 tonnes per day in 2005. This represents an overall reduction of around 25%.

The costs incurred by the Environmental Protection Department and the Civil Engineering and Development Department in relation to the implementation of construction waste charging in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 were around \$14.4 million (from 20 January to 31 March 2006), \$68.2 million and \$65.3 million respectively.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

28 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB061

Question Serial No.

0976

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

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : After calculating the costs for collection, delivery, transfer and disposal of waste at landfills, as well as the premium of landfills, what is the average total cost of solid waste treatment per tonne and what is the breakdown of the costs involved in each procedure in 2007-08? What are the changes as compared with the figures in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

A breakdown of the costs for transfer and disposal of waste at landfills is given below :

| | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|
| | (\$/tonne) | (\$/tonne) |
| Transfer | 195 | 200 |
| Disposal at landfills | 135 | 142 |
| Total cost per tonne* | 330 | 342 |

*In the estimation of the average cost per tonne for landfill disposal, the land premium cost has not been taken into account.

The increase in the average unit cost in 2007-08 for the transfer and disposal of waste at landfills is mainly due to price inflation.

Household waste collection and delivery service is mainly provided by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD). Based on the last costing exercise conducted by FEHD in 2007, the unit cost per tonne is \$180.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

19 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB062

Question Serial No.

0977

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead (No. & title): 297 Fees for operation of waste facilities

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : What were the quantities of chemical waste treated in the Tsing Yi Chemical Waste Treatment Centre (CWTC) in 2005, 2006 and 2007 by type and what were the expenditures involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

The breakdown of chemical waste intake by category at CWTC in 2005, 2006 and 2007 is as follows:

| | 2005 (tonnes) | 2006 (tonnes) | 2007 (tonnes) |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Spent etchant (ammoniacal) | 1 600 | 1 500 | 1 350 |
| Spent etchant (non-ammoniacal) | 1 800 | 2 300 | 1 700 |
| Acids | 2 600 | 2 650 | 2 650 |
| Toxic metal solution | 900 | 950 | 930 |
| Alkalis | 1 050 | 900 | 900 |
| Solvent | 2 600 | 2 200 | 2 600 |
| Land based waste oil | 6 150 | 5 100 | 4 350 |
| MARPOL waste (Note) | 20 400 | 31 400 | 30 550 |
| Others | 300 | 200 | 270 |
| Total: | 37 400 | 47 200 | 45 300 |

The associated expenditures for 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 were \$318 million, \$329 million, and \$335 million respectively

Note: MARPOL waste includes oily waste and noxious liquid substances arising from ships. The CWTC serves as the reception facility for MARPOL waste in Hong Kong as required under the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 (MARPOL Convention), as modified by the Protocol of 1978.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB063

Question Serial No.

0978

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

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : What is the current manpower of the EcoPark at Tuen Mun Area 38? Will there be an increase in manpower in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

A team of professionals comprising about half of a Senior Environmental Protection Officer and two Environmental Protection Officers is currently managing the EcoPark, including the works and management contracts as well as the leasing of lots for designated recycling operations. A management company has been engaged to look after the daily operation and maintain the common facilities of the EcoPark. In 2007-08, the company has hired about 25 staff to manage the whole EcoPark area, including assistance to tenants to set up their operations, further promotion work with the trade as well as maintenance, cleansing and security control work etc. The majority of the staff are from Tuen Mun. This is to fulfill our pledge to the Tuen Mun District Council to create as many job opportunities as possible for Tuen Mun residents. More staff may be hired by the company in 2008-09 after the commencement of recycling operations in the EcoPark.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

20 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB064

Question Serial No.

0979

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

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : What is the leasing position of the EcoPark at present? Are there any ways to further attract companies to set up their business in the EcoPark?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

The EcoPark is developed in two phases. While we have met with two problematic cases which have been terminated, the EcoPark is making progress in the right direction. Three of the six lots in Phase I were leased in 2007 for recycling of waste wood, used cooking oil and computers and we are supporting these serious tenants in setting up their operations at the EcoPark. The tenders for another two lots were invited in February 2008 and the tenancies will be awarded in mid 2008. The last lot in Phase I will be tendered as soon as possible thereafter. So far the lots have been tendered for recycling a variety of recyclable materials in order to attract more industries of different nature to set up business in the EcoPark. Planning for development of the Phase II lots will commence as the area currently occupied as a fill bank is anticipated to be available towards the end of 2008.

The development of the EcoPark comprises extensive common facilities including access roads, marine frontage, weighbridge, sewers, stormwater drains, electricity, water supply and telecommunication network as well as a multi-function administration building. All these facilities have been completed and are ready for use by the tenants to support their recycling operations. EPD and the management company of the EcoPark will continue to liaise closely with the tenants and provide further support and assistance if necessary.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

20 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB065

Question Serial No.

0980

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): 700 General non-recurrent

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Please list the areas of study, the names of institutions commissioned, the commencement as well as the expected dates of completion of the various study items under Sub-head 700. What is the respective amount of expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

| Item No. | Areas of Study | Names of Institutions Commissioned | Commencement Date | Estimated Completion Date | Approved Commitment \$'000 | 2008-09 Estimate \$'000 |
|----------|---|--|--|--|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 559 | Development of a Pearl River Estuary Model for water quality management: To provide Hong Kong and Guangdong with a scientific tool and a common platform for collaboration in water quality management and planning in the Pearl River Estuary region | The South China Institute of Environmental Sciences and WL/Delft Hydraulics | 24 Jan 2002 | 30 Apr 2008 | 5,100 | 1,084 |
| 564 | Study to evaluate the adverse impact of environmental noise on public health in Hong Kong | Scott Wilson Limited | Dec 2003 | Early 2008 [#] | 3,500 | 800 |
| 565 | Study to evaluate the environmental implications on traffic management measures | Scott Wilson Limited ENPRO Environmental Technologies Limited EDMS (HK) Limited | May 2002 May 2004 Feb 2006 | Sep 2003 (Actual) Feb 2005 (Actual) End 2009 [#] | 1,500 | 200 |
| 566 | Review the eligibility of road sections for retrofitting barriers | Atkins China Limited Scott Wilson Limited NGIS (China) Limited ENSR Asia (HK) Limited | Jun 2002 Oct 2004 Feb 2006 Jun 2006 | Jan 2004 (Actual) 2 nd quarter 2008 [#] End 2008 [#] End 2008 [#] | 3,000 | 200 |

| Item No. | Areas of Study | Names of Institutions Commissioned | Commencement Date | Estimated Completion Date | Approved Commitment \$'000 | 2008-09 Estimate \$'000 |
|----------|---|--|---|---|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 974 | Review of the Air Quality Objectives and Development of a Long Term Air Quality Strategy for Hong Kong | Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd | June 2007 | December 2008 | 8,700 | 2,200 |
| 979 | Consultancy Study on Development of Standard Protocols for Chronic Whole Effluent Toxicity Test for Effluent Characterisation and Impact Assessment | CityU Professional Services Limited | 13 Sept 2007 | 12 Mar 2010 | 4,950 | 1,000 |
| 980 | Study of Volatile Organic Compounds and Photochemical Ozone Pollution in the Pearl River Delta Region | ENSR Environmental International, Inc. | September 2007 | March 2010 | 9,701 | 1,000 |
| 981 | Study of Major Industrial Air Pollution Sources in the Pearl River Delta Region | ENSR Asia (HK) Limited | October 2007 | September 2009 | 9,830 | 1,000 |
| 997 | Consultancy Study on Climate Change: To review and update the local inventories of greenhouse gas emissions and removals; project the future trends in greenhouse gas emissions under different scenarios; characterize the impacts of climate change in Hong Kong; evaluate and recommend additional strategies and measures for reducing greenhouse gas emissions further as well as for adapting to climate change | ERM-Hong Kong Ltd. | The consultant was appointed in March 2008. | The study will take around 18 months to complete. | 8,800 | 1,000 |

Estimated completion date refers to that of the current phase of the study.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ANISSA WONG _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection _____

Date _____ 26 March 2008 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB066

Question Serial No.

0981

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

Programme : (6) Nature conservation

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : With respect to the conservation projects on management agreements being implemented, what are the expenditures involved? What is the effectiveness on nature conservation?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

The pilot conservation management agreement projects in Fung Yuen and Long Valley were completed in 2007-08. They are financed by the Environment and Conservation Fund. Their total project cost was \$4.6 million. They had achieved promising results in enhancing the conservation value of the sites. For example, former abandoned farmlands in Long Valley are now being maintained by local farmers as wet agricultural land or marshes to prevent deterioration of habitat. More species of birds and butterflies have been recorded in Fung Yuen and Long Valley. In addition, various education workshops and media visits have been organized to publicize and enhance the public awareness of nature conservation. The conservation work in these areas has been extended for two years under new projects starting from 1 February 2008. Their total project cost is \$6.8 million supported by the Environment and Conservation Fund.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

19 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB067

Question Serial No.

1541

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

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : What were the number of projects related to waste reduction and source separation approved by the Environment and Conservation Fund in 2007-08? Please provide the names of the applicants of the approved projects, the names and contents of the projects, the amounts of grants and an evaluation of the effectiveness of completed projects.

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

In 2007-08, the Environment and Conservation Fund approved 60 projects that are related to waste reduction and source separation. A list of the approved projects with details on the name of applicant, the title of project, the amount of grant and the effectiveness of completed projects is given in the Annex.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

25 March 2008

A. Source Separation of Domestic Waste Programme 2007/08

To facilitate residents to separate waste at source by encouraging and assisting property management companies to provide waste separation facilities on each building floor, and broaden the types of recyclables to be recovered. In 2007/08, a total of 50 projects were approved -

| Name of Applicant | Estate | Approved Amount (\$) |
|---|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| The Incorporated Owners of Wing Tak Mansion, Pak Tai Street | Wing Tak Mansion | 1,269.40 |
| Sino Estates Management Limited# | Mount Beacon | 20,329.00 |
| Aegean Coast Owners' Committee | Aegean Coast | 94,933.00 |
| Quartey Properties Limited# | Tsui Chuk Garden | 7,262.40 |
| Whampoa Garden Management Limited# | Block 1-18, Site 2, Whampoa Garden | 44,500.00 |
| Hang Yick Properties Management Limited# | Fairview Height | 11,550.00 |
| Whampoa Garden Management Limited# | Block 1-5, Site 7, Whampoa Garden | 11,880.00 |
| Citybase Property Management Ltd. # | Kenswood Court, Kingswood Villas | 172,360.00 |
| The Incorporated Owners of Mei Foo Sun Chuen-Stage IV | Mei Foo Sun Chuen-Stage IV | 26,507.25 |
| Guardian Property Management Limited# | Tsz Oi Court Stage III | 192,000.00 |
| Owners Committee of Waldorf Garden | Waldorf Garden | 103,200.00 |
| The Incorporated Owners of Yue King Building | Yue King Building | 20,460.00 |
| The Incorporated Owners of Shaukeiwan Plaza | Shaukeiwan Plaza | 38,745.00 |
| Goodwell Property Management Limited # | Vista Paradiso | 85,500.00 |
| Goodwell Property Management Limited# | Laguna Verde | 94,297.50 |
| Guardian Property Management Limited# | New Man Lee Building | 17,600.00 |

| Name of Applicant | Estate | Approved Amount (\$) |
|--|--|-----------------------------|
| The Incorporated Owners of Tuen Mun Tai Hing Gardens Phase II | Tuen Mun Tai Hing Gardens Phase II | 63,415.00 |
| Guardian Property Management Limited # | Wing Fok Centre | 134,400.00 |
| The Incorporated Owners of Sunglow Building | Sunglow Building | 4,776.00 |
| The Incorporated Owners of Fu Yau Building | Fu Yau Building | 9,000.00 |
| Madam S. H. Ho Residence for Medical Students, The University of Hong Kong | Madam S. H. Ho Residence for Medical Students, The University of Hong Kong | 5,180.00 |
| R C Lee Hall, The University of Hong Kong | R C Lee Hall, The University of Hong Kong | 10,360.00 |
| Lee Hysan Hall, The University of Hong Kong | Lee Hysan Hall, The University of Hong Kong | 11,200.00 |
| Wei Lun Hall, The University of Hong Kong | Wei Lun Hall, The University of Hong Kong | 11,200.00 |
| University Hall, The University of Hong Kong | University Hall, The University of Hong Kong | 2,400.00 |
| Lady Ho Tung Hall, The University of Hong Kong | Lady Ho Tung Hall, The University of Hong Kong | 15,280.00 |
| Starr Hall, The University of Hong Kong | Starr Hall, The University of Hong Kong | 18,905.00 |
| Swire Hall, The University of Hong Kong | Swire Hall, The University of Hong Kong | 8,000.00 |
| Lee Shau Kee Hall, The University of Hong Kong | Lee Shau Kee Hall, The University of Hong Kong | 12,000.00 |
| Morrison Hall, The University of Hong Kong | Morrison Hall, The University of Hong Kong | 12,000.00 |
| Suen Chi Sun Hall, The University of Hong Kong | Suen Chi Sun Hall, The University of Hong Kong | 12,000.00 |
| MTR Corporation Limited # | The Grandiose | 86,700.00 |
| Guardian Property Management Limited # | Harcourt Garden | 9,600.00 |
| Guardian Property Management Limited # | Lung Cheung Court | 63,200.00 |

| Name of Applicant | Estate | Approved Amount (\$) |
|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| La Costa Village Owner's Committee | La Costa, Discovery Bay | 34,400.00 |
| Parkridge Village Owners' Committee | Parkridge Village, Discovery Bay | 29,452.50 |
| Whampoa Garden Management Limited# | Block 1-5, Site 1, Whampoa Garden | 12,543.00 |
| Kingswood Villas Locwood Court Estate Owners' Committee | Locwood Court, Kingswood Villas | 183,255.00 |
| Hong Yip Service Company Limited # | On Ning Garden | 182,170.96 |
| Discovery Bay Services Management Limited # | Siena One, Discovery Bay | 25,434.50 |
| Discovery Bay Services Management Limited # | Siena Two A, Discovery Bay | 2,970.00 |
| Discovery Bay Services Management Limited# | Siena Two B, Discovery Bay | 28,091.50 |
| Discovery Bay Services Management Limited# | Chianti, Discovery Bay | 23,220.00 |
| Discovery Bay Services Management Limited# | Hillgrove, Discovery Bay | 17,293.50 |
| The Incorporated Owners of Dragon Inn Court | Dragon Inn Court | 4,350.00 |
| Hong Yip Service Company Limited# | Oscar By The Sea | 140,712.00 |
| Kai Shing Management Services Limited # | Sun Tuen Mun Centre | 201,663.00 |
| New Charm Management Limited# | Beauty Court | 22,773.00 |
| Discovery Bay Services Management Limited# | La Vista and La Serene, Discovery Bay | 12,380.00 |
| Well Born Real Estate Management Limited# | Casa Marina I | 23,520.00 |
| Kai Shing Management Services Limited# | Metropolis Plaza * | 1,110.00 |

2,377,348.51

The residential organizations of the estates have authorized their property management companies to submit the applications and implement the projects on their behalf.

* This is an old application for budget revision.

Effectiveness of completed projects -

In 2007/08, 50 applications were approved for ECF funding support to install waste separation facilities on building floor and 32 of them have completed the installation or are commencing installation in their estates/buildings. Preliminary results of the 14 estates/buildings that have completed their installation of waste separation facilities are encouraging. Among the 6 estates with baseline recyclable data for comparison, there is an average of more than 100% increase in the quantity of recyclables recovered.

B. Approved Public Education Programme for the “Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste (2005-2014)” in 2007/08

To tie in with the policy initiatives and timetable of the Policy Framework, applications are invited under the specific themes below : (* higher priority).

- a) Municipal Solid Waste Charging and Source Separation of Domestic Waste *
- b) Producer Responsibility Schemes *
- c) Integrated Waste Management Facilities *
- d) Green Procurement
- e) EcoPark.

In 2007/08, a total of 6 projects were approved -

| Name of Applicant | Project Title | Purpose of project | Approved Amount (\$) |
|--------------------------|--|---|-----------------------------|
| Green Council | Establishment of the Hong Kong Green Purchasing Charter (HKGPC) with an Accompanying Awareness Raising Programme | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To launch the Hong Kong Purchasing Charter to raise awareness of green purchasing in private sectors • To conduct seminars to encourage green purchasing through experience sharing from local and overseas sector leaders | 463,770.00 |
| Green Sense | Green Festival | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To conduct surveys to investigate the consumer culture of Hong Kong people during festive seasons with a view to raising the | 496,925.00 |

| Name of Applicant | Project Title | Purpose of project | Approved Amount (\$) |
|----------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------|
| | | <p>awareness on the environmental impacts during major festivals including.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide guidelines on best practices in avoiding excessive-packaging and wasteful habits during festivals | |
| Green Student Council | Be Green, Use Bags Properly | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To carry out a series of campaigns to reduce plastic bag usage at markets, newspaper stalls and bakeries. To carry out surveys to investigate the plastic bag usage at newspaper stalls and call for actions from the public and newspaper stalls' owners. To conduct an opinion survey on plastic bag levy and its effect on plastic bag for reminding the public to continue the habit of using fewer plastic bags, with a view to further promoting the plastic bag reduction campaign. | 499,996.00 |
| Caritas Hong Kong (Wong Tai Sin) | Computer Printers, Scanners and Accessories Collection, Reuse and Recycle Campaign 2008 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote the recycling of printers, scanners and other computer accessories (PSA) and reduce e-waste to be disposed of at the landfill. | 499,800.00 |
| Tai Po Environmental Association | Green Rural Waste Reduction Scheme | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote producer responsibility scheme on electrical and electronic equipment in rural areas. | 489,190.00 |
| Tai Po Environmental Association | Amazing Journey of Waste | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To raise awareness on Hong Kong's waste problem and the need for Integrated Waste Management Facilities, and to address the "not in my backyard" phenomenon. To provide public with facts and information so as to facilitate in-depth public discussion. | 500,000.00 |

2,949,681.00

The above 6 projects have commenced since the last quarter of 2007. Their progress would be monitored and effectiveness to be evaluated upon project completion.

C. Environmental Education & Community Action Projects

In 2007/08, 4 projects related to waste reduction and source separation were approved -

| Name of Applicant | Project Title | Purpose of project | Approved Amount (\$) |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| The Mental Health Association of H.K. [J.C. Building Halfway House 2] | To Create a Better Living Environment | To enhance the knowledge on green home and source separation of domestic waste for ex-mentally ill persons and their families, staff, service users, etc. | 10,260.00 |
| The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong [Cheung Wah Kindergarten] | To Promote Green Activities | To promote green living and waste recycling and reuse to the participants | 1,571.00 |
| Friends of the Earth (HK) Charity Limited | No more disposable chopsticks | To conduct testing to find out the hygiene problem and health hazards of using disposable chopsticks, so as to arouse the public awareness of reducing the use of disposable utensils (including disposable lunch boxes, plastic forks and knives, etc.) and the negative impact of disposable consumption style on environment. | 150,000.00 |
| Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden Corporation | Zero waste packaging | To arouse public support to and practice 'Zero-waste' packaging via conducting an action research and publicity campaign at a farmers' market | 113,840.00 |

275,671.00

The above 4 projects have commenced since the last quarter of 2007. Their progress would be monitored and effectiveness to be evaluated upon project completion.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB068

Question Serial No.

2137

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

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : What is the estimated expenditure in 2008-09 for launching a technical support programme to promote the adoption of cleaner production processes by Hong Kong-owned factories in the Pearl River Delta Region? How many Hong Kong-owned factories are involved? How is the number compared to the actual number in 2007-08?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

Of the \$93.06 million budgeted for the five-year Cleaner Production Partnership Programme, which will be launched in April 2008, \$17.45 million is earmarked for 2008-09.

Under the Programme, the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC), as the implementation agent for Government, will work closely with other environmental technology service providers to conduct on-site assessment for some 1 000 factories to identify and analyse the problems faced by them and propose practical improvement solutions. A wide variety of demonstration projects, totalled 80 to 90 for different industry sectors, will be carried out to prove the effectiveness and potential financial returns of cleaner production technologies. HKPC will also provide an independent third-party service to verify the effectiveness of improvement measures implemented by factories to reinforce their confidence in investing in cleaner production technologies and inspire others to follow suit. The initial quota of the third party verification is set at 500, and subject to response, the number can be increased to cover up to 1 000 factories. Through the extensive awareness promotion activities to share experiences and publicise the success stories, the programme seeks to incentivise other factories to adopt cleaner production technologies and practices, thereby fostering the development of a sustainable culture of cleaner production in the region. As the Programme will only commence in April 2008, comparable figures for 2007-08 are not available.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB069

Question Serial No.

2138

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

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : What is the financial provision in 2008-09 for introducing the use of biodiesel as motor vehicle fuel? What are the details of the plan?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) plans to introduce a set of statutory specifications for biodiesel as motor vehicle fuel in 2008-09. The main objective of developing such specifications is to enhance users' confidence in the fuel by maintaining consistency in its quality for good emission performance. As EPD will deploy existing resources for drawing up the specifications, no additional financial provision is earmarked in 2008-09 for this purpose.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB070

Question Serial No.

2192

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

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) leased out a total of three lots in Phase I of the EcoPark in April 2007. Towards the end of the year, the tenancy with a recycler who specified the recycling of plastic in the tender awarded was terminated for failure to submit the bond required. According to a report, EPD has claimed this month that the tenancy with the largest tenant in the EcoPark might be terminated for its non-compliance with the tenancy requirement. With regard to these two tenancies, will EPD arrange for re-tendering in 2008-09? If yes, what is the respective amount of expenditure involved? If no, what is the detailed schedule for the two tenders? Is there any provision for improving the ancillary facilities in the EcoPark in 2008-09 in order to increase its attractiveness? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

The lot designated for plastic recycling in the first batch of Phase I of the EcoPark was re-tendered in February 2008 and the tenancy will be awarded in mid 2008. The tenancy of the lot designated for waste tyres recycling was terminated in March 2008 and this lot will be re-tendered as soon as possible in 2008-09. As an integral part of the EcoPark development, the expenditure of the tendering exercise is funded by existing resources in EPD. There is no additional expenditure in 2008-09 for this work.

The development of the EcoPark comprises extensive common facilities including access roads, marine frontage, weighbridge, sewers, stormwater drains, electricity, water supply and telecommunication network as well as a multi-function administration cum exhibition building. These facilities have been completed and are ready for use by the tenants to support their recycling operations. Action is in hand to consider the possibility of exhibiting demonstration units of recycling and/or relevant environmental technologies at the EcoPark. EPD will also continue to liaise closely with the tenants and provide further support and assistance if necessary.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

20 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB071

Question Serial No.

2193

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

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Has the Administration earmarked any provision for the extension of the North East New Territories Landfill in 2008-09? If yes, what is the amount? What are the details of its use?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

The Environmental Protection Department has earmarked \$0.6 million under CWRP Block Allocation (Head 705 Subhead 5101DX) for the extension of the North East New Territories Landfill in 2008-09. This funding will be used for contract preparation and procurement work including documentation and pre-qualification of tenderers.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

20 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB072

Question Serial No.

2194

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

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : To encourage more housing estates/residential buildings to participate in the Programme on Source Separation of Domestic Waste, the Environment and Conservation Fund accepts applications from resident organizations and property management companies for subsidies to purchase floor-to-floor waste separation facilities. What are the respective numbers of housing estates/residential buildings subsidized and the respective amount of subsidies in 2005, 2006 and 2007? What are the respective weights of waste paper, metal, plastic and other reusable/recyclable materials collected? How were these materials handled?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

The numbers and amount of approved Environment and Conservation Fund applications in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 for installation of waste separation facilities are given in the table below -

| | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 (as at Feb 08) | Total |
|------------------------------|---------|---------|---------------------------|-----------|
| No. of approved applications | 17 | 22 | 50 | 89 |
| Approved amount (\$) | 572,932 | 863,230 | 2,377,349 | 3,813,511 |

So far, 45 housing estates/residential buildings have completed the installation of waste separation facilities and submitted monthly recyclables figures to the Environmental Protection Department. The results of these housing estates/residential buildings are encouraging, with an average of more than 100% increase in the quantity of recyclables recovered. The quantity of recyclables recovered from these estates/buildings in 2007-08 was about 6 500 tonnes. The recovered recyclables are predominantly exported to the Mainland and other countries for recycling.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB073

Question Serial No.

2195

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

Programme : (3) Noise

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Please list out the number of complaints on traffic noise received in 2005, 2006 and 2007 by Districts. What are the respective yearly expenditures on handling such complaints? What are the estimated expenditures involved in handling such complaints in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

The number of traffic noise complaints received by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) in 2005, 2006 and 2007 are as follows:

| DISTRICT | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Central & Western | 6 | 11 | 7 |
| Eastern | 14 | 33 | 14 |
| Southern | 9 | 13 | 12 |
| Wan Chai | 6 | 7 | 5 |
| Kowloon City | 6 | 15 | 9 |
| Kwun Tong | 22 | 20 | 19 |
| Yau Tsim Mong | 4 | 12 | 8 |
| Sham Shui Po | 29 | 23 | 17 |
| Wong Tai Sin | 8 | 3 | 10 |
| Islands | 2 | 4 | 2 |
| Kwai Tsing | 13 | 23 | 11 |
| North | 12 | 33 | 32 |
| Sai Kung | 36 | 20 | 27 |
| Sha Tin | 25 | 29 | 35 |
| Tai Po | 11 | 11 | 6 |
| Tsuen Wan | 47 | 20 | 26 |
| Tuen Mun | 16 | 14 | 17 |
| Yuen Long | 45 | 46 | 34 |
| TOTAL | 311 | 337 | 291 |

Traffic noise complaints are handled by EPD under a total complaint management system which covers all types of environmental pollutions. There is no breakdown on the expenditures allocated specifically for the handling of traffic noise complaints.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB074

Question Serial No.

0107

Head : 44 Environmental Protection
 Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the studies (including in-house studies or those entrusted to consultants) conducted by the Department for the purposes of formulating and assessing policies, please provide the relevant information in the following format:

- (1) For the projects that have reserved funds for conducting consultancy studies in 2007-08, please provide information in the following format:

| Name of Consultant (if any) | Content | Revised Estimate (\$) | Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed) | The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any) | If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons? |
|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------|--|---|---|
| | | | | | |

- (2) Is there any project that will reserve funds for conducting consultancy studies in 2008-09? If yes, please provide the following information:

| Name of Consultant (if any) | Content | Expenditure (\$) | Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed) | Will the studies be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in the 2008-09 financial year? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons? |
|-----------------------------|---------|------------------|--|---|
| | | | | |

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

Please refer to the attachment.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
 Director of Environmental Protection

Date 31 March 2008

(1) Projects that have reserved funds for conducting consultancy studies in 2007-08:

| Name of Consultant | Content | Revised Estimate (\$) | Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed) | The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress | If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons? |
|---|---|-----------------------|--|--|---|
| 1. Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Limited | Review of the Air Quality Objectives and Development of a Long Term Air Quality Strategy for Hong Kong | 2,200,000 | In Progress | Not Applicable (not yet completed) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) website. |
| 2. Cinotech Consultants Limited | Review on Indoor Air Quality Management Programme | 275,000 | In Progress | Not Applicable (not yet completed) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| 3. PolyU Technology & Consultancy Co. Limited | Study on Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) - Control of Solvents & Non-Architectural Coatings /Adhesives /Sealants | 480,000 | In Progress | Not Applicable (not yet completed) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| 4. PolyU Technology & Consultancy Co. Limited | Review on the Effectiveness of VOC Control Programme in Hong Kong | 191,100 | In Progress | Not Applicable (not yet completed) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |

| Name of Consultant | Content | Revised Estimate (\$) | Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed) | The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress | If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons? |
|--|--|-----------------------|--|--|---|
| 5. ENSR Asia (HK) Limited | Study of Major Industrial Air Pollution Sources in the Pearl River Delta Region | 700,000 | In Progress | Not Applicable (not yet completed) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| 6. ERM-Hong Kong, Limited | Introducing Natural Gas / Liquefied Petroleum Gas Buses and Heavy Duty Vehicles in Hong Kong – Feasibility Study | 3,370,000 | In progress (Near completion) | Not Applicable (not yet completed) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD and Electrical and Mechanical Services Department websites. |
| 7. The Croucher Institute for Environmental Sciences | Gathering overseas experience on municipal solid waste charging | 1,099,000 | Completed | We will explore the possible charging options in Hong Kong in light of the relevant overseas experience. | The findings have been shared with the Waste Management Subcommittee of the Advisory Council on the Environment. When completed, the key findings of the study will be uploaded on the EPD website. |

| Name of Consultant | Content | Revised Estimate (\$) | Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed) | The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress | If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons? |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------------|--|---|--|
| 8. ERM-Hong Kong Limited | Study on possible producer responsibility scheme options for waste electrical and electronic equipment in Hong Kong | 174,000 | In progress | While the study has not yet been completed, we have made reference to its initial findings in developing a voluntary Computer Recycling Programme with the trade. | While the study has not yet been completed, we have made reference to its initial findings in developing a voluntary Computer Recycling Programme with the trade. When completed, the key findings of the study will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| 9. ERM-Hong Kong Limited | Exploring possible ways to recycle glass containers in Hong Kong | 171,375 | In progress | Not Applicable. The study has just been started. | We will make reference to its findings in developing options for producer responsibility scheme (PRS) with stakeholders. When completed, the key findings of the study will be uploaded on the EPD website. |

| Name of Consultant | Content | Revised Estimate (\$) | Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed) | The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress | If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons? |
|---|---|-----------------------|--|--|---|
| 10. The South China Institute of Environmental Sciences and WL/Delft Hydraulics | Development of a Pearl River Estuary Model for water quality management | 2,630,000 | In progress | Not Applicable (not yet completed) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| 11. Scott Wilson Limited | Study to evaluate the adverse impact of environmental noise on public health in Hong Kong | 42,000 | In progress | Not Applicable (not yet completed) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| 12. EDMS (HK) Limited | Review the technical eligibility of road sections for traffic management measures | 200,000 | In progress | Not Applicable (not yet completed) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| 13. Scott Wilson Limited NGIS (China) Limited ENSR Asia (HK) Limited | Review the engineering and technical eligibility of road sections for retrofitting barriers | 947,000 | In progress | Not Applicable (not yet completed) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |

| Name of Consultant | Content | Revised Estimate (\$) | Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed) | The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress | If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons? |
|--|---|-----------------------|--|--|---|
| 14. CityU Professional Services Limited | Consultancy Study on Development of Standard Protocols for Chronic Whole Effluent Toxicity Test for Effluent Characterisation and Impact Assessment | 750,000 | In progress | Not Applicable (not yet completed) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| 15. ENSR Environmental International, Inc. | Study of Volatile Organic Compounds and Photochemical Ozone Pollution in the Pearl River Delta Region | 1,000,000 | In progress | Not Applicable (not yet completed) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |

(2) Project that will reserve funds for conducting consultancy studies in 2008-09:

| Name of Consultant | Content | Expenditure (\$) | Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed) | Will the studies be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in the 2008-09 financial year? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons? |
|---|---|------------------|--|---|
| 1. Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Limited | Review of the Air Quality Objectives and Development of a Long Term Air Quality Strategy for Hong Kong | 2,200,000 | In Progress (continued from 2007-08) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| 2. Cinotech Consultants Limited | Review on Indoor Air Quality Management Programme | 45,000 | In Progress (continued from 2007-08) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| 3. PolyU Technology & Consultancy Co. Limited | Study on Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) - Control of Solvents & Non-Architectural Coatings /Adhesives /Sealants | 240,000 | In Progress (continued from 2007-08) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| 4. PolyU Technology & Consultancy Co. Limited | Review on the Effectiveness of VOC Control Programme in Hong Kong | 573,300 | In Progress (continued from 2007-08) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| 5. ENSR Asia (HK) Limited | Study of Major Industrial Air Pollution Sources in the Pearl River Delta Region | 1,000,000 | In Progress (continued from 2007-08) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |

| Name of Consultant | Content | Expenditure (\$) | Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed) | Will the studies be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in the 2008-09 financial year? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons? |
|--|--|------------------|--|--|
| 6. ERM-Hong Kong Limited | Study on possible producer responsibility scheme options for waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) in Hong Kong | 58,000 | In Progress (continued from 2007-08) | We will make reference to the findings of the study in developing voluntary recycling scheme for WEEE with the trade. When completed, the key findings of the study will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| 7. ERM-Hong Kong Limited | Exploring possible ways to recycle glass containers in Hong Kong | 514,125 | In Progress (continued from 2007-08) | We will make reference to its findings in developing PRS options with stakeholders. When completed, the key findings of the study will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| 8. Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Limited | Exploring ways to reduce excessive packaging of consumer products in Hong Kong | 648,000 | In Progress | The study has just commenced. We will make reference to its findings in developing PRS options with stakeholders. When completed, the key findings of the study will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| 9. Not available | Review of Marine Water Quality Objectives | Under Planning | Under Planning | The consultancy study is expected to complete in 2010. When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |

| Name of Consultant | Content | Expenditure (\$) | Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed) | Will the studies be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in the 2008-09 financial year? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons? |
|--|---|------------------|--|---|
| 10. ERM-Hong Kong, Limited | Study of Climate Change in Hong Kong | 1,000,000 | In Progress | The study has just commenced and is expected to complete by end 2009. When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| 11. The South China Institute of Environmental Sciences and WL/Delft Hydraulics | Development of a Pearl River Estuary Model for water quality management | 1,084,000 | Completed | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| 12. Not available (Separate tender is being arranged for more works under the study) | Study to evaluate the adverse impact of environmental noise on public health in Hong Kong | 800,000 | In progress | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| 13. EDMS (HK) Limited | Review the technical eligibility of road sections for traffic management measures | 200,000 | In progress (continued from 2007-08) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| 14. Scott Wilson Limited NGIS (China) Limited ENSR Asia (HK) Limited | Review the engineering and technical eligibility of road sections for retrofitting barriers | 200,000 | In progress (continued from 2007-08) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |

| Name of Consultant | Content | Expenditure (\$) | Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed) | Will the studies be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in the 2008-09 financial year? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons? |
|--|---|------------------|--|---|
| 15. CityU Professional Services Limited | Consultancy Study on Development of Standard Protocols for Chronic Whole Effluent Toxicity Test for Effluent Characterisation and Impact Assessment | 1,000,000 | In progress (continued from 2007-08) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| 16. ENSR Environmental International, Inc. | Study of Volatile Organic Compounds and Photochemical Ozone Pollution in the Pearl River Delta Region | 1,000,000 | In progress (continued from 2007-08) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB076

Question Serial No.

0191

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

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The estimated provision for 2008-09 has increased by 248.4% (\$1,506.8 million) as compared with the revised estimate for 2007-08, please inform this Council of :

- (1) the amount of the one-off grant to be provided to owners to encourage the early replacement of pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles with new ones that comply with the Euro IV statutory emission standard?
- (2) the number of pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles that are expected to be replaced by new ones that comply with the Euro IV statutory emission standard in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

- (1) \$1,190 million has been earmarked in 2008-09 for providing a one-off grant to encourage vehicle owners to replace their pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles with new Euro IV commercial vehicles.
- (2) Participation in the incentive scheme is entirely voluntary. The provision could enable around 29 000 pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles to be replaced with new Euro IV commercial vehicles under the scheme in 2008-09.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB077

Question Serial No.

0192

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

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : It is forecasted that the number of days with an air pollution index of 100 or below in 2008 will be 300, which is 9 days more than the actual number of 291 in 2007. What are the factors used to derive such a figure?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

Apart from the influence from emission sources, meteorological conditions can also affect the daily Air Pollution Index (API) level. As it is not possible to predict future weather conditions over a year, it is also not possible to predict in any precise terms the number of days with API not exceeding 100 in the coming year.

With the expectation that the air quality will gradually improve upon the implementation of control measures in 2008, we have estimated that the number of days with API not exceeding 100 would be more than that in 2007. The forecasted number of 300 in 2008 derived at on this basis represents no more than a broad-brush estimate.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

20 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB078

Question Serial No.

0193

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

Programme : (3) Noise

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In effect, a total of 5 589 noise complaints were dealt with by the Administration in 2007.
How many of these complaints were related to road traffic noise?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

In 2007, the Environmental Protection Department handled a total of 5 589 noise complaint cases, of which 291 cases were related to road traffic noise.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

19 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB079

Question Serial No.

0194

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

Programme : (6) Nature Conservation

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The financial provision for nature conservation in 2008-09 is \$5.7 million. Please inform this Council the criteria for setting the amount of provision and how the above provision can be effectively used in conservation of the 12 priority sites identified for enhanced conservation.

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

The financial provision of \$5.7 million is to cover the relevant personal emoluments and associated general departmental expenses of the Environmental Protection Department for formulating policies and overseeing the implementation of government programmes on nature conservation. In addition, \$436.7 million has been earmarked for the "Nature Conservation and Country Parks Programme" under Head 22 – AFCD, for the management and protection of protected areas, enhancement of biodiversity of Hong Kong and the promotion of public awareness of nature conservation. On top of the above provision, the Environment and Conservation Fund extended two management agreement projects in Fung Yuen and Long Valley from 1 February 2008. Their total project cost is \$6.8 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

31 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB080

Question Serial No.

1154

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

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : What is the specific amount of additional provision earmarked for the operation of waste treatment facilities and the EcoPark in 2008-09? What is the primary use of this provision?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

The provision for the operation of various waste facilities in 2007-08 and 2008-09 is set out below:

| | <u>2007-08</u> \$ million | <u>2008-09</u> \$ million |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Waste treatment facilities: | | |
| Special waste facilities | 347.8 | 374.5 |
| Refuse transfer stations | 322.1 | 338.1 |
| Landfills | 398.4 | 381.6 |
| Total: | <u>1,068.3</u> | <u>1,094.2</u> |
| EcoPark | 9.5 | 13.0 |

The provision for waste treatment facilities is paid to the relevant contractor for facility operation. The increase in the provision of \$26.7 million in 2008-09 for special waste facilities is mainly for the commissioning of an animal waste treatment facility in the year as well as the increased provision for the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre. The increase in the provision for refuse transfer stations is due to the commissioning of a grease trap waste facility in a refuse transfer station which is offset by a corresponding decrease in landfills provision due to the cessation of similar operation in the landfill.

For the EcoPark, the provision is fees paid to the contractor for managing the facility including close liaison with the trade to further promote the EcoPark and to assist them in setting up their operations at the EcoPark . The increase in provision is due to the full year effect in 2008-09, whereas in 2007-08 only part year provision is given to the EcoPark.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date 20 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB081

Question Serial No.

1281

Head : 44 Environmental Protection
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In 2007, about 5.1 million tonnes of solid waste were disposed of in the three landfills. The landfills will be filling up much faster than expected. In December 2005, the Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) was published to provide an overview of the strategy for the management of MSW up to 2014. Please advise:

- (a) What are the specific work of the scheme in 2006-07 and 2007-08? What are the expenditures involved?
- (b) What is the amount of MSW reduced under the scheme? What are the criteria for measuring the effectiveness of the scheme? If it is found after review that the effectiveness of the scheme is far from satisfactory, does the Department need to allocate additional resources to quickly solve the problem?

Asked by : Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply :

To address our serious and imminent waste problem in a holistic manner, the Administration published "A Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste (2005-2014)" (the Policy Framework) in December 2005. The Policy Framework has set out three waste management targets, viz. (i) to reduce the amount of MSW generated by 1% per annum up to the year 2014; (ii) to increase MSW recovery rate to 45% and 50% by 2009 and 2014 respectively; and (iii) to reduce the total MSW disposed of in the landfills to less than 25% in 2014. A comprehensive strategy supported by policy tools and measure have been set out to achieve these targets.

We have since been actively pursuing the initiatives set out in the Policy Framework. On waste avoidance, we introduced the "Product Eco-responsibility Bill" into the Legislative Council in January 2008 to provide a legal framework for implementing Producer Responsibility Schemes (PRSs), with the environmental levy on plastic shopping bags as the first statutory PRSs to reduce the indiscriminate use of plastic shopping bags. We have also completed a trial scheme on the feasibility of a variable rate charging scheme, which points to the need for a territory-wide baseline survey to collect information on waste generation and waste management practice for the development of an alternative MSW charging scheme. To promote waste recovery and recycling, we have introduced the territory-wide source separation of waste programme with coverage of about one million households as at January 2008. We have also launched voluntary PRSs for computer equipment and fluorescent lamps, and awarded two batches of tenancies for the EcoPark. As for the treatment of unavoidable waste, we have completed the site search for the development of integrated waste management facilities, while pursuing the extension of our existing landfills in parallel. We have also been conducting public education programmes and seminars on waste reduction and recovery on an on-going basis. The expenditure incurred for the above-mentioned initiatives was about \$36.1 million and \$44.1 million in 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively.

As a result of these efforts, we achieved an MSW recovery of 45% in 2006, which was three years ahead of the target set out in the Policy Framework. On the other hand, we have yet to achieve the targets on waste avoidance and disposal at landfills. We will continue our efforts in managing our MSW in a sustainable manner. The necessary resources have been included in the 2008-09 Estimates.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

20 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB082

Question Serial No.

1282

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

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In 2008-09, the Department will initiate a study on climate change to assess its impact on Hong Kong with a view to enhancing the existing adaptation and mitigation measures. Please advise:

- (a) What are the details of work in 2007-08? What are the resources and provision involved? Are there any specific results?
- (b) What are the details of the study to be initiated in 2008-09? What are the resources and provision involved?

Asked by : Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply :

- (a) In October 2007, the Environmental Protection Department commenced the tendering procedure for engaging consultants to carry out a "A Study of Climate Change in Hong Kong". The necessary processes were completed in March 2008. ERM-Hong Kong, Ltd. has been appointed to conduct the study. The whole consultancy study is estimated to cost \$8.8 million.
- (b) The consultancy study will take around 18 months to complete. It will review and update the local inventories of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and removals; project the future trends in GHG emissions under different scenarios; characterize the impacts of climate change in Hong Kong; and evaluate and recommend additional strategies and measures to further reduce GHG emissions as well as to adapt to climate change.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

ANISSA WONG

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB083

Question Serial No.

1283

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

Programme : (3) Noise

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In 2008-09, the Department will continue to tackle the noise impact of existing roads through the retrofitting programme. Please advise:

- (a) What are the details of work in 2007-08? What are the resources and provision involved? Are there any concrete results?
- (b) The Department will continue with the programme in 2008-09. What are the resources and provision involved? What are the criteria used to determine the effectiveness of the programme?

Asked by : Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply :

- (a) Details of the retrofitting works involving expenditure in 2007-08 (under the budgets of the relevant works departments) are set out in the table below. Also, Highways Department completed low noise resurfacing works for six local road sections at an estimated expenditure of \$5.60 million in the year.

Noise barrier retrofitting projects involving expenditure in 2007-08

| Ref. | Road Section | Progress in 2007-08 | Estimated Expenditure (\$ million) |
|--------|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 | Fanling Highway near Choi Yuen Estate | Project completed in Feb. 2006 | 4.16* |
| 2 | Fanling Highway near Fanling Centre | Project completed in Feb. 2006 | 4.16* |
| 3 | Cheung Pei Shan Road | Continued construction in 2007-08 | 40.00 |
| 4 | Tseung Kwan O Road (2 road sections) | Construction commenced in Sep. 2007 | 15.50 |
| 5 | Tsing Tsuen Bridge at Tsing Yi and Tsuen Wan approaches | Construction commenced in Jan. 2008 | 7.10 |
| Total: | | | 70.92 |

* Expenditure for remaining miscellaneous works such as landscaping and reinstatement.

- (b) In 2008-09, the estimated expenditure (under the budgets of the relevant works departments) to continue the implementation of noise barrier retrofitting and low noise resurfacing works amounts to \$168.95 million. Total numbers of dwellings benefited under the retrofitting barrier and resurfacing projects are 10 700 and 5 100 respectively.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Post Title _____

Date _____

ANISSA WONG

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

27 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB084

Question Serial No.

1284

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

Programme : (4) Water

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In 2008-09, the Department will put forward proposals to revise the trade effluent surcharge (TES) rates under the TES scheme on the basis of the results of the effluent surveys and in accordance with the "polluter-pays" principle. Please advise:

- (a) What are the details of work in 2007-08? How much resources and financial provision are involved? Are there any specific results achieved?
- (b) The scheme will continue in 2008-09. How much resources and financial provision will be involved? What criteria will be used for assessing the effectiveness of the scheme?

Asked by : Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply :

- (a) The trade-specific effluent survey was completed at the end of 2007. The Environmental Protection Department and the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC), under contract to the Drainage Services Department, surveyed the effluents of all 30 trades under the TES scheme with a view to reviewing the chemical oxygen demand (COD) values and TES rates set out in the legislation.

The expenses related to the survey in 2007-08 were \$1.02 million.

On 18 March 2008 we consulted the Environmental Affairs Panel of the Legislative Council on our proposals to revise the COD values and TES rates in the light of the outcome of the survey. With the general support of the Panel we would introduce amendments to the subsidiary legislation with a view to implementing the revised TES rates within the 2008-09 financial year.

- (b) As the survey has already been completed, no further survey work will be undertaken in 2008-09. \$0.18 million will be spent in the next financial year as part of the consultancy fee according to the contract with HKPC. The criterion for assessing the effectiveness of the review will be the extent to which the review proposals are accepted by members of the Legislative Council.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB085

Question Serial No.

1285

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

Programme : (6) Nature Conservation

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In 2008-09, the Department will oversee the implementation of the new nature conservation policy, in particular the pilot scheme for Public-private Partnership (PPP) and projects on management agreement. Please advise:

- (a) What are the details of the work done in 2007-08? How many pilot schemes for PPP and projects on management agreement are in progress? What are the resources and financial provision involved? Are there any specific results achieved?
- (b) The scheme will continue in 2008-09. How much resources and financial provision will be involved? What criteria will be used for assessing the effectiveness of the scheme?

Asked by : Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply :

- (a) The new nature conservation policy comprises the pilot scheme for Management Agreements and the Public-private Partnership (PPP). Three pilot conservation management agreement projects in Fung Yuen and Long Valley were completed in 2007-08. They are financed by the Environment and Conservation Fund. Their total project cost was \$4.6 million, and the expenditure in 2007-08 was about \$1 million. The pilot projects have achieved promising results in enhancing the conservation value of the sites. As for the PPP Scheme, the assessment of the submitted proposals continued in 2007-08.
- (b) The conservation work in Fung Yuen and Long Valley continued and extended under new projects financed by the Environment and Conservation Fund starting from 1 February 2008. Their total project cost is \$6.8 million to be lasted for two years and the projected expenditure in 2008-09 is \$2.9 million. They will be assessed on their effectiveness in conserving and enhancing the ecological value of the sites. As for the PPP Scheme, the Administration's assessment of the applications is nearly completed. The effectiveness of the scheme will be assessed on a number of factors including whether the scheme has promoted collaboration between the Government and the private landowners on nature conservation and whether the implementation of the recommended projects has enhanced the conservation value of the proposed site(s).

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

19 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB086

Question Serial No.

0065

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

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : While the Environmental Protection Department has issued three chemical waste collector licences in 2007, the projected number for 2008 is 24. What accounts for the drastic increase? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply :

A chemical waste collector licence is valid for 5 years. In anticipation that about 20 chemical waste collector licences, issued in 2003, will be renewed and there may be a few new applications in 2008, the Environmental Protection Department projects that the total number of chemical waste collector licences to be issued in 2008 will be 24.

The cost for processing 24 chemical waste collector licence applications is estimated to be around \$170,000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

19 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB087

Question Serial No.

0066

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

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In 2008-09, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) will continue with the leasing of lots in the EcoPark in Tuen Mun.

- (a) What is the estimated expenditure involved in the tendering exercise?
- (b) Would the EPD expedite the tendering exercise and what are the means to do so in order to attract more industries of different nature to set up business in the EcoPark?
- (c) What is the timetable for the tendering exercise?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply :

- (a) As an integral part of the EcoPark development, the expenditure of the tendering exercise is nominal and is funded by existing resources in the Environmental Protection Department. There is no additional expenditure in 2008-09 for this work.
- (b) While adhering to strict government tendering procedures to ensure openness and fairness, we have also expedited the tendering programme by initiating the invitation as soon as the sites are available, shortening as far as possible the time allowed for tender return and assessment etc. In order to attract industries to set up business in the EcoPark, we have conducted an Expression of Interest exercise in 2006 to seek market interest and feedback for establishing environmental and recycling businesses in the EcoPark. The responses were positive. In setting the tendering strategy and requirements, we have also consulted the recycling trade associations, Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, Federation of Hong Kong Industries, Hong Kong Productivity Council and relevant professional bodies. The management company of the EcoPark will also liaise closely with the recycling trade to further promote the setting up of business at the EcoPark. So far, three batches of lots have been tendered for different types of recycling waste materials including plastics, tyres, wood, electrical and electronic equipment including computers, cooking oil and organic waste. With this variety of recyclable materials, we hope we would attract more industries of different nature to set up business in the EcoPark.
- (c) The EcoPark is developed in two phases. While we have met with two problematic cases which have been terminated, the EcoPark is making progress in the right direction. Three of the six lots in Phase I were leased in 2007 for recycling of waste wood, used cooking oil and computers and we are supporting these serious tenants in setting up their operations at the EcoPark. The tenders for another two lots were invited in February 2008 and the tenancies will be awarded in mid 2008. The last lot will be tendered as soon as possible thereafter.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

20 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB088

Question Serial No.

0773

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

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In 2008-09, the Environmental Protection Department will progressively tighten emission caps on power stations upon renewal of licences on specified processes. Please inform this Council:

- (a) which type of licences on specified processes will be tightened during 2008-09?
- (b) what are the new indicators for such?
- (c) will additional expenditure be involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply :

In 2008-09, the licence of the Lamma Power Station will be due for renewal. In renewing the licence, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) will impose more stringent emission caps on the emission of Sulphur Dioxide, Nitrogen Oxides and Particulate Matters from the power station. This is to ensure that the 2010 emission reduction targets agreed with the Guangdong Provincial Government in 2002 can be achieved. No additional resources will be required for performing the related activities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

19 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB089

Question Serial No.

0774

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

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) will develop specifications for using biodiesel as motor vehicle fuel in 2008-09. Please inform this Council:

- (a) When are the new specifications expected to be finalized?
- (b) What is the source of supply of biodiesel?
- (c) What is the estimated annual supply of biodiesel? Is it adequate to meet the demand?
- (d) What is the estimated price for the biodiesel for vehicle use? What is the price difference as compared to Euro V diesel? Has duty been included in the retail price?
- (e) Will EPD earmark additional provision for expenditure in this regard?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply :

- (a) The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) plans to introduce a set of statutory specifications for biodiesel as motor vehicle fuel in 2008-09.
- (b) The proposed biodiesel specifications will be in line with international standards. Compliant biodiesel can thus be imported to the local market, or be produced locally. We understand there is limited biodiesel production process undertaken locally in Hong Kong.
- (c) According to information available to us, biodiesel is used in Hong Kong as fuel for industry. It is not commonly used as motor vehicle fuel yet. The Administration does not maintain official statistics on the supply of biodiesel in Hong Kong. The current limited usage of biodiesel locally does not enable us to make any forecast on the demand for biodiesel which is essentially market-driven.
- (d) The Administration has not imposed duty on biodiesel in order to promote its use. At present, biodiesel is not yet commonly available and used as motor vehicle fuel in Hong Kong. According to overseas experience, biodiesel is generally more expensive than fossil diesel.
- (e) EPD will deploy existing resources for developing the specifications for biodiesel.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB090

Question Serial No.

1413

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

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The Environmental Protection Department estimated that there will be 300 days with Air Pollution Index not exceeding 100 in 2008. What are the reasons for having an estimation of 66 days with air pollution index exceeding 100? Are there any measures to improve the air pollution with a view to reducing the number of days with high pollution index? If yes, what is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply :

Apart from emission sources, meteorological conditions can also affect the daily Air Pollution Index (API) level. The API can exceed 100 occasionally under calm weather conditions that hinder dispersion of air pollutants, even though emission levels do not vary much on a daily basis. As it is impossible to predict future weather conditions over a year, it is also not possible to predict in any precise terms the number of days with API exceeding 100 in the coming year. In anticipation that air quality will gradually improve upon the implementation of control measures, we have estimated that the number of days with API exceeding 100 would be less than that in 2007. The forecasted number of 66 days with API exceeding 100 in 2008 derived at on this basis represents no more than a broad-brush estimate.

To improve local and regional air quality, the HKSAR Government reached a consensus with Guangdong Provincial Government in April 2002 to reduce, on a best endeavour basis, the emission of four major air pollutants, namely sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, respirable suspended particulates and volatile organic compounds by 40%, 20%, 55% and 55% respectively in the region by 2010, using 1997 as the base year. The two governments are now working to achieve these targets. In 2008, the HKSAR Government will:

- continue to progressively tighten emissions caps on power stations;
- continue to implement/develop measures to reduce vehicle emissions. Major measures include the incentive scheme to encourage early replacement of pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles with Euro IV models and promoting the use of more environment-friendly private and commercial vehicles, consulting the public on a legislative ban on idling vehicles with running engines, proposing a scheme to strengthen the control of emissions from petrol and liquefied petroleum gas vehicles by using roadside remote sensing equipment and dynamometers for emission testing, developing specifications for using biodiesel as motor vehicle fuel, etc.;
- enforce the new regulation on the control of volatile organic compounds in architectural paints, printing inks and selected consumer products in phase;
- propose mandatory use of ultra-low sulphur diesel in industrial and commercial sectors;
- explore feasibility of controlling emissions from off-road mobile sources and the use of cleaner fuels for ferries.
- launch a technical support programme to promote the adoption of cleaner production processes by Hong Kong-owned factories in the Pearl River Delta Region.

The measures mentioned above are part and parcel of Programme (2) Air. Resources required for 2008-09 will be covered by provision under the programme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date 25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB091

Question Serial No.

0557

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

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In 2008-09, the Environmental Protection Department will explore the feasibility of controlling emissions from off-road mobile sources. What do off-road mobile sources refer to? How is the work to be done?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

Off-road mobile emission sources include mobile equipment and off-road vehicles used in construction sites and container terminals. In 2008-09, we will continue to gather information on their emission characteristics and review international practices in controlling these sources. Subject to the findings, we will draw up a proposal to control their emissions for consultation with the relevant stakeholders.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

19 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB092

Question Serial No.

0558

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

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In 2008-09, the Environmental Protection Department will develop specifications for using biodiesel as motor vehicle fuel. When does the Administration expect biodiesel to be available for sale in the market? To what extent does the Administration expect the introduction of biodiesel to improve the air quality (for example, what is/are the pollutant(s) that can be reduced by a certain percentage)?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

Biodiesel is already available on the local market. The main objective of developing specifications for using biodiesel as motor vehicle fuel is to enhance users' confidence in the fuel by maintaining consistency in its quality for good emission performance.

Since December 2007, all petrol filling stations have been offering Euro V diesel, which is the cleanest form of diesel that is now available. Like biodiesel, Euro V diesel has virtually no sulphur. With respect to the other common air pollutants, the general consensus is that biodiesel will offer some reduction in respirable suspended particulates emissions and some increase in nitrogen oxides emissions compared with Euro V diesel, although these aspects are subject to further investigations. Therefore, from the air pollution control point of view, biodiesel will not bring about significant air quality improvement. However, biodiesel is a renewable energy. The main environmental benefit of replacing fossil diesel with biodiesel is greenhouse gas emission reduction, which can help avert global climate change.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

19 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB093

Question Serial No.

0493

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

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Under the programme, the Administration will continue with the leasing of lots in the EcoPark in Tuen Mun Area 38. Please provide details of the work and the expenditure involved. Is there any strategy to attract tenants and promote lot-lease? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

The EcoPark is developed in two phases. Three of the six lots in Phase I were leased in 2007 for recycling of waste wood, used cooking oil and computers. The tenders for another two lots were invited in February 2008 and the tenancies will be awarded in mid 2008. The last lot will be tendered as soon as possible thereafter. Development of the Phase II lots will commence when the area currently occupied as a fill bank is anticipated to be available towards the end of 2008. The tendering exercise is managed by existing resources in the Environmental Protection Department. There is no additional expenditure in 2008-09 for this work.

An Expression of Interest exercise was conducted in 2006 to seek market interest and feedback for establishing environmental and recycling businesses in the EcoPark. The responses were positive. The Administration has also consulted the recycling trade associations, Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, Federation of Hong Kong Industries, Hong Kong Productivity Council, and relevant professional bodies. The information collected has been used in setting the tendering strategy and tenancy requirements. The management company of the EcoPark will also liaise closely with the recycling trade to further promote the setting up of business at the EcoPark.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

20 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB094

Question Serial No.

0494

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

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Did the Administration conduct any assessment of the construction progress of the infrastructure of the EcoPark? Is there any delay in the construction work? If yes, what are the reasons? What is the cost of conducting the assessment? Will the commissioning date of the EcoPark fall far behind schedule? If yes, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

Construction of the infrastructural facilities of the EcoPark is on schedule without any delay. The facilities include access roads, marine frontage, sewers, stormwater drains, electricity, water supply and telecommunication network as well as a multi-function administration building. The construction cost is well within the Project Estimate of \$319.1 million as approved by the Finance Committee in 2006.

The commissioning of the EcoPark has not fallen far behind schedule. In the 2006-07 Policy Address, it was pledged that Phase I of EcoPark would be available for leasing towards the end of 2006. The tenders for the tenancy of the first batch of Phase I lots were invited in December 2006 and the tenancies were awarded in April 2007. Tenders for the second batch and third batch of lots were invited in September 2007 and February 2008 respectively. Development of the Phase II lots will commence when the area currently occupied as a fill bank is anticipated to be available towards the end of 2008.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

20 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB095

Question Serial No.

0495

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

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Did the Administration conduct any assessment of biogas emissions from manholes inside the EcoPark? If yes, what are the details? What is the expenditure required?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

The manholes inside the lots in the EcoPark are designed for the collection of rainwater. Standard precautionary measures such as supply of effective forced ventilation and suitable safety harness taken during maintenance would avoid any potential hazard caused by methane gas.

The Administration had carried out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the overall development of the EcoPark in 2005. The findings confirmed that there is low risk associated with the potential migration of landfill gas from the nearby closed Siu Lang Shui Landfill during the construction and operation of the EcoPark. Appropriate precautionary and protection measures such as using raised floor slab or low-gas permeability membrane for building foundations have been recommended and specified in the relevant EcoPark tenancies. The cost of carrying out the EIA report (about \$0.65 million) was incurred in 2005 and there is no further expenditure in 2008-09.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB096

Question Serial No.

1548

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

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Under this Programme, the Administration will continue to implement the territory-wide source separation of waste programme. What is the specific work and the amount of expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

The Environmental Protection Department will continue to implement the territory-wide Programme on Source Separation of Waste in 2008-09. We will work with the building and property management sectors, Housing Department, Hong Kong Housing Society and Government Property Agency to bring the Programme to more estates and buildings. The Programme has also been extended to include commercial and industrial buildings in October 2007. Technical assistance will be provided to all participating estates and buildings to enhance recovery of waste at source. We will liaise with the recycling industry to ensure proper collection of the recovered materials for recycling. We will also organize publicity and promotional programmes to further promote the Programme to the general public. The total expenditure is estimated to be about \$11 million in 2008-09, including around \$1 million to implement source separation of waste in commercial and industrial buildings.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB097

Question Serial No.

1549

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

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Has the Administration devised any strategy to encourage separate disposal and recycling of domestic solid waste at source? If yes, what are the details and the expenditure involved? Is there any need to allocate additional resources for these schemes?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

The Environmental Protection Department has launched a territory-wide Programme on Source Separation of Waste since January 2005 to enhance the reduction and recovery of waste. The Programme encourages and provides technical and financial assistance to property management companies as well as residents' organizations of housing estates or buildings to set up waste separation facilities on each building floor to facilitate source separation of waste. In addition, it broadens the types of recyclables collected in addition to those previously collected by the 3-coloured waste separation bins for plastics, metals and paper. Various publicity and promotional activities are organized to promote the Programme to the general public. As at January 2008, there were 833 housing estates participating in the Programme, covering about 1 million households and some 45% of Hong Kong's population. The domestic waste recovery increased from 16% in 2005 to 23% in 2007. The total expenditure is estimated to be about \$11 million in 2008-09, including around \$1 million to implement source separation of waste in commercial and industrial buildings.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

28 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB098

Question Serial No.

1747

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

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Under this programme, the Administration will continue to develop long-term plans for large-scale waste treatment facilities to achieve bulk reduction of municipal solid waste. Please state the actual work that will be done and the expenditure that will be involved. Has the Administration made any assessment of the impact of the said facilities on the nearby environment and residents? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

The Administration is planning for the development of Integrated Waste Management Facilities (IWMF) to reduce the bulk size of municipal solid waste. The first phase of the IWMF will have a treatment capacity of about 3 000 tonnes per day and is expected to be commissioned in the mid 2010's.

We have identified Tsang Tsui in the west coast of Tuen Mun and Shek Kwu Chau to the south of Lantau Island as two potential sites for the development of the IWMF. We will commence the engineering and environmental impact assessment (EIA) studies for both sites this year. When conducting the EIA study, we will assess carefully the impact of the emissions from the IWMF on the environment and nearby residents.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB099

Question Serial No.

0748

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

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the prosecution of offences in 2007-08, please inform this Council:

- (1) details of the 20 cases of chemical waste control offences and whether they were convicted. If they were convicted, what were the penalties?
- (2) details of the 19 cases of illegal deposit of waste offences and whether they were convicted. If they were convicted, what were the penalties?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply :

- (1) In 2007, the Environmental Protection Department proceeded with a total of 20 chemical waste control prosecution cases. Out of the 20 cases, there were 19 convictions. The details of these 20 prosecution cases are as follows:

| <i>Offence Type</i> | <i>No. of Prosecutions</i> | <i>No. of Convictions</i> | <i>Range of Penalty</i> |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Dispose chemical waste without license | 1 | 1 | Fines : \$30,000 |
| Breach of chemical waste collection licence | 2 | 2 | Fines : \$10,000 to \$25,000 |
| Produce chemical waste without registration | 2 | 2 | Fines : \$4,000 to \$8,000 |
| Fail to engage waste collector | 14 | 13 | Fines : \$2,000 to \$40,000; Community Service Order: 120-180 hours Imprisonment : 2 months |
| Fail to label chemical waste and provide correct information on trip ticket | 1 | 1 | Fines : \$5,000 |

- (2) In 2007, the Environmental Protection Department proceeded with a total of 19 illegal waste disposal prosecution cases. Out of the 19 cases, there were 18 convictions. The details of these 19 cases are as follows:

| <i>Waste Type</i> | <i>No. of Prosecutions</i> | <i>No. of Convictions</i> | <i>Range of Penalty</i> |
|----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Construction Waste | 14 | 14 | Fines : \$500 to \$20,000; Imprisonment : 2 days |
| Wet Mud | 2 | 2 | Fines : \$2,000 |
| Wood pallets / plank | 3 | 2 | Fines : \$2,000 to \$3,000 |

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 19 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB100

Question Serial No.

0996

Head : 44 Environmental Protection
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the prosecutions of waste import and export offences in 2007, please advise:

- (a) Details of the 113 prosecution cases of waste import and export. What are the figures of successful prosecution and their penalties?
- (b) Given the significant actual increase as compared to the relevant figure in 2006, are there any measures to strengthen enforcement against waste import and export offences?
- (c) Will the Administration consider amending the legislation to impose heavier penalty on waste import and export offences? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply :

- (a) In 2007, the Environmental Protection Department proceeded with a total of 113 waste import and export related prosecutions under the Waste Disposal Ordinance, out of which there were 92 convictions. The details are as follows :

| <i>Offence Type</i> | <i>No. of Prosecutions</i> | <i>No. of Convictions</i> | <i>Range of Penalty</i> |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Import controlled waste (cathode-ray tubes, batteries and sponge) without a permit | 101 | 80 | Fines : \$800 to \$80,000; Community Service Order: 180 hours |
| Export controlled waste (cathode-ray tubes, batteries and mineral oil) without a permit | 11 | 11 | Fines : \$2,000 to \$6,000; Community Service Order: 120 to 180 hours Imprisonment : 2 months |
| Fail to provide specific information in relation to the export of waste | 1 | 1 | Fines : \$10,000 |

- (b) The increase in number of prosecutions in 2007 is the result of an enhanced interception plan on dubious shipments jointly enforced by the Environment Protection Department and the Customs and Excise Department. The enforcement action has sent deterrence to the illicit trade. The joint force will continue exercising tight control on the import and export of waste.
- (c) Import or export of controlled waste without the necessary permit is an offence under the Waste Disposal Ordinance and is liable to a fine of \$200,000 and imprisonment for 6 months for the first offence, and a fine of \$500,000 and imprisonment for 2 years for subsequent offences. We will review the penalty provisions under the Waste Disposal Ordinance from time to time and propose legislative amendment where necessary to ensure sufficient deterrence against non-compliance.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

19 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB101

Question Serial No.

0997

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

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : With regard to waste management, please advise:

- (a) the name and total number of housing estates participating in the Programme on Source Separation of Domestic Waste at present, the population involved, as well as their respective amount of recovery, volume of waste reduced and income received from the sale of recovered waste;
- (b) the change in the participation rate as compared with the 2007-08 financial year?
- (c) the estimated expenditure for the Programme on Source Separation of Domestic Waste in 2007-08 financial year?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply :

- (a) As at the end of January 2008, there were 833 housing estates participating in the Programme on Source Separation of Domestic Waste, covering about 1 million households and some 45% of Hong Kong's population. A list of the 833 estates has been uploaded on the following website:

Hong Kong Waste Reduction Website

(www.wastereduction.gov.hk/en/materials/household/ListofEstate_Eng071010.xls).

In general, the results from participating estates are encouraging with an average of over 60% increase in the quantity of recyclables collected and about 10% 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 receive from the recovered recyclables, which could be in the order of several thousand dollars every month or more for large housing estates.

- (b) The number of participating estates has increased by about 60% from 520 in February 2007 to 833 in January 2008.
- (c) The expenditure for the Programme on Source Separation of Domestic Waste was about \$9.5 million in 2007-08.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ANISSA WONG _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection _____

Date _____ 31 March 2008 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB102

Question Serial No.

0998

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

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the leasing of lots in the EcoPark at Tuen Mun Area 38, please advise:

- (a) How is the operation of lots in the EcoPark at present and whether there is any surrender of tenancies in the first batch of lease? If yes, what is the reason in detail?
- (b) What is the expected date of full operation of the EcoPark?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply :

- (a) The EcoPark is developed in two phases. Three of the six lots in Phase I were leased in 2007 for recycling of waste wood, used cooking oil and computers. These three tenants are working on their building plan submissions with a view to commencing recycling operations in 2008.

The Environmental Protection Department has terminated two of the three Batch 1 tenancies in Phase I because the tenants have failed to comply with tenancy agreements. One tenant has failed to submit the performance guarantee despite repeated warnings while the other tenant has not made any progress in its development programme and failed to pay rent for the first quarter in 2008.

- (b) Of the remaining three lots in Phase I, tenders for two lots were invited in February 2008 and the tenancies will be awarded in mid 2008. The last lot in Phase I will be tendered as soon as possible thereafter. Planning for development of the Phase II lots will commence as the area currently occupied by a fill bank is anticipated to be available towards the end of 2008.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date 25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB103

Question Serial No.

0999

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

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : With respect to the recovery programme for used computer equipment, please state:

- (a) the details of the recovery programme and the estimated expenditures required for implementation of the programme;
- (b) the estimated number of products to be recovered in 2008-09. And when will the effectiveness of the recovery programme be reviewed?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply :

- (a) A voluntary Computer Recycling Programme (the Programme) has recently been launched by 20 major local and international computer equipment suppliers with the support of the Environmental Protection Department. The Programme aims to encourage the public to recover their used computer equipment for recycling. There are currently fifteen designated public collection points to collect used computer equipment from the public, and a collection service will be provided at over 600 participating public and private residential estates and industrial and commercial buildings according to a district collection schedule. About 10 percent of the better quality computer equipment collected will be set aside for donation to the needy through a charitable organization, while the remaining equipment will be recycled by the Programme's recycler. The Programme is funded by the trade with an estimated budget of around \$620,000 for its first year of operation.
- (b) The Programme aims to recover 50 000 items of used computer equipment annually in its first two years of implementation. We will closely monitor the effectiveness of the Programme with the trade and review the recovery target after the first two years of implementation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

19 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB104

Question Serial No.

1000

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

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : With respect to the long-term plans on waste treatment, please advise:

- (a) apart from large-scale waste treatment facilities, whether the Government has any other plans on waste treatment, e.g. efforts to enhance recovery rate. If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
- (b) whether the current waste treatment policies are a continuation of those set out in "A Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste" formulated in 2005.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply :

- (a) To encourage community participation in municipal solid waste (MSW) recovery and recycling, the Environmental Protection Department launched a territory-wide Source Separation of Domestic Waste Programme in January 2005. As at January 2008, there were 833 housing estates participating in the Programme, covering about 1 million households and some 45% of the population. Riding on the success of the Programme, a similar promotional programme for commercial and industrial buildings was launched in October 2007, with some 350 participating buildings as at January 2008. In line with the "polluter-pays" principle, we introduced the Product Eco-responsibility Bill into the Legislative Council in January 2008 to provide the legal basis for introducing producer responsibility schemes (PRSs), with the environmental levy on plastic shopping bags being the first statutory PRS under the Bill. We have in parallel been exploring with manufacturers and suppliers of various products the feasibility of introducing trade-funded, voluntary PRSs to promote their recovery and recycling. In this regard, a Rechargeable Battery Recycling Programme, a Computer Recycling Programme, and a Fluorescent Lamp Recycling Programme were launched in April 2005, January 2008 and March 2008 respectively. We will continue to promote voluntary PRSs for other products in light of the experience gained from the above-mentioned programmes.
- (b) The Policy Framework sets out a comprehensive strategy for the management of MSW in Hong Kong. It embraces the concept of "polluter pays" and adheres to the three-tiered waste hierarchy (i.e. avoidance and minimization; reuse, recovery and recycling; bulk reduction and disposal). We will continue our efforts in managing our MSW in a sustainable manner in accordance with the principles laid down in the Policy Framework.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

20 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB105

Question Serial No.

1561

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

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the South East New Territories (SENT) Landfill extension, please advise:

- (a) When will the feasibility study be completed and when will public consultation be conducted?
- (b) Will the Government engage local groups and residents in the study? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
- (c) Will the study examine the impact of the landfill extension on the country park? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply :

- (a) The feasibility and environmental impact assessment (EIA) study of the SENT Landfill extension has been completed. The EIA report is being exhibited under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Cap. 499) for public inspection and comments from 26 February 2008 to 26 March 2008.
- (b) The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has adopted a continuous public engagement approach in conducting the EIA study. In 2004, EPD briefed the Sai Kung District Council on the scope of the feasibility and EIA study for the SENT Landfill extension. In April 2006, the SENT Landfill extension webpage was created to provide updated information on the landfill operation and the extension scheme. From 2005 to 2007, EPD has continued to liaise closely with relevant stakeholders, members of the Sai Kung District Council and the local community on the current landfill operation and the proposed extension scheme. Comments received during this public engagement process have been incorporated in the EIA study.
- (c) The potential impact caused by the proposed encroachment of 5 hectares into the Clearwater Bay Country Park had been addressed in detail in the EIA study. This area is currently not accessible by the public and would not affect trail walkers at the High Junk Peak. It comprises shrubland and grassland of low to moderate ecological value. The impacts on wildlife are also considered to be minimal as the species identified (including birds, butterflies, bats and reptiles) can also be found in the vicinity of the extension and the 615 hectares country park. With the implementation of the recommended mitigation measures, no adverse residual impact is expected. Impacts on the country park can be further mitigated by progressive restoration of the landfill during the operation stage, compensatory planting as well as appropriate afteruse development of the encroachment area to enhance recreational and educational value.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

19 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB106

Question Serial No.

1564

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

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding one of the indicators, chemical waste collector licences issued, please explain why the estimated number of licences to be issued in 2008-09 is substantially larger than that issued in 2007-08.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply :

A chemical waste collector licence is valid for 5 years. In anticipation that about 20 chemical waste collector licences, issued in 2003, will be renewed and there may be a few new applications in 2008, the Environmental Protection Department projects that the total number of chemical waste collector licences to be issued in 2008 will be 24.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

19 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB107

Question Serial No.

1565

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

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the implementation of the Producer Responsibility Scheme (PRS), please inform this Council:

- (a) What are the details of work to be carried out in 2008-09 with regard to the study on the levying of vehicle tyre tax? What is the expenditure involved?
- (b) Other than the levy on plastic bags, what is the schedule for the implementation of the PRS for rechargeable batteries, electric appliances and glass containers? What are the details?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply :

We introduced the Product Eco-responsibility Bill (PER Bill) into the Legislative Council in January 2008. The PER Bill provides the legal basis for the implementation of an environmental levy scheme for plastic shopping bag, and will also enable us to introduce new statutory producer responsibility schemes (PRSs) for other products if necessary. Meanwhile, we have been exploring with manufacturers and suppliers of various products the feasibility of introducing trade-funded, voluntary PRSs. In this regard, a Rechargeable Battery Recycling Programme and a Computer Recycling Programme were launched in April 2005 and January 2008 respectively. More recently, a Fluorescent Lamp Recycling Programme was also launched in March 2008. We will continue to promote voluntary PRS for other products such as electrical appliances and glass containers in light of the experience gained from the above-mentioned programmes.

We have similarly been in discussion with the tyre industry on the recovery and recycling of waste tyres by the trade. On the other hand, the quantity of waste tyres disposed of at our landfills dwindled significantly over the past three years, from about 17 800 tonnes in 2005 to about 4 200 tonnes in 2007. We will continue to monitor the situation and consider relevant measures to recover waste tyres, including the introduction of PRS. The work does not involve additional expenditure in 2008-09.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

20 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB108

Question Serial No.

1566

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

Programme : (6) Nature conservation

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the new nature conservation policy, please advise:

- (a) Whether provision will be reserved for the set up of the nature conservation trust? If yes, what is the schedule for the set up and the amount of estimated expenditure?
- (b) How is the progress of work for the 12 priority sites identified for enhanced conservation? What are the institutions participating in the enhanced conservation of these sites? How effective is the work?
- (c) What are the details and estimated expenditure of implementing and enhancing the existing nature conservation policy in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply :

- (a) Establishing a nature conservation trust may facilitate the pooling of funds from all sectors of the community for the protection and conservation of the natural heritage of Hong Kong. Some applications received under the Pilot Scheme on Public-private Partnership (PPP) for nature conservation have also proposed the establishment of site-specific trusts to finance the long-term conservation of ecologically sensitive sites. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will make reference to the experience of the PPP Pilot Scheme and explore the possibility of establishing a nature conservation trust in Hong Kong.
- (b) Two of the priority sites, namely Fung Yuen and Long Valley (more than one million square feet in total) are now under active conservation by means of conservation management agreement projects. They are being undertaken by three Non-governmental Organizations, namely the Conservancy Association, the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society and the Tai Po Environmental Association. The conservation work has been carried out since 2005, and has achieved promising results in enhancing the conservation value of the sites. For example, former abandoned farmlands in Long Valley are now being maintained by local farmers as wet agricultural land or marshes to prevent deterioration of habitat. More species of birds and butterflies have been recorded in Fung Yuen and Long Valley. In addition, various education workshops and media visits have been organized to publicize and enhance the public awareness of nature conservation. Besides, we have received applications under the Pilot Scheme for PPP for six of the other priority sites. The Administration's assessment of the applications is nearly completed.

- (c) In 2008-09, \$5.7 million has been earmarked for the “Nature Conservation Programme” under Head 44 - EPD to cover personal emoluments and associated general departmental expenses for formulating policies and overseeing the implementation of government programmes on nature conservation. In additional, \$436.7 million has been earmarked for the “Nature Conservation and Country Parks Programme” under Head 22 – AFCD, for the management and protection of protected areas, enhancement of biodiversity of Hong Kong and the promotion of public awareness of nature conservation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date 19 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB109

Question Serial No.

1567

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

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : What are the details of work to be done in 2008-09 to explore ways to encourage the use of cleaner vehicle fuels? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply :

From 1 December 2007, the Administration offered a concessionary duty for Euro V motor vehicle diesel. In response to the incentive, all petrol filling stations are now offering for sale Euro V diesel. In 2009, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) plans to make Euro V diesel and Euro V petrol the statutory standards for motor vehicles. The EPD will also introduce a statutory specification for biodiesel as motor vehicle fuel. The main objective of developing such specification is to enhance users' confidence in the fuel by maintaining consistency in its quality for good emission performance. EPD will deploy existing resources for the work and no additional expenditure will be required.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB110

Question Serial No.

1568

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

Programme : (4) Water

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the indicators on "inland water sampling points" and "the sampling points classified", please advise:

What are the reasons for water samples being classified as bad or very bad? What measures will be taken to improve the water quality? What are the details of these measures and what is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply :

In 2007, out of the 82 river monitoring stations throughout Hong Kong, 8 stations in the northwestern New Territories were graded "Bad" or "Very Bad". These were located in Yuen Long Creek (4 stations), Kam Tin River (2 stations), Fairview Park Nullah (1 station) and Tuen Mun River (1 station). Apart from Fairview Park Nullah which was mainly affected by tidal flow from Deep Bay, the remaining stations were generally impacted by pollution from unsewered villages and livestock farms.

The Administration plans to invest about \$3.3 billion to implement a series of sewerage and sewage disposal projects in the Yuen Long, Kam Tin and Tuen Mun areas. These will be completed between 2009 and 2015 and will help secure long-term improvements in local water quality.

The Administration has also implemented the Livestock Keeping Licence Voluntary Surrender Schemes since 2005. The schemes have effectively resulted in a reduction in the number of poultry and pig farms by 73% and 84% respectively, which has in turn resulted in a reduction in pollution from livestock farming. The funding allocation for the poultry scheme is \$380 million and for the pig scheme \$942 million.

With the reduction in the number of farms under the Voluntary Surrender Schemes and the provision of village sewerage, the river water quality in the northwestern New Territories should continue to improve in the next few years.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

27 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB111

Question Serial No.

1569

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

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : With respect to a study on the impact of climate change on Hong Kong, please advise:

- (a) What are the time required for the study and the expenditure involved?
- (b) Will the Administration study the setting of emission reduction targets for carbon dioxide? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply :

- (a) The consultancy study will take around 18 months to complete, and it is estimated to cost \$8.8 million.
- (b) As set out in the consultancy study brief on climate change in Hong Kong, the selected consultants are required to review different strategies, policies, measures, technologies, programmes, plans, legislations and regulations recommended by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change or currently adopted by overseas countries to control greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions or increase the sinks of GHG; and with full consideration of the findings of the reviews, to develop and evaluate additional policies and measures, including available options, which could be implemented in Hong Kong. The consultants therefore are also required to look into the case for setting emission reduction target for Hong Kong and make suitable recommendation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date 25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB112

Question Serial No.

1570

Head : 44 Environmental Protection
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : With respect to the launch of a technical support programme to promote the adoption of cleaner production processes by Hong Kong-owned factories in the Pearl River Delta Region, please advise:

- (a) What is the number of factories expected to benefit from the programme and what is its scope of support?
- (b) Will the Government consider increasing the provision and extending the scope of support to include the purchase and use of more environment-friendly production equipment? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply :

- (a) The Cleaner Production Partnership Programme aims to provide professional advice and technical assistance to Hong Kong-owned factories operating in the Pearl River Delta (PRD) Region to adopt cleaner production technologies and practices. Under the Programme, eight industry sectors will be targeted. The Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC), as the implementation agent for the Government, will work closely with other environmental technology service providers to conduct on-site assessment for some 1 000 factories to identify and analyse the problems faced by them and propose practical improvement solutions. A wide variety of demonstration projects, totalled 80 to 90 for different industry sectors, will be carried out to prove the effectiveness and potential financial returns of cleaner production technologies. HKPC will also provide an independent third-party service to verify the effectiveness of improvement measures implemented by factories to reinforce their confidence in investing in cleaner production technologies and inspire others to follow suit. The initial quota for the third party verification is set at 500, and subject to response, the number can be increased to cover up to 1 000 factories. Through the extensive awareness promotion activities to share experiences and publicise the success stories, the programme seeks to incentivise other factories to adopt cleaner production technologies and practices, thereby fostering the development of a sustainable culture of cleaner production in the region.
- (b) The Cleaner Production Partnership Programme, which spans five years, will be launched in April 2008. Through working closely with concerned industry and business associations, we consider that providing technical assistance to the Hong Kong-owned enterprises is the most practicable way in helping them to raise environmental performance. It will also raise the awareness of other owners/operators in the trades thereby bringing about benefits to the whole industry.

On the purchase and upgrading of environmental installations, the current Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Loan Guarantee Scheme helps SMEs, including those Hong Kong owned factories in the PRD Region, to secure loans from participating lending institutions through providing loan guarantees for acquiring environmental installations and equipment and maintaining working capital for their business operations. In addition, many commercial banks currently are also very active in providing green financing to factories for the acquisition of environmental installations. In his recent Budget Speech, the Financial Secretary has also proposed to provide a 100 per cent profits tax deduction for capital expenditure on environment-friendly machinery and equipment in the first year of purchase to encourage the business community to use such equipment.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB113

Question Serial No.

1571

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

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the study to review Hong Kong's Air Quality Objectives with a view to developing a long-term strategy on air pollution management, please advise:

- (a) When will the review be completed and when will the public consultation be conducted?
- (b) Will the Administration consider introducing the standard adopted by the European Union and World Health Organisation into the local air quality objectives. If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply :

- (a) To review the Air Quality Objectives (AQOs) and to develop the long-term air quality management strategy, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has commissioned a Study on the AQOs Review and Development of the Long-term Air Quality Management Strategy for Hong Kong (the Study). The Study is expected to be completed by end of 2008. To ensure transparency and public participation during the course of the review process, the EPD has already conducted two public forums in December 2007 and January 2008. Further consultations will be made later this year and after the completion of Study. It is expected that the new AQOs and the long-term strategy will be finalized in 2009.
- (b) The Study will take into account the World Health Organisation's (WHO) air quality guidelines as well as the air quality standards of the European Union and the United States. The Administration will consider thoroughly the various factors mentioned in the WHO's air quality guidelines, including the health effects, current exposure levels and risk perceptions of a given population, the local social, economic and cultural conditions in developing the most appropriate AQOs for Hong Kong.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB114

Question Serial No.

1572

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

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the use of environment-friendly vehicles, please advise:

- (a) What are the number of the various types of vehicles which have filed an application for the replacement of pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles and the number of applications approved since the launch of the incentive scheme in 2007-08?
- (b) What is the number of people benefitted by the first registration tax concession for environment-friendly petrol private cars since the launch of this scheme in 2007-08?
- (c) After the completion of the incentive schemes, will the Administration consider the mandatory phasing out of pre-Euro and Euro I vehicles through legislative means? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply :

- (a) Regarding the one-off grant scheme to encourage early replacement of pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles, the Transport Department has received, from April 2007 to end February 2008, 4 420 applications and approved 4 153 of them, involving replacement of 2 412 light goods vehicles, 1 382 medium goods vehicles, 61 heavy goods vehicles, 206 non-franchised buses and 92 light buses.
- (b) Up to February 2008, 3 529 environment-friendly petrol private cars were first- registered with the tax concession since the launch of the tax concession scheme.
- (c) After the completion of the incentive scheme to encourage the replacement of pre-Euro and Euro I diesel vehicles, the Administration will review its effectiveness and, subject to the review findings, consider whether further actions should be taken to encourage the replacement of these vehicles. The question of mandating the phasing out of pre-Euro and Euro I vehicles will require careful consideration, having regard to the private property rights, the financial and job implications for the operators and the relevant workforce and the environmental considerations.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB115

Question Serial No.

1573

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

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the imposition of emission caps on power plants, please advise:

- (a) Will the Administration consider including carbon dioxide in the list of regulated emissions when new specified process licences are issued? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
- (b) Have targets been set up on emission caps for power plants for the year 2011-2020? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply :

- (a) The Administration does not have any immediate plan to impose a cap on carbon dioxide emission from the power stations. In deciding on the types of air emissions to be placed under control and their respective emission caps, the availability of mature and practicable emission reduction technology is an important consideration. In Hong Kong, over 50% of the electricity is generated from coal burning. At present, there is no mature and commercially viable technology in the world that could reduce, capture and store the greenhouse gases discharged from the burning of fossil fuels. Therefore, greenhouse gas emissions from power generation can only be substantially reduced by changing the fuel mix, e.g. substantial reduction in coal burning, increase in the use of natural gas or switching to nuclear energy. However, changing the fuel mix for power generation requires careful consideration of a number of important and complicated issues such as stability in power supply and electricity tariff.
- (b) Under the proposed Air Pollution Control (Amendment) Bill 2008, the Secretary for the Environment will stipulate, by means of a Technical Memorandum, the emissions caps for the power sector for 2010 and beyond. The proposed emissions caps, which are now set having regard to the 2010 emission reduction targets agreed by the HKSAR Government and the Guangdong Provincial Government, are as follows:

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| sulphur dioxide: | 25 120 | tonnes |
| nitrogen oxides: | 42 500 | tonnes |
| respirable suspended particulates: | 1 260 | tonnes |

These emissions caps will be subject to review from time to time in future.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB116

Question Serial No.

1574

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

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the continuous implementation of the Air Quality Management Plan in collaboration with the Guangdong authorities, please advise:

- (a) What is the latest progress in emission reduction of both sides? Is it anticipated that the target set can be achieved in 2010?
- (b) Will the emission of carbon dioxide of both sides be incorporated into the emission reduction target when formulating the Air Quality Management Plan for the years after 2010? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply :

- (a) The Mid-term Review of the Pearl River Delta Regional Air Quality Management Plan (RAQMP) jointly conducted by the HKSAR and the Guangdong Provincial governments was recently completed in December 2007. The Review found that the preventive and control measures being implemented by both sides under the RAQMP would bring about positive effects on abating air pollutant emissions in the region. Upon implementation of the current and committed emission reduction measures under the RAQMP, the HKSAR Government should be able to meet the mutually agreed emission reduction targets by 2010. Apart from proactively implementing the existing control measures, the Guangdong Provincial Government has agreed to introduce additional measures as recommended in the Mid-term Review Report. These include requiring all new coal-fired power plants to install de-NO_x equipment; introducing more stringent local emissions standards for boilers; strengthening the implementation of cleaner production standards for industries on VOC-containing products; restricting VOC-containing consumer products; and strengthening the control of emissions from local vessels. With such steps taken, it is projected that the emission reduction targets could be achieved by 2010. At the 10th Working Meeting of the Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference held in January 2008, both sides also reaffirmed their determination to achieve in time the mutually agreed emission reduction targets by 2010.
- (b) Our current priority is to ensure achievement of the 2010 emission reduction targets. We will discuss with the Guangdong Provincial Government in respect of the cooperation arrangements after 2010.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

28 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB117

Question Serial No.

1730

Head : 44 Environmental Protection
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In respect of the air pollution index in the Targets, please inform this Council:

- (1) In the planned figure of 2008, the number of days with an air pollution index not exceeding 100 is 300, which greatly differs from the target number of 365/366. What are the reasons for such?
- (2) Does the Government have any long-term policy to reduce the health impact on the public caused by days with high pollution index? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply :

- (1) Apart from emission sources, meteorological conditions can also affect the daily Air Pollution Index (API) level. The API can exceed 100 occasionally under calm weather conditions that hinder dispersion of air pollutants, even though emission levels do not vary much on a daily basis. As it is impossible to predict future weather conditions over a year, it is also not possible to predict in any precise terms the number of days with API not exceeding 100 in the coming year. In anticipation that air quality will gradually improve upon the implementation of control measures, we have estimated that the number of days with API not exceeding 100 would be more than that in 2007. The forecasted number of 300 in 2008 derived at on this basis represents no more than a broad-brush estimate. The 365/366 days represents the ultimate target that we strive to achieve.
- (2) To improve local and regional air quality in the long-run, the HKSAR Government reached a consensus with Guangdong Provincial Government in April 2002 to reduce, on a best endeavour basis, the emission of four major air pollutants, namely sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, respirable suspended particulates and volatile organic compounds by 40%, 20%, 55% and 55% respectively in the region by 2010, using 1997 as the base year. The two governments are now working to achieve these targets. In 2008, the HKSAR Government will:
 - (i) continue to progressively tighten emissions caps on power stations;
 - (ii) continue to implement/develop measures to reduce vehicle emissions. Major measures include the incentive scheme to encourage early replacement of pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles with Euro IV models and promoting the use of more environment-friendly private and commercial vehicles, consulting the public on a legislative ban on idling vehicles with running engines, proposing a scheme to strengthen the control of emissions from petrol and liquefied petroleum gas vehicles by using roadside remote sensing equipment and dynamometers for emission testing, developing specifications for using biodiesel as motor vehicle fuel, etc.;
 - (iii) enforce the new regulation on the control of volatile organic compounds in architectural paints, printing inks and selected consumer products in phase;
 - (iv) propose mandatory use of ultra-low sulphur diesel in industrial and commercial sectors;
 - (v) explore the feasibility of controlling emissions from off-road mobile sources and the use of cleaner fuels for ferries; and
 - (vi) launch a technical support programme to promote the adoption of cleaner production processes by Hong Kong-owned factories in the Pearl River Delta Region.

These measures will bring improvement to the air quality and at the same time reduce the health impact on the public.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB118

Question Serial No.

1761

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

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Will the Administration consider relaxing application restrictions on Environment and Conservation Fund so as to encourage roof greening in the private sector?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

The purpose of the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) is to provide funding support for educational, research, technology demonstration and other projects/activities in relation to environmental and conservation matters. The projects should have contribution in a direct and practical way towards the environmental improvement and conservation of the local environment. The benefits must accrue to the local community as a whole, and not just to individuals, a single private organization or consortium of private companies.

To encourage participation in concerted promotional efforts on environmental protection and conservation, the ECF has expanded its funding scope to include installation of green features and other environmental facilities in schools and community buildings in a bid to bring environmental benefits to and set an example for the community. The ECF Committee will review from time to time the priority programme areas for funding in the light of the current environmental issues that the community attaches priority to and having regard to the Government's policy initiatives.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

19 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB119

Question Serial No.

0749

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

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The Department indicated that it would continue to implement the Programme on Source Separation of Waste in 2008-09. Has any target, such as the recovery rate of waste, been set by the Administration for the Programme?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply :

The Environmental Protection Department launched a territory-wide Programme on Source Separation of Domestic Waste in January 2005 with a view to enhancing waste recovery and reducing waste. As at January 2008, there were 833 housing estates participating in the Programme, covering about 1 million households and some 45% of the population. The domestic waste recovery rate is currently at 23% when compared with 20% in 2006.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

28 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB120

Question Serial No.

0750

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

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Has the Administration considered increasing the expenditure for promoting the Programme on Source Separation of Waste? If yes, what are the details of the promotion Programme?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply :

The expenditure on publicity and promotional activities for the Programme on Source Separation of Waste is about \$6.35 million in 2007-08, which includes broadcasts on television, radio and electronic media; advertisements on public transport and in newspapers; distribution of leaflets, posters and banners in participating housing estates; forums, talks, exhibitions and road shows as well as award presentation ceremonies. We will organise similar publicity and promotional activities in 2008-09 and the budget is about \$6.5 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

20 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB121

Question Serial No.

0753

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

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The 2007-08 revised estimate under this Programme is 55% less than the original estimate. However, the estimate for 2008-09 has increased by nearly 2.5 times as compared to the 2007-08 revised estimate. Would the Administration explain the reasons for the substantial discrepancies in the estimates?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply :

The Administration has implemented a one-off grant scheme to encourage early replacement of pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles with new vehicles complying with the prevailing statutory emission standard. As participation in the scheme is voluntary, it is difficult to estimate the exact number of vehicle owners who will join the scheme in each financial year. Nonetheless, the Administration has to set aside sufficient funding to cater for any eventual demand that may be realised. This has a significant effect on the budget estimate of Programme (2) Air.

The 2007-08 revised estimate is less than the original estimate because of the lower than expected participation rate of vehicle owners joining the scheme in 2007-08. However, as the deadlines for applications are approaching – 30 September 2008 for pre-Euro vehicles and 31 March 2010 for Euro I vehicles, there is a likelihood that more owners of the remaining eligible vehicles will consider joining the scheme more seriously. We have therefore earmarked a larger provision for 2008-09 which could enable replacement of around 29 000 pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles, or about half of the remaining eligible vehicles, under the scheme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

27 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB122

Question Serial No.

1004

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

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Please explain in detail the consultancy study on climate change. When will it start and complete?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

In March 2008, the Environmental Protection Department appointed ERM-Hong Kong, Ltd. to conduct a "Study of Climate Change in Hong Kong". The study is expected to take around 18 months to complete. It will review and update the local inventories of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and removals; project the future trends in GHG emissions under different scenarios; characterize the impacts of climate change in Hong Kong; recommend additional strategies and measures to further control GHG emissions and adapt to climate change; and evaluate the cost-effectiveness of these measures.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

19 March 2008

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

Head: 60 – Highways Department

Subhead:

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: Regarding the retrofitting of noise barriers, the Administration has, in recent years, retrofitted some highways that were built according to old standards with noise barriers. Have the Administration carried out any studies on retrofitting trunk roads in Kowloon West (including West Kowloon Corridor) with noise barriers? If yes, what are the results? If not, please give reasons. What mitigation measures will the Administration take to minimise the impact of road noise on residents for the roads concerned?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

The Environmental Protection Department and the Highways Department have conducted studies on the feasibility of provision of noise barriers on major roads in Kowloon West. The studies include Western Kowloon Corridor and Tai Po Road (Sham Shui Po section) near Cronin Garden. The provision of noise barriers on the former is found not feasible mainly due to insufficient space or obstruction to fire fighting. Preliminary study has indicated that provision of noise barriers at Tai Po Road is feasible. We are planning to carry out retrofitting works at this road section. Apart from noise barriers, low noise road surfacing materials will also be adopted where appropriate to mitigate the traffic noise impact on neighbouring residents at the above road sections.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **WAI CHI SING**

Post Title _____ **Director of Highways**

Date _____ **26 March 2008**

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

Head: 60 – Highways Department

Subhead:

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: The Administration will pursue the detailed design for retrofitting of noise barriers on Fanling Highway, Sha Tin Road and Tai Po Tai Wo Road in 2008-09. Please provide details about the aforesaid work, the estimated expenditure involved and the anticipated commencement date of the construction works for each road.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

6805TH – Retrofitting of Noise Barriers on Fanling Highway (MTR Fanling Station to Wo Hing Road)

6807TH – Retrofitting of Noise Barriers on Fanling Highway (Po Shek Wu Road to MTR Fanling Station)

The two projects comprise retrofitting of noise barriers of a total length of 4 700 metres at the section of Fanling Highway between Wo Hing Road and Po Shek Wu Road. We plan to commence the construction works in 2009. The total estimated capital cost of the two projects is \$316 million.

6802TH – Retrofitting of Noise Barriers on Sha Tin Road

The project comprises retrofitting of two sections of noise enclosures of a total length of 230 metres and noise barriers of a total length of 500 metres at the section of Sha Tin Road near City One Shatin. We plan to commence the construction works in 2010. The estimated capital cost of the project is \$153 million.

6818TH – Retrofitting of Noise Barriers on Tai Po Tai Wo Road

The project comprises retrofitting 140 metres of noise enclosure and 250 metres of cantilevered noise barriers at the section of Tai Po Tai Wo Road between Chui Lok Street and Lam Tsuen River. We plan to commence the construction works in 2009. The estimated capital cost of the project is \$130 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 26 March 2008

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

Head: 60 – Highways Department

Subhead:

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: The Administration will conduct the investigation of the retrofitting of noise barriers on New Clear Water Bay Road and Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section) in 2008-09. Please provide details about the investigation and the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

Retrofitting of Noise Barriers on New Clear Water Bay Road (near Choi Wan Estate) – Investigation Study

Scope of the Project

- (a) retrofitting of a section of about 270 metre long cantilevered noise barriers along the central divider at New Clear Water Bay Road in front of Choi Wan Estate;
- (b) application of low noise surfacing material onto a section of the existing concrete carriageway of about 450 metres in length; and
- (c) associated roadworks, slopeworks, drainage works, utility diversion, street lighting, landscaping, traffic aids and other related works.

Investigation Study

The objectives of the Investigation Study are to affirm the engineering feasibility of the noise mitigation options and to refine the project scope through review of previous preliminary desk top study and to carry out further investigation to produce a sound and cost-effective preliminary design.

Latest Developments

The Investigation Study commenced in August 2007 and would be completed in the third quarter of 2008. The consultant is now investigating various noise mitigation schemes taking into account the site constraints and working out the optimum extent and design of the proposed noise mitigation measures.

Costs

The estimated cost of the Investigation Study and associated site investigations is about \$1.2 million.

Retrofitting of Noise Barriers on Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section) – Investigation, Design and Construction Study

Scope of the Project

- (a) retrofitting of cantilevered and vertical noise barriers of total length of about 2 300 metres along a section of Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section) between Sha Tin Centre Street and Fo Tan Road; and
- (b) associated roadworks, slopeworks, drainage works, utility diversion, street lighting, landscaping, traffic aids and other related works.

Investigation, Design and Construction Assignment

The objectives of the assignment are to affirm the engineering feasibility of the noise mitigation options, refine the scope, carry out the detailed design and provide supervision of construction for the project.

Latest Developments

We consulted the Health and Environment Committee of the Shatin District Council on 6 March 2008 and the Committee generally supported the implementation of the project as soon as possible. We plan to commence the above study in September 2008 and the construction works in early 2010 for completion in 2013.

Costs

The estimated costs of the Investigation, Design and Construction Assignment and the construction works are \$7.0 million and \$250 million respectively.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 1 April 2008

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

Head: 60 – Highways Department

Subhead:

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: Regarding the investigation of the retrofitting of noise barriers on New Clear Water Bay Road and Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section), please give a brief description of the investigation, its progress and the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply:

Retrofitting of Noise Barriers on New Clear Water Bay Road (near Choi Wan Estate) – Investigation Study

Scope of the Project

- (a) retrofitting of a section of about 270 metre long cantilevered noise barriers along the central divider at New Clear Water Bay Road in front of Choi Wan Estate;
- (b) application of low noise surfacing material onto a section of the existing concrete carriageway of about 450 metres in length; and
- (c) associated roadworks, slopeworks, drainage works, utility diversion, street lighting, landscaping, traffic aids and other related works.

Investigation Study

The objectives of the Investigation Study are to affirm the engineering feasibility of the noise mitigation options and to refine the project scope through review of previous preliminary desk top study and to carry out further investigation to produce a sound and cost-effective preliminary design.

Latest Developments

The Investigation Study commenced in August 2007 and would be completed in the third quarter of 2008. The consultant is now investigating various noise mitigation schemes taking into account the site constraints and working out the optimum extent and design of the proposed noise mitigation measures.

Costs

The estimated cost of the Investigation Study and associated site investigations is about \$1.2 million.

Retrofitting of Noise Barriers on Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section) – Investigation, Design and Construction Study

Scope of the Project

- (a) retrofitting of cantilevered and vertical noise barriers of total length of about 2 300 metres along a section of Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section) between Sha Tin Centre Street and Fo Tan Road; and
- (b) associated roadworks, slopeworks, drainage works, utility diversion, street lighting, landscaping, traffic aids and other related works.

Investigation, Design and Construction Assignment

The objectives of the assignment are to affirm the engineering feasibility of the noise mitigation options, refine the scope, carry out the detailed design and provide supervision of construction for the project.

Latest Developments

We consulted the Health and Environment Committee of the Shatin District Council on 6 March 2008 and the Committee generally supported the implementation of the project as soon as possible. We plan to commence the above study in September 2008 and the construction works in early 2010 for completion in 2013.

Costs

The estimated costs of the Investigation, Design and Construction Assignment and the construction works are \$7.0 million and \$250 million respectively.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 1 April 2008

**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

Question: What plans do the Environment Bureau and the Marine Department (MD) have to reduce floating rubbish? What are the expenditure and manpower resources involved? Will stepping up of the prosecution of marine littering be considered? What would be the expenditure and manpower resources involved?

Asked by: Hon. Tong Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply:

MD adopts a three-pronged approach to reduce floating refuse: collecting floating refuse through our contractors, prosecuting offenders of marine littering and organising education campaigns. Refuse collection services are provided by our contractors seven days a week by a fleet of about 70 scavenging vessels, with an estimated expenditure of about \$23 million in 2008-09. The other related work including monitoring, prosecution and public education is undertaken by MD's existing staff as part of their normal duties, and there is no separate breakdown on the expenditure and manpower involved.

Patrols at black spots have been stepped up and special operations are carried out on Sundays and public holidays to deter marine littering. We will step up the enforcement action as and when necessary. In 2006 and 2007, the numbers of marine littering cases prosecuted by MD were 56 and 76 respectively. As law enforcement on marine littering is part of the normal duties of MD's patrolling staff, there is no separate breakdown on the expenditure and manpower involved for this particular duty.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ROGER TUPPER** _____

Post Title _____ Director of Marine _____

Date _____ 19 March 2008 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB128

Question Serial No.

2432

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The Administration will commence studies on the long-term market structure for the electricity market in 2008. Please advise on the details of the studies and the amount of expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

The estimated expenditure for the studies on the long-term market structure for the electricity market is around \$0.6 million during 2008-09. It is expected that the studies will take about two years to complete. The studies will focus on the regulatory framework of the future electricity market, in particular the further opening up of the electricity market to introduce more competition.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

17 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB129

Question Serial No.

0106

Head : 137 Government Secretariat:
 Environment Bureau

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the studies (including in-house studies or those entrusted to consultants) conducted by the Bureau for the purposes of formulating and assessing policies, please provide the relevant information in the following format:

- (1) For the projects that have reserved funds for conducting consultancy studies in 2007-08, please provide information in the following format:

| Name of Consultant (if any) | Content | Revised Estimate (\$) | Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed) | The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any) | If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons? |
|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------|--|---|---|
| | | | | | |

- (2) Is there any project that will reserve funds for conducting consultancy studies in 2008-09? If yes, please provide the following information:

| Name of Consultant (if any) | Content | Expenditure (\$) | Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed) | Will the studies be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in the 2008-09 financial year? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons? |
|-----------------------------|---------|------------------|--|---|
| | | | | |

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

- (1) Consultancy study for the purposes of formulating and assessing policies in 2007-08:

| Name of Consultant (if any) | Content | Revised Estimate (\$) | Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed) | The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any) | If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons? |
|---|--|-----------------------|--|--|---|
| Social Sciences Research Centre (the SSRC) of the University of Hong Kong | To conduct independent analysis of public views received during the Council for Sustainable Development (the SDC)'s engagement process on Better Air Quality | \$0.38 million | Completed | On 15 February 2008, the SDC submitted to the Government its report on the engagement process on Better Air Quality with recommendations on the way forward, together with the SSRC's report analysing the public views. The Government is carefully considering the recommendations put forth by the SDC, especially regarding the practicability of the recommendations, and will provide a response in due course. | Both the SSRC's and the SDC's reports have been uploaded on the SDC's website at www.susdev.org.hk . |

(2) Consultancy studies for the purposes of formulating and assessing policies in 2008-09:

| Name of Consultant (if any) | Content | Expenditure (\$) | Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed) | Will the studies be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in the 2008-09 financial year? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons? |
|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|---|
| To be appointed | To conduct a biennial habitat mapping study for the computer-aided sustainability evaluation tool | \$1.3 million | Under planning | The report of the habitat mapping study will be released to the public through the Sustainable Development Division's website. |
| To be appointed | To conduct a study on the regulatory framework of the future electricity market | \$0.6 million (during 2008-09) | Under planning | The study will be completed after 2008-09. |

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____ 17 March 2008

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

ENB130

0832

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2008-09, there is no comprehensive contingency plan to deal with the continuous increase in energy prices in recent years. Please advise:

- (a) What is the expenditure involved in 2006-07 and 2007-08 in conducting studies to deal with the issue of continuous increase in energy prices?
- (b) Are there any specific actions to relieve the pressure on price increase triggered by rising energy prices? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply:

(a) With no indigenous energy resources, Hong Kong has to rely on imported fuel for energy supply, prices of which are influenced by various external factors beyond the control of local market and the Administration. In a free market economy, the policy objective of this Bureau is to ensure safe, reliable and efficient energy supply at reasonable prices through the established monitoring arrangements of the operation of the two power companies and the town gas supply company. We do not have any plans to conduct specific studies on the continuous increase in energy prices.

(b) Nevertheless, there are specific areas in our monitoring work in 2006/07 and 2007/08 that have helped to relieve the price increases triggered by rising fuel prices:

(i) Power Companies

The Administration signed the new post-2008 Scheme of Control Agreements (SCAs) with each of the two power companies on 7 January 2008. Through the lowering of their permitted rate of return from the existing 13.5%-15% to 9.99%, this would bring a material reduction in basic tariffs and ease the consumers' spending on their electricity bills. The basic tariff adjustments will be effective from 1 October 2008 for the CLP Power's customers and 1 January 2009 for the Hongkong Electric's customers (i.e. the respective dates when the new SCAs take effect).

(ii) Towngas Company

The Administration extended the Information and Consultation Agreement with the Hong Kong and China Gas (HKCG) in 2006 for another three years thereby fulfilling the objective of enhancing transparency in HKCG's tariff setting mechanism. We have also continued to monitor and review the Fuel Cost Variation Charge/Rebate by HKCG against trend movements in the import prices of the feedstocks to ensure that HKCG has passed onto consumers via its Fuel Cost Variation mechanism the average savings of about 10% arising from the introduction of natural gas as a cheaper alternative feedstock since October 2006.

As the officers involved in the above monitoring work also handle other duties concurrently, it is difficult to separately itemise the expenditure for each task.

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Signature | _____ |
| Name in block letters | ANISSA WONG |
| Post Title | Permanent Secretary for the Environment |
| Date | 17 March 2008 |

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB131

Question Serial No.

2057

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
 Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The revised estimate for 2007-08 is \$9.6 million, representing a decrease of 22.6% over the original estimate of \$12.4 million. However, the estimate for 2008-09 is still based on the original estimate for 2007-08, which is a 27.1% increase over the revised estimate for 2007-08. Please advise:

- (a) What is the reason for the revised estimate for 2007-08 being 22.6% lower than the original estimate?
- (b) While the estimate for 2008-09 is still based on the original estimate for 2007-08, 1 post will be created in 2008-09. What are the details?

Asked by : Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply :

- (a) The revised estimate for 2007-08 is lower than the original estimate by 22.6%. This is mainly due to the reduced cash flow required for carrying out the consultancy studies for developing the regulatory and market restructuring framework of electricity supply industry in Hong Kong.
- (b) The estimate for 2008-09 is based on the revised estimate for 2007-08. The 27.1% increase in provision is mainly due to the planned creation of an Administrative Officer Staff Grade C post for taking forward new initiatives in the energy portfolio, and the cash flow required for carrying out the consultancy studies on the long-term market structure for the electricity market.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

18 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB132

Question Serial No.

2058

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (3) Sustainable Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The provision for 2008-09 is \$15.9 million higher than the revised estimate for 2007-08, representing an increase of 72.3%. This is due to the additional provision for operational expenses of the SDC and conducting a biennial habitat mapping study for the computer-aided sustainability evaluation tool. Please advise:

- (a) In which financial year was the study last conducted? What are the details of the revised estimate of that year? Compared to the revised estimate of the year before, was there also a substantial increase of some 70% in expenditure?
- (b) As the estimate for 2008-09 is substantially higher than the estimate for 2007-08 by 72.3%, please provide details of how the additional expenditure is used.

Asked by : Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply :

The provision for 2008-09 is \$15.9 million higher than the revised estimate for 2007-08. This is mainly due to the additional provision for operational expenses of the Council for Sustainable Development (the SDC) and conducting a biennial habitat mapping study for the computer-aided sustainability evaluation tool. Regarding the first task, the additional provision would enable the SDC to advise the HKSAR Government on the preparation of a sustainable development (SD) strategy for Hong Kong and promote public awareness and understanding of the principles of SD through the stakeholder-led public engagement process. The additional provision would also help strengthen education and publicity-related activities undertaken by the SDC. Such activities include the Community and School Outreach Programmes, the SD School Award Programme and preparation of educational and resource kit, so as to raise public awareness of the SD principles and encourage the community to put them into practice in daily life.

Regarding the second task, \$1.3 million out of the additional provision will be used to conduct a biennial habitat mapping study for the computer-aided sustainability evaluation tool. The computer-aided sustainability evaluation tool facilitates bureaux/departments in their conduct of sustainability assessments for major proposals and projects. The last habitat mapping study was conducted in the financial year 2006-07 and the revised estimate of that year for the study was \$0.6 million. As the habitat mapping study is conducted biennially, no provision has been included in the financial year 2005-06 or 2007-08.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

27 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB133

Question Serial No.

1550

Head: 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (3) Sustainable Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Under this programme, the Administration will service the Council for Sustainable Development (SDC) and implement the SDC's public engagement process for formulating a sustainable development strategy for Hong Kong. Please list out the specific details of work and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

Under this programme, the Sustainable Development Division will provide secretariat support to SDC as well as its two sub-committees, namely the Strategy Sub-committee and the Education and Publicity Sub-committee.

The Sustainable Development Division will assist the SDC in conducting the public engagement process for formulating a sustainable development (SD) strategy for Hong Kong. According to past experience, a public engagement process will commence with the launch of the "Invitation and Response" document and encompass a series of public engagement events and communication channels. The SDC will engage a number of partner organizations (including chambers of commerce, social welfare organizations, youth groups, professional bodies, tertiary institutions and advocacy groups depending on the discussion topic) to help gather views from different segments of the public arena and forge community ownership of the process. There will also be roving exhibitions touring around public locations. Other communication channels include a dedicated website with an online questionnaire and discussion forum as well as TV/ radio Announcements in Public Interest etc. There will also be a Strategy Summit as the final event where stakeholders are all invited to help consolidate the views gathered and identify the key parameters of concern emerged from these views.

The Education and Publicity Sub-committee will also carry out various education and publicity-related activities, including the Community and School Outreach Programmes, the SD School Award Programme and the Graffiti Design Competition, so as to raise public awareness of the SD principles and encourage the community to put them into practice in daily life.

The amount of expenditure involved in the above work is estimated to be about \$19 million in 2008-09.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____ 20 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB134

Question Serial No.

1551

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
 Environment Bureau

Programme : (3) Sustainable development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Process applications for the Sustainable Development Fund (the SDF) and monitor the implementation of the approved projects. What is the amount granted by the SDF? Has the Administration provided additional resources for the promotion of the scheme in this financial year? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

The SDF was established in 2003 with an approved amount of \$100 million to support community initiatives to enhance public awareness of the concept of sustainable development and to encourage sustainable practices in Hong Kong. So far, a total of 18 projects have been approved in the first four rounds of applications since the establishment of the SDF, involving total grants of \$14.5 million.

As in our past practice, we would arrange a number of promotional activities to publicize the SDF, which include media visit, press release, briefing sessions and workshops involving representatives from Non-governmental Organisations and the business sector, Members of the District Councils as well as individuals. We also publish a project booklet on an annual basis to introduce the newly approved SDF projects and the progress of the ongoing ones.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

18 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB135

Question Serial No.

1552

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
 Environment Bureau

Programme : (3) Sustainable Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the monitoring of the implementation of the sustainability assessment system, please state the specific work and amount of expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

Regarding the monitoring of the implementation of the sustainability assessment (SA) system, the specific work includes providing guidance and advice to bureaux and departments on the use of the computer-aided sustainability evaluation tool for conducting the SA, overseeing the compilation and submission of SA reports by bureaux and departments, and scrutinizing the sustainability implications of policy proposals and projects put forward in Policy Committee and Executive Council papers. The amount of expenditure involved is estimated to be about \$2.7 million in 2008-09.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

20 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB136

Question Serial No.

1562

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the studies on long-term market structure for the electricity market, please advise:

- (a) What are the estimated expenditure involved and the expected date of completion of the studies? Will there be any public consultation?
- (b) Will the studies explore the feasibility of requiring power plants to develop renewable energy on a mandatory basis? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply :

- (a) The estimated expenditure for the studies on the long-term market structure for the electricity market is around \$0.6 million during 2008-09. It is expected that the studies will take about two years to complete. Taking into account the findings of the studies, we will formulate the proposal for the regulatory framework of the future electricity market, of which we will consult the public.
- (b) The studies will focus on the regulatory framework of the future electricity market, in particular the further opening up of the electricity market to introduce more competition.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____ 17 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB137

Question Serial No.

1563

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (3) Sustainable development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : With respect to the operation of the Sustainable Development Fund (the SDF), please advise:

- (a) the number and contents of the approved projects in 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively;
- (b) whether there is any mechanism in place to ensure that the SDF would not be exploited? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply :

- (a) A total of eight projects have been awarded grants from the SDF in the years of 2006-07 and 2007-08, i.e. four for each financial year. For details of the eight approved projects, please refer to the Annex.
- (b) There are established measures to avoid abuse of the SDF by the grantees. Applicants are required to provide a full, itemized budget for their proposed projects in their application forms. Pricing standards setting out limits for the budget cost of certain items of equipment and furniture, and appropriate salaries for project staff are provided to applicants for reference.

For approved projects, award of grants are made by quarterly installments, on a reimbursement basis, throughout the project period subject to submission of quarterly expenditure claims. The SDF Secretariat will vet the amount and type of each expenditure claim against the relevant item of approved project cost as specified in the approved budget to ensure its eligibility for reimbursement. Fund recipients are also required to ensure that the purchase of goods and services in relation to their projects are made on a competitive basis by obtaining quotations from a number of suppliers to ensure openness and value for money. Guidelines on this aspect are provided to fund recipients.

In addition, a Project Officer from the SDF Secretariat is designated to monitor the progress of all approved projects to ensure each one is implemented in the manner and within the time frame as stipulated in its approved proposal. Upon satisfactory progress of the project, grantees will then be reimbursed with the expenditure incurred for the specific use as stated in the approved budget.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

17 March 2008

Annex to part (a) Serial No. 1563

| No. | Title of Project | Description of Project |
|--|---|--|
| Four Projects approved in 2006-07 | | |
| 1 | Musical Drama “Seven Days in the Mountain” | Through the school and public performances of a musical drama, the sustainable development (SD) message is spread to students and the general public in a creative way. |
| 2 | Reporting Sustainability in Hong Kong: A First Attempt | The project aims to synthesize the best theories and practices in formulating a set of sustainability indicators at the district level for the reference of concerned parties in Hong Kong. |
| 3 | Community Sustainable Development Workshop – Promoting Community Sustainable Development by Women and Youth | The project aims to empower women and youth to take an active role in promoting the concept and practice of SD in the Tai Po community through a series of activities. |
| 4 | Sustainable Development Community Building and Youth Education in Tai Kok Tsui | The project aims at facilitating the Tai Kok Tsui residents and business operators’ understanding of the concept of SD, mobilizing their participation in SD-related activities, as well as the preservation and revitalization of the local economy and the social network in the district. |
| Four Projects approved in 2007-08 | | |
| 1 | Developing a Sustainable Lifestyle – An Interactive Educational Drama | The project aims to produce an interactive drama with sustainable lifestyle as the theme, which will be performed at primary schools and public venues to promote the SD message. |
| 2 | Hong Kong Green Map – Towards a Sustainable City Life | The project will adopt the globally-adopted Green Map System to produce a green map for Hong Kong through the identification of places and locations that are relevant to a sustainable city life. |
| 3 | 2R ^s Express | The project aims at building a mutual help network for some social groups such as the physically-challenged and housewives through recycling activities, starting from the Eastern District to several other districts in Kowloon and the New Territories. |
| 4 | Sustainable Urban Regeneration: Building an Integrated Community | The project will carry out various activities including workshops on sustainable urban regeneration involving academics, professionals and the local people, community exploratory tours and roadshow in Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin. |

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB138

Question Serial No.

1816

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Matters Requiring Special Attention of the Environment Bureau in the coming year include the commencement of studies on the long-term market structure for the electricity market. What is the Administration's estimated provision required for the work in total? Please list in detail the work items.

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

The estimated expenditure for the studies on the long-term market structure for the electricity market is around \$0.6 million during 2008-09. It is expected that the studies will take about two years to complete. The studies will focus on the regulatory framework of the future electricity market, in particular the further opening up of the electricity market to introduce more competition.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ANISSA WONG** _____

Post Title _____ **Permanent Secretary for the Environment** _____

Date _____ **17 March 2008** _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB139

Question Serial No.

0821

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : (a) Regarding the creation of the position of Under Secretary, what is the estimated expenditure in 2008-09?

(b) Regarding the creation of the position of Political Assistant, what is the estimated expenditure in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. YEUNG Sum

Reply :

(a) The estimated expenditure for the creation of the position of Under Secretary in 2008-09 is \$2.68 million.

(b) The estimated expenditure for the creation of the position of Political Assistant in 2008-09 is \$1.97 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____ 17 March 2008

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

Head: 704 – Drainage

Subhead: 4326DS

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: The estimate provision for the 4326DS project has been reduced from \$1,932,000 in 2007-08 to \$100,000 in 2008-09. What are the reasons for such a reduction in estimate? What is the latest progress of the project? Will the project be delayed with the reduction?

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

As the works under Public Works Programme item 4326DS “Central and East Kowloon sewerage, sewage treatment and disposal – advance housing related works” were substantially completed in October 2006, only \$1.932 million was expected to be spent in 2007-08 on minor outstanding works. The much smaller expenditure estimate in 2008-09 is for settlement of the final account. After all remaining payments are made, the project account will be finalised in 2008-09.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **K K LAU** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Drainage Services** _____

Date _____ **20 March 2008** _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB141

Question Serial No.

1089

Head : 705 Civil Engineering

Subhead (No. & title): 5703CL
Development of EcoPark in
Tuen Mun Area 38

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Under Item no. 5703CL "Development of EcoPark in Tuen Mun Area 38", what are the facilities that have not been completed? Are there any plans to further improve the facilities and ancillary services in the EcoPark to increase its use value?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

The project scope of 5703CL comprises the provision of common facilities in the EcoPark including access roads, marine frontage, sewers, stormwater drains, electricity, water supply, telecommunication network, weighbridge as well as a multi-function administration building. All these facilities have been completed and are now ready for use by the tenants to support their recycling operations. The Environmental Protection Department will liaise closely with the tenants and provide further support and assistance if necessary.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

17 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB142

Question Serial No.

1526

Head : 705 Civil Engineering

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The total estimate provision for Environmental Protection Refuse disposal has been reduced to \$122,738,000 in 2008-09 as against \$225,128,000 in 2007-08. What are the reasons for the drastic decrease?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

The reduction of the total estimate provision is mainly due to reduced expenditure in a number of projects including the following:

- (a) PWP item 5093DR "Chai Wan Public Fill Barging Point" – a reduction of \$39.6 million (from \$62.9 million to \$23.3 million) as the works is expected to be completed in the second half of 2008;
- (b) PWP item 5167DR "Provision of grease trap waste treatment facility at a refuse transfer station" – a reduction of \$76.5 million (from \$80.7 million to \$4.2 million) which is related to the commissioning schedule of the facility. The revised estimate of \$80.7 million in 2007-08 is a lump sum payment amounting to 95% of the capital cost upon satisfactory commissioning of the facility. The payment of the remaining 5% which amounts to \$4.2 million will become due upon the expiry of the 12 months defects correction period after its commissioning.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

25 March 2008