

**Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members
in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05**

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

Session No.: 1

File name: ETWB(ET)-e1.doc

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
ETWB(ET)001	0916	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	22	Nature Conservation and Country Parks
ETWB(ET)002	0917	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	22	Nature Conservation and Country Parks
ETWB(ET)003	0918	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	22	Nature Conservation and Country Parks
ETWB(ET)004	0451	CHOY So-yuk	22	Nature Conservation and Country Parks
ETWB(ET)005	0452	CHOY So-yuk	22	Nature Conservation and Country Parks
ETWB(ET)006	0461	CHOY So-yuk	22	Nature Conservation and Country Parks
ETWB(ET)007	0462	CHOY So-yuk	22	Nature Conservation and Country Parks
ETWB(ET)008	0015	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	22	Nature Conservation and Country Parks
ETWB(ET)009	1175	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	22	Nature Conservation and Country Parks
ETWB(ET)010	1210	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	22	Nature Conservation and Country Parks
ETWB(ET)011	0042	LAU Wong-fat	22	Nature Conservation and Country Parks
ETWB(ET)012	1412	LAW Chi-kwong	22	-
ETWB(ET)013	1400	LEE Chu-ming, Martin	22	Nature Conservation and Country Parks
ETWB(ET)014	1401	LEE Chu-ming, Martin	22	Nature Conservation and Country Parks
ETWB(ET)015	1402	LEE Chu-ming, Martin	22	Nature Conservation and Country Parks
ETWB(ET)016	1403	LEE Chu-ming, Martin	22	Nature Conservation and Country Parks
ETWB(ET)017	0344	WONG Yung-kan	22	Nature Conservation and Country Parks
ETWB(ET)018	1064	CHAN Wai-yip, Albert	39	Sewage Services
ETWB(ET)019	1556	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	39	Sewage Services
ETWB(ET)020	1557	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	39	Sewage Services

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
ETWB(ET)021	0667	WU King-cheong, Henry	39	Sewage Services
ETWB(ET)022	0450	CHOY So-yuk	42	Energy Efficiency and Air Quality
ETWB(ET)023	1117	CHOY So-yuk	42	Energy Efficiency and Air Quality
ETWB(ET)024	1207	LI Wah-ming, Fred	42	Energy Efficiency and Air Quality
ETWB(ET)025	1208	LI Wah-ming, Fred	42	Energy Efficiency and Air Quality
ETWB(ET)026	0007	SHEK Lai-him, Abraham	42	Energy Efficiency and Air Quality
ETWB(ET)027	0666	WU King-cheong, Henry	42	Energy Efficiency and Air Quality
ETWB(ET)028	0454	CHOY So-yuk	43	Management of Construction and Demolition Materials
ETWB(ET)029	0455	CHOY So-yuk	43	Management of Construction and Demolition Materials
ETWB(ET)030	1399	LEE Chu-ming, Martin	43	Management of Construction and Demolition Materials
ETWB(ET)031	1421	WONG Sing-chi	43	Site Formation and Reclamation
ETWB(ET)032	1524	WONG Yung-kan	43	Management of Construction and Demolition Materials
ETWB(ET)033	0153	CHOY So-yuk	44	Waste Facilities
ETWB(ET)034	0154	CHOY So-yuk	44	Waste Facilities
ETWB(ET)035	0155	CHOY So-yuk	44	Air
ETWB(ET)036	0156	CHOY So-yuk	44	Air
ETWB(ET)037	0196	CHOY So-yuk	44	Air
ETWB(ET)038	0197	CHOY So-yuk	44	Air
ETWB(ET)039	0456	CHOY So-yuk	44	Community Relations
ETWB(ET)040	0457	CHOY So-yuk	44	Environment Assessment and Planning
ETWB(ET)041	0458	CHOY So-yuk	44	Waste Facilities
ETWB(ET)042	0459	CHOY So-yuk	44	Waste
ETWB(ET)043	0463	CHOY So-yuk	44	Air
ETWB(ET)044	0464	CHOY So-yuk	44	Air
ETWB(ET)045	0465	CHOY So-yuk	44	Waste Facilities
ETWB(ET)046	0466	CHOY So-yuk	44	Waste Facilities
ETWB(ET)047	0467	CHOY So-yuk	44	Waste Facilities
ETWB(ET)048	0897	CHU Yu-lin, David	44	Waste Facilities
ETWB(ET)049	0898	CHU Yu-lin, David	44	Waste Facilities
ETWB(ET)050	0899	CHU Yu-lin, David	44	Waste Facilities
ETWB(ET)051	0264	EU Yuet-mee, Audrey	44	Waste Facilities
ETWB(ET)052	0266	EU Yuet-mee, Audrey	44	Community Relations
ETWB(ET)053	0270	EU Yuet-mee, Audrey	44	Waste Facilities
ETWB(ET)054	0518	HO Chung-tai, Raymond	44	Waste Facilities
ETWB(ET)055	1605	LAU Wai-hing, Emily	44	Community Relations

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
ETWB(ET)056	1606	LAU Wai-hing, Emily	44	Waste Facilities
ETWB(ET)057	1391	LEE Chu-ming, Martin	44	Waste Facilities
ETWB(ET)058	1011	LEUNG LAU Yan-fun, Sophie	44	Environment Assessment and Planning
ETWB(ET)059	1545	LEUNG Yiu-chung	44	Waste Facilities
ETWB(ET)060	0403	WU King-cheong, Henry	44	Community Relations
ETWB(ET)061	1636	MAK Kwok-fung, Michael	48	Advisory and Investigative Services
ETWB(ET)062	0113	HO Chung-tai, Raymond	60	Capital Projects
ETWB(ET)063	1739	LAU Chin-shek	60	Railway Development
ETWB(ET)064	1740	LAU Chin-shek	60	Railway Development
ETWB(ET)065	1741	LAU Chin-shek	60	Railway Development
ETWB(ET)066	0409	LAU Kong-wah	60	Capital Projects
ETWB(ET)067	0410	LAU Kong-wah	60	Capital Projects
ETWB(ET)068	0411	LAU Kong-wah	60	Capital Projects
ETWB(ET)069	0412	LAU Kong-wah	60	Capital Projects
ETWB(ET)070	0414	LAU Kong-wah	60	District and Maintenance
ETWB(ET)071	0415	LAU Kong-wah	60	District and Maintenance
ETWB(ET)072	0416	LAU Kong-wah	60	District and Maintenance
ETWB(ET)073	0417	LAU Kong-wah	60	Railway Development
ETWB(ET)074	0418	LAU Kong-wah	60	Railway Development
ETWB(ET)075	0419	LAU Kong-wah	60	Railway Development
ETWB(ET)076	0420	LAU Kong-wah	60	Technical Services
ETWB(ET)077	0421	LAU Kong-wah	60	Technical Services
ETWB(ET)078	0422	LAU Kong-wah	60	-
ETWB(ET)079	1581	SIN Chung-kai	60	Technical Services
ETWB(ET)080	0815	TANG Siu-tong	60	District and Maintenance
ETWB(ET)081	1414	WONG Sing-chi	60	District and Maintenance
ETWB(ET)082	1415	WONG Sing-chi	60	District and Maintenance
ETWB(ET)083	1416	WONG Sing-chi	60	District and Maintenance
ETWB(ET)084	1418	WONG Sing-chi	60	Railway Development
ETWB(ET)085	1419	WONG Sing-chi	60	Technical Services
ETWB(ET)086	1751	CHAN Kwok-keung	158	Transport
ETWB(ET)087	1752	CHAN Kwok-keung	158	Transport
ETWB(ET)088	1753	CHAN Kwok-keung	158	Transport
ETWB(ET)089	0914	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	158	Transport
ETWB(ET)090	0915	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	158	Transport
ETWB(ET)091	0265	EU Yuet-mee, Audrey	158	Transport
ETWB(ET)092	0075	HO Sau-lan, Cyd	158	All

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
ETWB(ET)093	1078	LAU Chin-shek	158	Transport
ETWB(ET)094	1079	LAU Chin-shek	158	Transport
ETWB(ET)095	0807	LAU Kin-yeek, Miriam	158	Transport
ETWB(ET)096	0423	LAU Kong-wah	158	Transport
ETWB(ET)097	0424	LAU Kong-wah	158	Transport
ETWB(ET)098	0425	LAU Kong-wah	158	Transport
ETWB(ET)099	0426	LAU Kong-wah	158	-
ETWB(ET)100	0904	LEE Chu-ming, Martin	158	-
ETWB(ET)101	0008	SHEK Lai-him, Abraham	158	Transport
ETWB(ET)102	0836	SIN Chung-kai	158	-
ETWB(ET)103	0838	SIN Chung-kai	158	-
ETWB(ET)104	1298	SIN Chung-kai	158	-
ETWB(ET)105	1721	TAM Yiu-chung	158	Transport
ETWB(ET)106	1722	TAM Yiu-chung	158	Transport
ETWB(ET)107	1113	CHAN Kwok-keung	186	Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers
ETWB(ET)108	1114	CHAN Kwok-keung	186	Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers
ETWB(ET)109	1339	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	186	Planning and Development
ETWB(ET)110	1340	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	186	Planning and Development
ETWB(ET)111	1341	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	186	Planning and Development
ETWB(ET)112	1342	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	186	Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers
ETWB(ET)113	1343	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
ETWB(ET)114	1344	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
ETWB(ET)115	1345	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
ETWB(ET)116	1346	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
ETWB(ET)117	1347	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	186	-
ETWB(ET)118	0460	CHOY So-yuk	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
ETWB(ET)119	1736	LAU Chin-shek	186	Planning and Development
ETWB(ET)120	1737	LAU Chin-shek	186	Planning and Development
ETWB(ET)121	1738	LAU Chin-shek	186	-
ETWB(ET)122	0798	LAU Kin-yeek, Miriam	186	Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers
ETWB(ET)123	0799	LAU Kin-yeek, Miriam	186	Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers
ETWB(ET)124	0800	LAU Kin-yeek, Miriam	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
ETWB(ET)125	0801	LAU Kin-yeek, Miriam	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
ETWB(ET)126	0803	LAU Kin-yeek, Miriam	186	District Traffic and Transport Services

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
ETWB(ET)127	0548	LAU Kong-wah	186	Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers
ETWB(ET)128	0549	LAU Kong-wah	186	Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers
ETWB(ET)129	0550	LAU Kong-wah	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
ETWB(ET)130	0551	LAU Kong-wah	186	Planning and Development
ETWB(ET)131	0552	LAU Kong-wah	186	Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers
ETWB(ET)132	0553	LAU Kong-wah	186	Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers
ETWB(ET)133	0554	LAU Kong-wah	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
ETWB(ET)134	0555	LAU Kong-wah	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
ETWB(ET)135	0557	LAU Kong-wah	186	-
ETWB(ET)136	1300	LAU Kong-wah	186	Planning and Development
ETWB(ET)137	1301	LAU Kong-wah	186	Planning and Development
ETWB(ET)138	1302	LAU Kong-wah	186	Planning and Development
ETWB(ET)139	1303	LAU Kong-wah	186	Planning and Development
ETWB(ET)140	1586	LEUNG Fu-wah	186	Planning and Development
ETWB(ET)141	1650	TAM Yiu-chung	186	-
ETWB(ET)142	1723	TAM Yiu-chung	186	Planning and Development
ETWB(ET)143	1724	TAM Yiu-chung	186	Planning and Development
ETWB(ET)144	1725	TAM Yiu-chung	186	Planning and Development
ETWB(ET)145	1726	TAM Yiu-chung	186	Planning and Development
ETWB(ET)146	1727	TAM Yiu-chung	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
ETWB(ET)147	1728	TAM Yiu-chung	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
ETWB(ET)148	1729	TAM Yiu-chung	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
ETWB(ET)149	0817	TANG Siu-tong	186	Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers
ETWB(ET)150	1427	LI Wah-ming, Fred	704	-
ETWB(ET)151	1765	LI Wah-ming, Fred	705	-
ETWB(ET)152	1430	LI Wah-ming, Fred	706	-
ETWB(ET)153	1062	CHAN Wai-yip, Albert	707	-
ETWB(ET)154	1431	LI Wah-ming, Fred	707	-

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

ETWB(ET)001

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

0916

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

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

Question : What criteria does the Government use in deciding the amount of annual subvention to subsidized organizations? What procedures are involved in the allocation? In 2004-05, no subvention is provided to the World Wide Fund for Nature (Hong Kong). What is the reason for this?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

The granting of the subvention in question is based on the specific work proposal submitted by the non-governmental organizations (NGO) concerned including the nature and amount of work to be carried out in the financial year. The NGOs are required to submit a funding application setting out proposals on the work to be done. In processing each application, AFCD will consider, discuss and agree the objectives and scope of the work, the expenditure involved, its management with the NGO concerned.

In 2004-05, a subvention of about \$1.3 million will be provided to WWF/HK for habitat management in the Mai Po Marshes Nature Reserve under the item "Subventions to conservation and management of Ramsar site". The subvention of \$192,000 for WWF/HK to run education programmes at the Island House Conservation Study Centre will however cease because similar programmes will be provided by AFCD and other organizations.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	25 March 2004

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

ETWB(ET)002

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead : 600 – Item 351 Development of a morning walkers garden in Ma On Shan Country Park

0917

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

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

Question : In Item 351 under Subhead 600, the Government is developing a morning walkers garden in Ma On Shan Country Park. What facilities will be provided in the garden? What is its maximum capacity? When will it be completed?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

The facilities to be provided at the morning walkers garden in Ma On Shan Country Park include shelters, fitness equipment, benches, tables, exercise areas and a toilet. The garden will be suitable for all age groups for exercises and relaxation. The designed maximum capacity of the garden is about 150 persons. The garden will be ready for public use in late 2005.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	24 March 2004

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

ETWB(ET)003

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead : 700 – Item 556 Promotion of the community's awareness of, and interest in the conservation of Chinese White Dolphins

0918

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

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

Question : In Item 556 under Subhead 700, what has been done by the Government in promoting the community's awareness of, and interest in, the conservation of Chinese White Dolphins? Has assessment on the effectiveness of such work been made? If yes, what is the assessment result?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

In the past years, we have been organizing a number of educational and publicity activities to arouse public awareness of and interest in dolphin conservation. The activities include seminars, exhibitions and school competitions. A wide variety of educational and publicity materials including booklets, leaflets, posters, interactive compact discs and calendars have been produced and distributed to students and the general public. A special website has been set up to provide information on local cetaceans including the Chinese White Dolphins.

Although we have not conducted any quantitative assessment on the effectiveness of these activities, they received good patronage and there was positive feedback from the public. In 2003, over 25 000 citizens took part in these activities and some 52 000 copies of educational materials were distributed to the public and schools.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)004

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

0451

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

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

Question : Does the Government know how many trees were destroyed by hill fires annually in the past 2 years? In prevention of hill fires, is there any special plan for the coming year? What is the amount of expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

In 2002, 20 900 trees in country parks were destroyed by hill fires. This figure dropped to 8 600 in 2003.

To protect country parks from hill fires, AFCD has established an effective fire control system comprising a central Fire Control Centre, 11 fire lookouts to detect hill fires and fire crews on overnight duties during the fire season from September to April. In addition, fire breaks are created at strategic locations to try to slow down the spread of hill fires when they occur and water tanks have been constructed at strategic points to provide a ready supply of water to tackle hill fires.

In the coming year, AFCD will continue to work closely with other government departments in fighting and preventing hill fires. Publicity programmes will be launched to sustain public awareness in this respect. Special law enforcement teams will be deployed to patrol hill fire black spots during periods of high fire risk such as Ching Ming and Chung Yeung Festivals.

The existing fire fighting plans have been effective and will continue for the coming year. They will be implemented within existing resources.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	24 March 2004

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

ETWB(ET)005

Question Serial No.

0452

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

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

Question : Under this programme, the number of seedlings planted for the coming year will be further reduced to 780 000. Will the Government give reasons for this reduction? For seedling production and planting in 2003 and the coming year, what is the amount and estimated amount of total expenditure involved as well as the average cost for each seedling respectively?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

The reduction in the number of seedlings to be planted in 2004 is mainly due to the need to achieve efficiency savings. We will reduce the scope of tree planting carried out by contractors.

In the past five years, a total of 4 153 000 trees have been planted by AFCD. About 28% of the country parks is currently covered by forests. Hence, the saving measure will not have any significant impact on country parks.

For those seedling produced by AFCD, the expenditure incurred was about \$3.8M in 2003. The average cost was around \$6.7 per seedling. The cost will be similar in the coming year.

For seedling planting, the expenditure incurred was about \$10.1M in 2003 and will be \$9.0M in 2004. The average cost for planting a seedling is about \$11.5 for both years. However, the planting cost can vary from \$4.0 to \$20 per seedling depending on locations and the planting requirements.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	24 March 2004

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

ETWB(ET)006

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

0461

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

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

Question : Under this programme, the enhancement of biodiversity in country parks and special areas is one of the matters for special attention in 2004-05. What plans does the Government have in implementing this task? What is the amount of expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

In 2004-05, we will continue our work in enhancing biodiversity in country parks and special areas by means of habitat enhancement and active conservation management.

We will propagate native and uncommon tree species in AFCD nursery. Some 400,000 native tree seedlings of over 40 species will be planted in country parks to diversify the floristic composition. A total of 500 nesting boxes will be maintained to provide breeding grounds for birds. We will create and maintain more wetlands to attract species such as dragonflies. Suitable plant species will be planted for supporting uncommon butterflies. We will also continue to actively protect country parks and special areas from hill fires and other damages.

The above work would be implemented within existing resources. No additional resources are required.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	24 March 2004

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

ETWB(ET)007

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

0462

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

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

Question : Has the Government earmarked funds for the promotion of the nature conservation policy that is under consultation? If yes, what is the amount of funds? What is the specific work plan?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

We are analyzing the comments received in the three-month public consultation exercise on nature conservation policy conducted in late 2003. The main target is to get a consensus on the priority sites for enhanced conservation and the measures to be adopted for the conservation of these sites. We aim to draw up a more comprehensive nature conservation policy and an implementation plan around the middle of this year.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	24 March 2004

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

ETWB(ET)008

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

0015

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

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

Question : Under this programme, it is mentioned that in 2004-05, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will give emphasis to the implementation of a territory-wide survey programme to collect information required for establishing an ecological database. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council of:-

- (1) the details of this task; and
- (2) the number of staff and expenditure involved in this task?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

We are surveying and collecting information on the biodiversity of Hong Kong with a view to establishing a comprehensive ecological database in phases by 2005. The survey programme 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. So far, we have made a number of new findings, including new records of butterfly, dragonfly and bird species for Hong Kong.

The provision in 2004-05 for this task is \$3.826 million, and one professional officer and one field officer posts were created in 2002-03 for implementing this task.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	24 March 2004

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

ETWB(ET)009

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

1175

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

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

Question : Under this programme, the estimated indicators for seedlings planted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department continue to decline. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council of the reason for the declining trend of the indicators and the savings so obtained?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

In 2003, 880 000 tree seedlings were planted in country parks. In 2004, the estimated number of tree seedlings to be planted is 780 000. The reduction is mainly due to the need to achieve efficiency savings. The overall savings will be about \$1 million.

In the past five years, a total of 4 153 000 trees have been planted by AFCD. About 28% of the country parks is covered by forest. Hence, the saving measure will not have any significant impact on country parks.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	24 March 2004

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

ETWB(ET)010

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

1210

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

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

Question : Under this programme, it is mentioned that in 2004-05, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will give emphasis to the maintenance of government slopes in country parks. In this connection, will the Government inform this Council:-

- (1) of the details of this work area, estimated number of staff and expenditure involved; and
- (2) whether such work was carried out in the past 3 years; if yes, the details?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

- (1) In 2004-05, we will conduct engineering inspection on some 500 slopes and will carry out maintenance works on about 250 slopes in various country parks. A recurrent provision of \$6.4 million will be allocated for these slope works. Of this provision, \$1.9 million is staff cost. The Slope Maintenance Section consists of 7 staff including 1 Geotechnical Engineer, 1 Senior Technical Officer (Geotechnical), 2 Technical Officers (Geotechnical), 1 Assistant Inspector of Works and 2 Site Supervisors. They are responsible for all works relating to slope maintenance, repairing, updating of slope inventory, and contract management in country parks.
- (2) Similar slope works were carried out over the past 3 years, details as below:

Year	No. of Slopes Inspected	No. of Slopes Maintained	Expenditure involved
2001-02	827	343	\$5.7M
2002-03	861	348	\$5.9M
2003-04	546	253	\$6.6M

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

THOMAS C Y CHAN

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

25 March 2004

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

ETWB(ET)011

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

0042

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

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

Question : The revised expenditure for 2003-04 is 11.1% higher than the original estimate.
What is the reason for this?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply :

The original provision under Programme Area 2 on "Nature Conservation and Country Parks" in 2003-04 was \$435.3M and the revised estimate was \$483.8M. There is an increase of \$48.5M or about 11.1%. This is mainly due to the Administration's effort to enhance employment opportunities by providing more temporary jobs after SARS in August 2003. With the approval of the Finance Committee, AFCD was provided with additional resources to create some 500 temporary posts for "promoting natural environment" and 967 posts to provide "additional cleansing and maintenance service to country parks and other AFCD venues" for a period of 6 months. A sum of \$46M has been spent on these projects which have not been included in the Original Estimates for 2003-04.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	25 March 2004

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

ETWB(ET)012

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead : 700 – Item 546 Consultancy study on wetland compensation

1412

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

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

Question : Item 546 “Consultancy study on wetland compensation” was originally scheduled for completion in 2001. Your department later estimated that the Study would be completed in 2002-03 instead due to the unexpectedly high number of wetland sites in Hong Kong. However, according to the current Subhead “General non-recurrent”, the Study will not be completed in 2004-05. What is the reason for this delay? What is the current progress? When will the Study be completed?

Asked by : Hon. LAW Chi-kwong

Reply :

The Study cannot be completed earlier because it takes a longer time than expected to conduct the field trials in the light of the complexity of the issues involved including the choice of sites and plant species. The actual ground work and the analysis of the field trials were completed in August and December 2003 respectively. The Consultancy Study Report including a proposed wetland compensation strategy is being finalized and is expected to be completed by mid-2004.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	25 March 2004

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

ETWB(ET)013

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead : 844 Minor conservation projects and studies (block vote)

1400

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

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

Question : What are the projects and studies to be carried out in 2004-05 under the Minor Conservation Projects and Studies Block Vote of \$6.47 million? What are the estimated costs, implementation and completion timetables of these projects and studies? Please provide information on the details of minor conservation projects and studies carried out by the Government in the past two years, the expenditure required, breakdown and completion date.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply :

Projects and studies to be carried out in 2004-05 are tabulated below :

Minor conservation projects and studies	Estimated Cost \$	Estimated Commencement Date	Estimated Completion Date
Ramsar Site Baseline Ecological Monitoring Project	1,300,000	Continuing programme	
Gei-wai and reed bed management in Mai Po Marshes Nature Reserve	150,000	Apr 2004	Oct 2004
Water bird monitoring programme for the Deep Bay Area	450,000	Continuing programme	
Mapping and surveying of ecological habitats inside the Ramsar Site	400,000	Oct 2004	Feb 2005
Satellite tracking and other conservation programmes for green turtles in Hong Kong	220,000	Continuing programme	
Control of nuisance from monkey and other wild animals	350,000	Continuing programme	
Ecological survey of herpetofauna distribution in Hong Kong	250,000	Apr 2004	Mar 2005
Upgrading of Ramsar Site Geographic Information System	350,000	Apr 2004	Mar 2005

Wetland Day Education Programme	500,000	Nov 2004	Mar 2005
Black-faced Spoonbill monitoring programme	350,000	Oct 2004	Mar 2005
Monitoring of cetaceans in Hong Kong waters	1,650,000	April 2004	Mar 2005
Publicity projects related to the conservation of marine mammals and other marine habitats/species of concern	300,000	April 2004	Mar 2005
Hong Kong Reef Check	200,000	April 2004	Dec 2004
Total for 2004-05	<u>6,470,000</u>		

Projects and studies carried out in 2003-04 are tabulated below :

Minor conservation projects and studies	Total Cost \$	Completion Date
Conservation programme for terns	250,000	Mar 2004
Control of nuisance from monkey and other wild animals	500,000	Continuing programme
Field Trails on Pond Wiring to Reduce Cormorant Predation in Commercial Fishponds	950,000	Jun 2004
Mapping and surveying of ecological habitats inside the Ramsar Site	320,000	Continuing programme
Ramsar Site Baseline Ecological Monitoring Project	1,250,000	Continuing programme
Satellite image analysis of the Ramsar Site	150,000	Continuing programme
Satellite tracking and other conservation programme for green turtles in Hong Kong	150,000	Continuing programme
Study of Seagrass and Associated Communities	250,000	Feb 2004
Wetland Day Education Programme	500,000	Mar 2004
Monitoring of cetaceans in Hong Kong waters	1,600,000	Mar 2004
Study on fishery bycatch of cetaceans	100,000	Jul 2003
Hong Kong Reef Check	200,000	Dec 2003
Publicity projects related to the conservation of marine mammals and other marine habitats/species of concern	250,000	Mar 2004
Total for 2003-04	<u>6,470,000</u>	

Projects and studies carried out in 2002-03 are tabulated below ;

Minor conservation projects and studies	Total Cost \$	<u>Completion date</u>
Control of nuisance from monkey and other wild animals	200,000	Continuing programme
Field study of the wintering ecology of Anatidae species (ducks) in the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Area	300,000	Mar 2003
Field study on Muntjac on Hong Kong and Lantau Islands	350,000	Jun 2003
Management of exotic mangrove	50,000	Mar 2003
Monitoring of breeding tern population and field trial of artificial shelters for terns.	150,000	Mar 2003
Pond wiring to reduce cormorant predation on commercial fish pond	900,000	Continuing programme
Radio-tracking of Black-faced Spoonbill in Mai Po	550,000	Mar 2003
Ramsar Site Baseline Ecological Monitoring Project	1,250,000	Continuing programme
Satellite image analysis of the Ramsar Site	146,000	Continuing programme
Satellite tracking and other conservation programme for green turtles in Hong Kong	170,000	Continuing programme
Wetland Day education programme	250,000	Mar 2003
Monitoring of cetaceans in Hong Kong waters	1,600,000	Mar 2003
Study on fishery bycatch of cetaceans	100,000	Continuing programme
Hong Kong Reef Check	200,000	Dec 2002
Publicity projects related to the conservation of marine mammals and other marine habitats/species of concern	250,000	Mar 2003
Total for 2002-03	<u>6,466,000</u>	

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	25 March 2004

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

ETWB(ET)014

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

1401

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

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

Question : The financial provision for Nature Conservation and Country Parks in 2004-05 is 18.2% lower than the revised estimate for 2003-04. This Council would like to raise these questions:-

- (1) The subventions to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong) and to the conservation and management of Ramsar site will be reduced by \$280,000 (23.6%) and \$1 million (32%) respectively. Will the service and operation of the subsidized organizations be affected as a result? If yes, how will they be affected? What measures will the Government take in assisting the subsidized organizations to cope with the funding cut?
- (2) Why is there no estimated figure of subvention to the World Wide Fund for Nature (Hong Kong) in the 2004-05 Estimate?
- (3) What are the ranks and job content of the 28 posts to be deleted under Programme (2)? In what way will these posts be deleted?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply :

- (1)(a) Since August 2002, the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong) (SPCA) has adopted a "no kill" policy, whereby they have stopped receiving surrendered dogs from public, and will not destroy any surrendered dogs. With the reduction in the number of dogs handled as a result of their "no kill" policy, the subvention to the SPCA has been reduced to reflect this change.
- (b) The purpose of the subvention for the conservation and management of the Ramsar site is to engage non-governmental organizations (NGO) including green groups to work in partnership with Government in conserving the Ramsar site. The reduction in the subventions is an efficiency savings measure. AFCD will engage the NGOs in carrying out the required conservation and management work in the Ramsar site through service contracts which would be the more cost-effective way to implement the work.

(2) The subvention in question refers to subvention provided to the World Wide Fund for Nature (Hong Kong) to run educational programmes at the Island House Conservation Studies Centre. The subvention will cease with effect from 2004-05 because similar programmes will be provided by AFCD and other organizations.

(3) Details of the posts to be deleted are:

- (a) 4 Field Assistants, 5 Artisans, 6 Workmen I and 3 Workmen II; their main duties are related to management and protection of country parks.
- (b) 2 Senior Field Assistants and 6 Forest Guards; their main duties are to provide visitor service and patrol in country parks.
- (c) 1 Works Supervisor I, 1 Works Supervisor II and 1 Workman II; their main duties are to provide building and road maintenance services to country parks.
- (d) 1 Senior Clerical Officer whose duty is to provide administrative support in headquarters.

Two new posts, namely 1 System Manager and 1 Analyst Programmer I, will be created to cater for the information technology enhancement needs of the department.

On balance, a net 28 posts will be deleted. This will be achieved through normal retirement and voluntary retirement.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>THOMAS C Y CHAN</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation</u>
Date	<u>25 March 2004</u>

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

ETWB(ET)015

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

1402

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

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

Question : It is estimated that the number of visitors to country parks will increase by 2.5% from 12.2 million to 12.5 million. Based on this estimate, why does the Government expect that the number of participants in educational activities will decrease from 250 000 in 2003 to 200 000 in 2004? Will the Government carry out any educational activities this year? If yes, please set out the details, timetable and expenditure involved. If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply :

The educational activities in question are activities organized directly by AFCD. In view of the reduction in manpower and anticipated increase of visitors to country parks, we will deploy more resources to visitor services and patrolling in the coming year and hence less educational activities will be conducted by the department direct. We will, however, enhance our websites and publication of books to continue to promote countryside education and will carry out the following major educational activities in 2004-05:

- (a) School visiting programme for primary schools and kindergartens;
- (b) Nature appreciation activities with guided walks and video shows for schools and the public;
- (c) Volunteer work in country parks for organized groups;
- (d) Public lectures and seminars for teachers, students and the public; and
- (e) Mobile exhibitions at shopping malls, schools and public venues.

All the above activities will be carried out throughout the year. The expenditure incurred including staff cost is about \$7 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	25 March 2004

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

ETWB(ET)016

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

1403

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

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

Question : Why is the number of seedlings planted on the decline every year since 2002? In 2004, why is it estimated that the number will continue to drop to 780 000? Will the Government carry out any tree planting plans this year? If yes, please set out the details, timetable and expenditure involved. If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply :

The number of tree seedlings planted in 2002 was 1 015 000. This consists of 899 000 seedlings planted in country parks and 116 000 planted outside country parks. In 2003, AFCD put the focus on country parks and 880 000 tree seedlings were planted.

In 2004, the estimated number of tree seedlings to be planted is 780 000. The reduction is mainly due to the need to achieve efficiency savings. The scope of planting by contractors will be reduced. However, we will encourage more private sector participation in tree planting in 2004.

Planting programmes of AFCD in 2004 are listed below:

	Time	Programme	No. of seedlings to be planted	Estimated Expenditure
1	April to June	Afforestation in country parks	655 000	\$7.8 million
2	April to June	Planting at the proposed Lantau North (Extension) Country Park	125 000	\$1.2 million
Total			780 000	\$9.0 million

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

THOMAS C Y CHAN

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

25 March 2004

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

ETWB(ET)017

Head : 22 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Subhead : 000 Operational Expenses

0344

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

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

Question : Under this subhead, subventions to conservation and management of Ramsar site are substantially reduced by more than 30%. What are the reasons for the reduction? What measures will be taken to maintain effective management of the site despite the substantial reduction of subventions?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The purpose of the subventions is to engage non-government organizations (NGO) including green groups to work in partnership with Government for the conservation and management of the Ramsar site. The reduction in the subventions is an efficiency savings measure. AFCD will engage NGOs in carrying out the requested conservation and management work in the Ramsar site through service contracts, which would be more cost-effective.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	THOMAS C Y CHAN
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)018

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

1064

Programme : (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

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

Question : The financial provision for Programme (2) for 2004-2005 increases by 5.9%.
In what aspects will the above increase in financial provision be reflected?
Will the increase in provision bring relief to the problem of lacking of sewage
treatment systems in rural areas?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : The increased provision is required mainly for operating new sewage treatment
plants, enhancing the level of treatment at Sha Tin and Siu Ho Wan treatment
plants, maintaining the growing length of sewers, and replacing equipment due
to ageing of sewage treatment facilities. Part of the increase is for operating
and maintaining new sewers and pumping stations to be completed in 2004-05
to serve about 35 no. of villages in the rural areas of Sha Tin, Tai Po, Yuen
Long, Sheung Shui and Ta Kwu Ling.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ R.T.K. CHEUNG

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)019

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Sewage Services

1556

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

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

Question : The provision for 2004-05 increases by 5.9% as compared with last year, while the values of contracts for projects under detailed design and construction decrease by 8.2% and 22.8% respectively. The authority claims that the increase in expenses is due to the need to maintain the growing length of sewers and the ageing sewage facilities.

1. Please provide the contract values of new works contracts and maintenance contracts for the past three years.
2. "Continue to operate and maintain sewage treatment facilities in a cost effective manner" is included in the matters requiring special attention for the coming year. What measures will be taken by the Department to lower the cost and how much expenditure is expected to be saved in order to reduce the trade effluent surcharge paid by the trades according to the "Polluter Pays Principle"?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply : Only part of the increased provision is required for maintaining the growing length of sewers, and replacing equipment due to ageing of sewage treatment facilities. The increase in provision will also be required for operating new sewage treatment plants, as well as enhancing the level of treatment at Shatin and Siu Ho Wan treatment plants.

The estimated value of projects under detailed design in 2004-05 is at about the same level as 2003-04 whereas the 22.8% decrease in the value of contracts under construction is mainly due to the completion of several major capital projects.

The response to parts 1 and 2 of the question is given below :-

1. The value of new works contracts and maintenance contracts under Sewage Services Programme for the past three years is as follows :-

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
	\$M	\$M	\$M
Value of new works contracts awarded	1,393	1,238	297
Value of maintenance contracts awarded	164	244	190

2. The Department has taken the following measures to lower the operating costs in 2004-05:-

- a) Reduction of civil service posts in parallel with streamlining operations and enhancing productivity through re-prioritization, re-engineering, re-organization and expanding the scope of outsourcing of maintenance work;
- b) Optimization of the operation and maintenance of sewerage network and equipment in

sewage treatment facilities;

- c) Reduction of general administration expenses in various aspects, such as overtime and job-related allowances, overseas duty visits, and transport and traveling.

The savings in expenditure from the above measures, together with the civil service pay cut in 2004 and 2005, amounted to around \$66M. Such savings have already been reflected in the financial provision of \$1,268.1M for 2004-05.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ R.T.K. CHEUNG _____

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services _____

Date _____ 24 March 2004 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)020

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Sewage Services

1557

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

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

Question : Please provide a breakdown by types of trade and content of enquiries on trade effluent surcharge received by the Drainage Services Department in 2002-03 and 2003-04.

The present performance "target" requires the Department to reply to enquiries within 1 month. Please explain in detail why it takes so long and why 5% of the enquiries could not be replied within 1 month in 2002-03 and 2003-04.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply : A breakdown of written enquiries by types of their content received in 2002-03 and 2003-04 is given below. A breakdown by trade type is not available but the majority are from the restaurant trade.

	Content classification
	2002-03
	(1.4.2002 to 31.3.2003)
	2003-04 (11 months)
	(1.4.2003 to 29.2.2004)
Chemical Oxygen Demand reassessment	713
	854
Newly identified account	402
	484
Sewer connection status	203
	347
Business reclassification	166
	163
Discharge factor review	49
	118
Payment matters	549
	784
Others	216

Total**2298****3098**

Different types of enquiries require different ways of handling and the time required varies. Based on past experience, about half of the enquiries could be handled within 10 working days but the other half would need about one month. A small number of complicated cases would take a longer time to investigate. For instance, it may take more than a month to handle an enquiry on newly identified account because it involves the collection of business registration information and on-site inspections. For those that require us a longer time to investigate and give a substantive reply, an interim reply will be given.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ R.T.K. CHEUNG

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)021

Question Serial No.

0667

Head : 39 -Drainage Services Department Subhead (No. & title) :Programme : (2) Sewage ServicesControlling Officer : Director of Drainage ServicesDirector of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : With the deletion of 27 posts and the civil service pay cut, the provision for Programme 3902 for 2004-05 still increases by \$70.7 million (5.9%) as compared with 2003-2004. But the targets in respect of sewage services have not been enhanced accordingly and the levels of the indicators are generally lower than those for 2002-2003. Please specify which area of services could be enhanced with the increase of provision. What plans does the Administration have to enhance the service targets for 2004-05?

Asked by : Hon. WU King-cheong, Henry

Reply : All performance indicators relating to the operation and maintenance of sewage facilities are at a higher level compared with 2003; the only indicators showing a lower level are those relating to the value of capital projects.

The performance targets in respect of sewage services are the pledges of the department for handling the consumers' complaints and enquiries. The department has undertaken to maintain the same level of service with an increase of 1.9% in the number of consumers paying sewage charge.

The increased provision is required not only for coping with an overall increase in the

volume of sewage treated but also for operating new plants (the number of installations will increase by 8.1%), for higher maintenance cost to cope with the growing length of sewers, and for equipment replacement due to ageing of sewage treatment facilities. The expenditure is necessary to ensure that a reliable sewage treatment service is maintained.

The increased provision will also be used for enhancing the treatment level of sewage collected and hence improving the quality of the effluent. Examples are the upgrading of Siu Ho Wan screening plant to chemically enhanced primary treatment plant, and upgrading the nutrient removal capacity of Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Plant.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ R.T.K. CHEUNG

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)022

Question Serial No.

0450

Head : 42 – EMSD Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : 3 - Energy efficiency and air quality

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

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

Question : Under this programme, the energy saving in the Government is added as a new target of the key performance measures and a 1.5% saving is planned. What measures will be taken by the Government to achieve this target? If the target is achieved, how many units of energy and how much electricity cost can be saved? What will be long-term benefits in respect of costs and the environment?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : To assist Government Bureaux and Departments (B/Ds) to achieve the target of 1.5% reduction of electricity consumption, EMSD has launched an energy saving promotion campaign within B/Ds. Initiatives of this campaign include:

- (i) promoting energy saving measures to B/Ds through briefing sessions;
- (ii) performing energy audits to identify energy saving opportunities;
- (iii) promoting housekeeping measures and assisting B/Ds in the implementation – examples include raising air-conditioning temperature setting, reducing operating hours of air-conditioning, and switching off equipment when not in use;
- (iv) carrying out energy saving retrofits – examples include replacing electromagnetic ballast with electronic ballast for fluorescent tubes, installing evaporative cooling system for central air-conditioning units etc;
- (v) publishing an “Energy Saving Tips” guide book on energy saving measures;
- (vi) promoting energy saving through the “EnergyLand” (an EMSD educational website available through the Internet) and “Green Management Corner” (an information portal available through the

Government Intranet – Cyber Central Government Office);

- (vii) developing a web-based energy management and reporting system to enable better monitoring of electricity consumption of venues by B/Ds, and a “Green Talk” on-line discussion forum to facilitate experience sharing in energy saving; and
- (viii) launching an energy saving competition, titled “Hong Kong Awards for Energy Efficiency & Conservation in Government” between October 2003 and September 2004 to provide the momentum for continuous improvement in energy saving within Government B/Ds.

If the target of 1.5% reduction in electricity consumption is met, there will be an approximate saving of 34 GWh/annum, which converts to a saving in electricity cost of about \$29 million a year for the whole Government.

In the long term, the reduction in electricity consumption will not only help reduce government expenditure, but will also benefit the environment by reducing the demand in electricity generation and consequently the pollution and green house gas emission from the electricity plants. It is also hoped that the energy saving exercise in the Government will help raise the awareness of the general public in saving energy.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Roger S. H. LAI

Post Title _____ Director of Electrical and
Mechanical Services

Date _____ 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)023

Question Serial No.

1117

Head : 42 – EMSD Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : 3 – Energy efficiency and air quality

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

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

Question : In 2004-05, the administration will be responsible for the coordination work regarding the use of renewable energy in buildings. Please detail the manpower and expenditure involved in this respect.

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : In 2004-05, the Energy Efficiency Office of EMSD will continue to give professional support and advice to both government bureaux/departments and private sectors on the development and implementation of renewable energy (RE) projects.

This aspect of work is undertaken by a Senior Engineer who undertakes RE research and development work for both building-related projects, e.g. the Building Integrated Photovoltaic (BIPV) system, and other non-building RE work, such as the wide-scale application of RE technologies for power generation, e.g. wind turbines.

Expenditure in 2004-05 for the research, development and promotion of both building-related and non building-related RE technologies will amount to \$1.63M funded by a non-recurrent project and our recurrent expenses for the publication of promotional materials, remaining consultancy work for the BIPV project at Wan Chai Tower and territory-wide wind measurement programme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Roger S. H. LAI

Post Title Director of Electrical and
Mechanical Services

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)024

Question Serial No.

1207

Head : 42 – EMSD Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : 3 - Energy efficiency and air quality

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

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

Question : What work has EMSD carried out in the implementation of energy saving programmes for government departments in 2003-04. What is the expenditure involved? What achievements have been made? (Please state the saving in electricity cost.) What are the work plan and the estimated expenditure for 2004-05 financial year?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply : EMSD has launched an energy saving promotion campaign within Government Bureaux and Departments (B/Ds) to assist them in saving energy. Initiatives of this campaign in 2003-04 include:

- (ix) promoting energy saving measures to B/Ds through briefing sessions;
- (x) performing energy audits in a number of venues to identify energy saving opportunities;
- (xi) promoting housekeeping measures and assisting B/Ds in the implementation – examples include raising air-conditioning temperature setting, reducing operating hours of air-conditioning, and switching off equipment when not in use;
- (xii) carrying out energy saving retrofits in a number of venues – examples include replacing electromagnetic ballast with electronic ballast for fluorescent tubes, installing evaporative cooling system for central air-conditioning units etc;
- (xiii) publishing an “Energy Saving Tips” guide book on energy saving measures;
- (xiv) promoting energy saving through the “EnergyLand”, an EMSD educational website, and “Green Management Corner”, an information

portal available through the Government Intranet;

- (xv) developing a web-based energy management and reporting system to enable better monitoring of electricity consumption of venues by B/Ds, and a “Green Talk” on-line discussion forum to facilitate experience sharing in energy saving; and
- (xvi) launching an energy saving competition, titled “Hong Kong Awards for Energy Efficiency & Conservation in Government” between October 2003 and September 2004 to provide the momentum for continuous improvement in energy saving within Government B/Ds.

The development and administration of the above schemes were undertaken by existing staff of EMSD. Other expenditure in association with implementing the schemes amounted to approximately \$0.72M, for the development of the web-based energy management and reporting system and promotional activities, such as briefing sessions, publications and updating of “EnergyLand” web site.

The energy saving promotion campaign has raised the awareness among Government B/Ds of the need to improve energy efficiency and conserve electricity. Improved housekeeping measures are now commonly practised throughout the Government. In terms of the electricity cost, a reduction of \$23 million, equivalent to 1.6% has been registered for the first nine months (April to December) of the 2003-04 compared to the same period in 2002-03.

In 2004-05 we will continue implementing the above energy saving measures and planning an experience sharing session to allow exchange of energy saving ideas among B/Ds. The budget for the energy saving promotion campaign for 2004-05 will be around \$0.5 M, mainly for promotional events, publications etc. The administration & implementation will continue to be undertaken by existing EMSD staff.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Roger S. H. LAI

Post Title Director of Electrical and
Mechanical Services

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)025

Question Serial No.

1208

Head : 42 - EMSD Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : 3 - Energy Efficiency and Air Quality

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

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

Question : What are the details of the new Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme for one vehicle type? What is the estimated expenditure for this scheme?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply : EMSD will develop a new Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme for medium goods vehicles in 2004-05. The new Scheme will be developed and administered by existing staff of EMSD and around \$30,000 will be spent for the promotion of the new Scheme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Roger S. H. LAI

Post Title Director of Electrical and
Mechanical Services

Date 24 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(ET)027

Question Serial No.

Head : 42 – EMSD Subhead(No. & title) :

0666

Programme : 3 – Energy efficiency and air quality

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

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

Question : As regards the performance targets for energy efficiency under Programme (3) of Head 42, there are some new indicators in 2004. Please state the differences between the new and original indicators and the reasons for introducing the new indicators.

Asked by : Hon. WU King-cheong, Henry

Reply : There are three revised indicators related to the Energy Efficiency Labelling Schemes, one each for electrical appliance, vehicle and gas appliance. Each revised indicator, i.e. “new scheme being developed”, is formed by merging two previous indicators, viz. “types of products/vehicles under investigation” and “testing procedures being developed”. These two indicators, as past experience has shown, reflect two very close steps in the development of the labelling scheme in question, and thus for the simplicity reason the two indicators are merged into a single indicator.

Another revision is made to indicators related to the Energy Code. The new arrangement is just to indicate “cumulative no. of building energy codes implemented”, instead of having two separate indicators giving “no. of building energy codes being developed” and “cumulative no. of building energy codes implemented”.

There is one new indicator regarding Renewable Energy, i.e. “no. of performance monitoring projects completed”. It is to reflect the work progress in monitoring the performance of the Building Integrated Photovoltaic System at Wanchai Tower, a pilot project on renewable energy system.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Roger S. H. LAI

Post Title Director of Electrical and
Mechanical Services

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)028

Question Serial No.

0454

Head: 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering

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

Question: In 2003-04, the temporary recycling facility in Tuen Mun has produced about 200,000 tonnes of recycled inert hard construction and demolition materials. What is its operating cost in 2003-04 and 2004-05? What is the maximum daily output and whether it has reached its maximum design output?

Asked by: Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply: The operating cost of the temporary recycling facility is about \$12.33 m in 2003-04 funded under Capital Works Project Vote. As the current contract of this facility will expire in October 2004, the operating cost is \$7.2 m for 7 months in 2004-05. The plant has a design daily output of 1 200 tonnes. However, due to the fluctuation in the purity and quantity of the incoming construction and demolition materials, the facility has yet to reach its design capacity.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K TSAO _____

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering _____

Date _____ 24 March 2004 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)029

Question Serial No.

0455

Head: 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering

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

Question: Are all recycled inert hard construction and demolition materials supplied for use in all government construction projects? If yes, what is the saving in procurement of natural aggregates by the government?

Asked by: Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply: Apart from a small quantity supplied for use in research and development, the recycled aggregates from the Tuen Mun recycling plant are mainly supplied for use in government construction projects. Based on the statistical data in 2003-04, the natural aggregate costs about \$40 per tonne. As such, the saving in procurement in 2003-04 is about \$8.0 m.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K TSAO

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering

Date _____ 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05

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

Head: 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering

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

Question: In 2004-05, the provision for the management of construction and demolition materials is \$145 m, which is \$8.7 m (6.4%) higher than the revised estimate for 2003-04. This is mainly due to increased operating expenses for the operation of fill banks at Tseung Kwan O and Tuen Mun. In this regard, could the Administration please reply to the following:

- 1) a breakdown of the financial provision on this programme;
- 2) the operating costs and their breakdowns of the fill banks in the last and the coming years;
- 3) the reason for increased operating expenses for the fill banks;
- 4) the amount of fill handled by the fill banks in the last and the coming years.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply: 1) The breakdown of the financial provisions on this programme is as follows:

Item	2004-05 Estimates (\$ m)
Fill banks at Tseung Kwan O and Tuen Mun	100.8
Public filling barging points at Kai Tak, Quarry Bay and Sai Ying Pun	26.3
Public filling planning and co-ordination	18.5
Total	145.6

- 2) The operating costs and their breakdowns of the fill banks in the last and the coming year are as follows:

Item	2003-04 Expenditure (\$ m)	2004-05 Estimates (\$ m)
Contract costs for operating the fill banks	67.7	89.8
Administrative and supervisory costs of the department	8.3	11.0

- 3) The reason for increased operating expenses for the fill banks is that we expect a greater quantity of inert construction and demolition materials in the coming year.
- 4) The amount of inert construction and demolition materials handled by the fill banks in the last year is 4.1 million m³. We expect to handle 6.1 million m³ in the coming year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K TSAO _____

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering _____

Date _____ 25 March 2004 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)031

Question Serial No.

1421

Head: 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Site Formation and Reclamation

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering

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

Question: The Administration will continue the Stage 2 environmental improvement works of the Shing Mun River. What is the estimated cost of the Stage 2 works? What are the details of the works?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply: The contract sum of the Stage 2 environmental improvement of Shing Mun River is \$39.9 m. This includes the use of \$27.9 m under the Capital Works Reserve Fund for environmental improvement of Shing Mun River and another \$12 m funded by recurrent account for maintenance dredging of the river under a 3-year contract period. The contract works mainly utilize insitu bioremediation treatment technique to tackle the odour problem of the river. The works also comprise the monitoring of the sediment and water quality after bioremediation treatment for both the Stage 1 and Stage 2 works. The Stage 2 environmental improvement works commenced in May 2003 for completion by about July 2006.

Signature _____

Name in block letters T K TSAO _____

Post Title Director of Civil Engineering _____

Date 25 March 2004 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)032

Question Serial No.

1524

Head: 43 - Civil Engineering Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering

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

Question: In 2004-05, how much resources have been reserved by the Administration for the temporary construction and demolition materials recycling facility at Kai Tak? When will this facility be commissioned? What is the estimated period of its operation?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply: The Administration plans to let a short-term tenancy for a private enterprise to build and operate the temporary construction and demolition materials recycling facility at Kai Tak. Hence, it is not necessary to reserve any financial resources for the purpose. Subject to successful engagement of a private operator, this facility will be put into operation by early 2005. Its operation is estimated to last for 5 years.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ T K TSAO

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering

Date _____ 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.
ETWB(ET)033

Question Serial No.

Head : 44 Environmental Protection
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

0153

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

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

Question : It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2004-05 that the government will "continue to implement measures to further promote waste separation and recovery". What are the details of the plan involved? What are the staff resources and expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : In 2004-05, a team of 8 professional staff and 8 technical staff will continue to be involved in more than 15 waste separation and recovery programmes at a total cost of about \$15 million. These programmes include the extension of the dry and wet waste separation trial in housing estates in the Eastern District, promotion on recovery of wastes which are difficult to manage (e.g. waste tyres, electrical & electronic appliances) as well as recovery of glass bottles, plastic bottles and plastic bags.

To further enhance the public's awareness on waste separation and recovery, we would continue to implement various community awareness and education programmes among different target groups in 2004-05 at an estimated total cost of \$6.65 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.
ETWB(ET)034

Question Serial No.

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

0154

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

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

Question : Has any provision been allowed for in the Budget for staff resources required for the preparation and implementation of the vehicle tyre tax? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : We are still examining various options for introducing a mandatory product responsibility scheme for waste vehicle tyres, including imposition of a levy scheme for vehicle tyre. The staff resources required for the preparation of the levy scheme are already provided for in the current establishment of the Environmental Protection Department.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.
ETWB(ET)035

Question Serial No.

Head : 44 Environmental Protection
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

0155

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

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

Question : Why does the number of asbestos abatement plans processed increase significantly from 157 in 2003 to an estimated no. of 300 in 2004?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The estimated increase is due to a school asbestos survey programme under which the Architectural Services Department and Housing Department will, according to their current plans, conduct 150 asbestos surveys for schools in 2004. Hence, we estimate that the Environmental Protection Department will receive a total of around 300 asbestos abatement plans in 2004.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.
ETWB(ET)036

Question Serial No.

Head : 44 Environmental Protection
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

0156

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

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

Question : It is estimated that the work in handling smoky vehicles will reduce by about 10% in 2004 as compared to 2003 (based on the relevant indicator(s)). Will there be any corresponding re-deployment of staff resources? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : We regularly review the workload of the different areas of the department and adjust the deployment of our resources as appropriate, having regard to changing priorities and workload demand. In December 2003 a new Air Pollution (Emission Reduction Devices for Vehicles) Regulation came into effect. Since then staff resources equivalent to 0.5 inspectorate and 0.5 clerical staff under the smoky vehicle programme have been re-deployed to assist with some of the work arising from this new regulation. This work involves conducting on-road inspections of emission reduction devices as well as associated legislative enforcement and follow up work.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.
ETWB(ET)037

Question Serial No.

Head : 44 Environmental Protection
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

0196

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

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

Question : Will the work to be carried out in 2004-05 in seeking to maintain satisfactory air quality cover measures to improve indoor air quality? If yes, what are the details and the departmental staff resources and expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The work under the Air Programme includes programmes for promoting and improving indoor air quality. In 2004-05, EPD will continue to:

- (a) manage an Indoor Air Quality Information Centre to promote the importance of good indoor air quality and disseminate relevant information to the public as well as professionals; and
- (b) coordinate an Indoor Air Quality Certification Scheme that has commenced since September 2003. Under the Scheme, office buildings and public places meeting "good" and "excellent" levels can be issued a corresponding certificate by qualified personnel.

The budget for the above work in 2004-05 is \$0.725 million. The work is managed by and shared among 3 professional staff.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.
ETWB(ET)038

Question Serial No.

Head : 44 Environmental Protection
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

0197

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

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

Question : Is there any plan to introduce certain indicators for measuring the performance of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) in promoting indoor air quality improvement? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The Government has implemented a voluntary Indoor Air Quality Certification Scheme (Certification Scheme) since September 2003 to promote good indoor air quality among buildings used as offices and public places. Within the Government, the implementation of this Certification Scheme is coordinated by EPD. Under the Certification Scheme, office buildings and public places meeting "good" and "excellent" levels can be issued a corresponding certificate by qualified personnel. The number of certificates issued and public awareness of the importance of indoor air quality can reflect the successfulness of the Certification Scheme. So far, 24 and 2 certificates have been issued to buildings meeting "good" and "excellent" levels of indoor air quality respectively. In 2003, the Indoor Air Quality Centre responded to 600 enquiries and received 6,649 visitors. Furthermore 46,339 visitors browsed the web pages of the Indoor Air Quality Centre on Internet.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.
ETWB(ET)039

Question Serial No.

Head : 44 Environmental Protection
Department

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

0456

Programme : (7) Community Relations

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

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

Question : Under this Subhead 700, Item 567 is to enhance education and community involvement in waste reduction. What is included in this programme? Will it overlap with the projects supported by the Environment and Conservation Fund?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : This programme started in financial year 2002-03. A series of publicity, outreach and environmental education programmes have been organized to enhance public education and community involvement in waste recycling and recovery, including:

- (1) publicity programmes such as TV productions, development of education materials for the general public and cartoons for children;
- (2) outreach programmes using the Mobile Environmental Resource Centre;
- (3) production of environmental education kits to supplement school curricula for primary and secondary schools; and
- (4) provision of support to community groups in organizing waste recovery schemes.

The activities under this programme are mainly environmental awareness and education programmes which are different from those projects funded by the Environment and Conservation Fund, through which community groups carry out community waste recovery projects themselves.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.
ETWB(ET)040

Question Serial No.

Head : 44 Environmental Protection

Subhead (No. & title):

0457

Department

Programme : (6) Environmental Assessment and Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

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

Question : What are the major mechanisms for the cross-boundary co-operation between the HKSAR Government and the Mainland Government in environmental impact assessment and planning at present? What are the establishment and expenditure involved? What are the specific items for co-operation in the coming year 2004-05?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The major mechanism for cross-boundary co-operation between the HKSAR and the Mainland Government in environmental impact assessment (EIA) and planning is the Mirs Bay and Deep Bay (Shenzhen Bay) Areas Environmental Management Special Panel set up under the Joint Working Group on Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection. The Special Panel is co-chaired by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) of the Hong Kong SAR Government and the Shenzhen Environmental Protection Bureau. The Joint Working Group is co-chaired by the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works of the HKSAR Government and the Director of the Environmental Protection Bureau of the Guangdong Provincial Government. In addition, the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau and EPD have arranged exchanges with the State Environmental Protection Administration on EIA matter since this year.

The staff establishment in the EPD directly involved in cross-boundary EIA and planning works is 1 Senior Environmental Protection Officer, 2 Environmental Protection Officers and 1 Environmental Protection Inspector. The corresponding expenditure including both staff costs and operating expenses for the Financial Year 2004-05 is about \$ 2.24 million.

The specific items for cooperation on cross-boundary EIA and planning in 2004-5 are:

- to examine and exchange information on the findings of the environmental impact assessment studies, and any related design submissions, of cross-boundary projects, including the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge Hong Kong Section and North Lantau Highway Connection, Tonggu Channel of Shenzhen Port, Submarine Gas Pipeline from Cheng Tou Jiao Liquefied Natural Gas Receiving Terminal in Shenzhen to Tai Po Gas Production Plant in Hong Kong and Shenzhen Western Corridor;
- to conduct half-yearly regular audits on the implementation of action plans for the protection of Mirs Bay and Deep Bay environment; and
- to enhance the sharing of experiences, knowledge and practice with the State Environmental Protection Administration on EIA matters and co-operate on EIA training activities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.
ETWB(ET)041

Question Serial No.

Head : 44 Environmental Protection
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

0458

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

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

Question : Has provision been made in 2004-05 for the implementation of the landfill charging scheme for construction and demolition waste? If yes, what is the estimated expenditure? Will it involve additional staffing requirement? If so, what is the implication on the establishment?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The Environmental Protection Department is considering a proposal to upgrade the weighbridge computer systems and other associated infrastructures for the existing three landfills that are necessary for the implementation of the construction waste disposal charging scheme. The estimated cost is in the order of \$20 million. The department will re-deploy existing staff resources to implement the charging scheme and no additional staff resources are required.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title _____

Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.
ETWB(ET)042

Question Serial No.

Head : 44 Environmental Protection
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

0459

Programme : (4) Waste

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

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

Question : With regard to the number of prosecutions for illegal deposit of waste offences, there is a considerable difference between the actual figure of 87 in 2002 and the estimated figure of 25 in 2004-05, please give the main reason for the decrease. What is the establishment solely involved in the inspection and prosecution of illegal deposit of waste? Is there any decrease in manpower as compared with that in 2002?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The number of prosecutions for flytipping in 2004 is an estimated figure based on the actual figure in 2003. The decrease in 2003 is due to the fact that continual anti-flytipping surveillance and ambushes at blackspots in the past years have significantly deterred the illegal act and eliminated some of the blackspots. The Fixed Penalty system launched in 2002 also contributed partly to this reduction.

EPD pollution control staff are organized on a geographical basis to carry out multi-functional enforcement. As such, our control staff are constantly on the lookout for illegal dumping activities while going about other field duties. This arrangement is necessary as we need to catch the flytippers on the spot before we could initiate prosecution action. It is therefore not possible to quote a precise staff resource allocation to this function but there has not been any reduction in enforcement efforts in flytipping control as compared to 2002.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.
ETWB(ET)043

Question Serial No.

Head : 44 Environmental Protection
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

0463

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

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

Question : What is the progress of the study on emissions trading jointly carried out with the Guangdong authorities? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The Hong Kong SAR Government and Guangdong Provincial Government have agreed to study the feasibility of an emissions trading pilot scheme among some power stations in Hong Kong and in the Pearl River Delta Region. Under the Hong Kong - Guangdong Joint Working Group on Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection, a Special Panel on Pearl River Delta Air Quality Management and Monitoring has been set up, among other things, to study the feasibility of the emissions trading pilot scheme. Our target is to have the system under which the pilot scheme will run set up by 2006-07.

We have earmarked \$0.5 million to support the study through hiring of services and so far we have used \$0.15 million of it.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.
ETWB(ET)044

Question Serial No.

Head : 44 Environmental Protection
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

0464

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

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

Question : What is the expenditure in 2004-05 for implementation of the policy to improve indoor air quality? What are the major plans?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : A budget of \$0.725 million has been earmarked in 2004-05 for promoting and improving indoor air quality. It will cover the following:

- (a) manage an Indoor Air Quality Information Centre to promote the importance of good indoor air quality and disseminate relevant information to the public as well as professionals; and
- (b) coordinate an Indoor Air Quality Certification Scheme that has commenced since September 2003. Under the Scheme, office buildings and public places meeting "good" and "excellent" levels can be issued with a corresponding certificate by qualified personnel.

Further to the above, in 2004-05, this department will study the feasibility of controlling certain building materials and furnishing products that may affect indoor air quality. We will also work on a proposal to control the emission of volatile organic compounds from paints, printing ink and selected consumer products. This proposal will also help to improve indoor air quality.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.
ETWB(ET)045

Question Serial No.

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

0465

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

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

Question : The expenditure under Programme 1 for 2004-05 is 7% higher as compared to 2003-04, mainly due to the increase in payments for waste treatment arising from the increase in waste quantity with a likely improvement in the economy of Hong Kong as predicted by the Government. However, from the figures provided by the Government, it indicates that there will only be a slight increase in the quantity of waste treated at landfills and the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre. As such, would the Government explain in detail the reasons for the 7% increase in estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : Apart from the projected increase in waste intake due to an expected improved economy in 2004-05, the estimated increase of 7% in the expenditure under Programme 1 is mainly attributable to the inclusion of a contingency fund having regard to the many uncertainties in the estimation of waste quantities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.
ETWB(ET)046

Question Serial No.

Head : 44 Environmental Protection

Subhead (No. & title):

0466

Department

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

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

Question : Please inform this Council the quantity of various types of chemical wastes treated by the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre (CWTC) in Tsing Yi for the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05. How much do they account for the annual total handling capacity of the whole treatment centre? What is the amount of subsidies provided by the Government for each type of waste (please give a breakdown)? Does the Government have any plan to raise the handling charge for chemical wastes?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The breakdown of waste intake by category at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre in the past two years and the projection for the coming year is as follows:

Waste Type	2002 (tonnes)	2003 (tonnes)	2004 (estimate) (tonnes)
Spent etchants (Ammoniacal)	1650	2110	2280
Spent etchants (Non-Ammoniacal)	7700	1790	2020
Acids	2650	2640	2970
Toxic metal solutions	1250	1570	1770
Alkalis	1500	1280	1440
Solvents	2700	2770	3120
Land based waste oil	7150	6280	7050
MARPOL waste	27500	24070	27010
Others	350	290	340
Total	52450	42800	48000

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT J. S. LAW _____

Post Title _____ Director of Environmental Protection _____

Date _____ 25 March 2004 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.
ETWB(ET)047

Question Serial No.

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

0467

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

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

Question : How does the annual maximum handling capacity compare with the actual quantity of waste handled in the refuse transfer stations for 2003-04? At present, are the charges for handling wastes sent to refuse handling stations calculated on cost recovery principle? Does the Government need to provide any subsidies? If yes, what is the rate of subsidies in percentage?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The total design capacity of the refuse transfer stations is about 3.6 million tonnes a year. In 2003, the total quantity of waste handled in the refuse transfer stations was about 2.1 million tonnes.

In the early stages of refuse transfer development in Hong Kong, the refuse transfer stations only handled waste delivered by refuse collection vehicles of the former municipal councils. With the development of more refuse transfer stations, some refuse transfer stations have been opened to receive waste delivered by private waste collectors since 1998. The refuse transfer station charge rates are set to recover the full additional cost for providing waste transfer service to these private waste collectors.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title _____ Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.
ETWB(ET)048

Question Serial No.

Head : 44 Environmental Protection
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

0897

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

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

Question : The estimated expenditure on waste facilities of the Environmental Protection Department in 2004-05 is \$1,376.4 million, which represents a significant increase of 7.1% as compared to \$1,284.6 million in 2003-04. However, when compared to 2002, the quantities of all categories of wastes treated in 2003 were on the decline. Why is it still necessary to increase the expenditure by 7.1%? Out of the total estimated expenditure of \$1,376.4 million, how much will be used to promote waste reduction and recycling?

Asked by : Hon. CHU Yu-lin, David

Reply : Apart from the projected increase in waste intake due to an expected improved economy in 2004-05, the estimated increase of 7.1% in the expenditure under Programme 1 is mainly attributable to the inclusion of a contingency having regard to the many uncertainties in the estimation of waste quantities.

In 2004-05, it is estimated that a total of about \$6 million will be allocated for more than 15 programmes to promote waste reduction and waste recovery/recycling activities. These programmes include the extension of the dry and wet waste separation trial in housing estates in the Eastern District, recovery of wastes which are difficult to handle such as vehicle tyres and electrical & electronic appliances as well as trials on various new waste recovery systems.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.
ETWB(ET)049

Question Serial No.

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

0898

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

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

Question : It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2004-05 that feasibility studies will be commissioned on extension schemes for existing landfills. Will these studies include assessment of the costs and environmental impacts arising from acquisition of private land or expansion of the original reclamation scheme? If yes, what are the expenditure involved and staff resources deployed?

Asked by : Hon. CHU Yu-lin, David

Reply : In 2004-05, the Environmental Protection Department will commission feasibility and environmental impact assessment studies on the extension schemes for the three existing landfills. These studies will also provide detailed plans for land resumption and include the necessary site investigations for the development of the extension schemes. However, there is no reclamation requirement for any of the extension schemes proposed. An estimate of \$16.5 million has been included in the 2004-05 Capital Works Reserve Fund Block Allocation Subhead 5101DX for carrying out these studies. The department will re-deploy existing staff resources to manage the studies and no additional staff resources are required.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.
ETWB(ET)050

Question Serial No.

Head : 44 Environmental Protection
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

0899

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

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

Question : It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2004-05 that the Environmental Protection Department will enhance partnerships with district councils, green groups and community organisations to further promote waste reduction and recycling, and will involve the business community more in waste prevention and recovery through product responsibility schemes. How much staff resources and provision will be allocated for such work? Will community groups and organisations be given a certain amount of subsidies for joint promotion of related activities? If yes, what is the amount involved? Will a certain amount of the provision be reserved to support or encourage the business community to carry out waste reduction and recovery work? If yes, what is the amount involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHU Yu-lin, David

Reply : In 2004-05, a team of 8 professional staff and 8 technical staff (staff resources of \$8.5 million) will be deployed to work with district councils, environmental groups and community organisations to implement waste recovery projects including the extension of the dry and wet waste separation trial in the Eastern District and recovery of glass bottles, plastic bottles, plastic bags, rechargeable batteries as well as electrical and electronic appliances. The team will also work with various business sectors to examine means to implement product responsibility schemes for waste tyres and other products. The estimated expenditure for these programmes is about \$3 million.

To further enhance the public's awareness on waste recycling and reduction, we will continue to implement various publicity and education programmes targeting different stakeholders in the community. The total amount to be incurred on these programmes in financial year 2004-05 is estimated at \$6.65 million.

Community groups and non-profit-making organizations can apply to the Environment and Conservation Fund for grants to implement waste recovery schemes in the community. The amount of grant varies according to the nature and scope of each application.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title _____ Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.
ETWB(ET)051

Question Serial No.

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

0264

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

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

Question : What was the work carried out in 2003-04 to promote the waste separation and recovery scheme, its progress and the expenditure involved? How would the Environmental Protection Department assess the effectiveness of the scheme? Please provide the details and estimated expenditure of the scheme in 2004-05.

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply : In 2003-04, a team of 8 professional staff and 8 technical staff was involved in 16 waste separation and recovery programmes at a total cost of \$14.5 million (staff costs of about \$8.5 million and programme costs of about \$6 million). These programmes included the dry and wet waste separation trial in housing estates in the Eastern District, promotion on recovery of wastes which are difficult to manage (e.g. waste tyres, electrical and electronic appliances) as well as recovery of glass bottles, plastic bottles and plastic bags. To enhance the public's awareness on waste separation and recovery, we also implemented various community education programmes at a total cost of about \$7.42 million.

As regards effectiveness, the overall municipal waste recovery rate rose from 36% in 2002 to 41% in 2003. Also, the amount of plastic bottles, plastic bags, electrical and electronic appliances recovered all registered significant increases since the launch of the respective programmes.

It is estimated that the expenditure by the government on waste separation and recovery in 2004-05 would remain about the same as in 2003-04. Expenditure on education programmes would be reduced slightly to \$6.65 million due to a reduction in the frequency of direct outreaching activities and the provision of more technical advice and support for schools and community groups to organize their own activities on waste separation and recovery. We will also enhance the dissemination of waste reduction messages through the internet.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title _____

Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.
ETWB(ET)052

Question Serial No.

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

0266

Programme : (7) Community Relations

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

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

Question : With regard to the Visitors Centre and three Environmental Resource Centres of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), please list out the patronage, usage of various services provided and the expenditure of each centre in 2003-04. Does the EPD have any plan to set up more of such centres? If yes, please provide the details and list out their estimated expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply : The patronage, usage of services and expenditure of the Visitors Centre and the three Environmental Resource Centres (ERC) are provided below. The Visitors Centre provides information on Government's environmental protection work and programmes while the ERCs provide environmental education for the general public. We have no plans to set up new centres in the near future.

Item	Visitors Centre	Wan Chai ERC	Tsuen Wan ERC(1)	Fanling ERC(2)
Patronage in 2003	1,153 visitors	21,423 visitors	10,486 visitors	24,066 visitors from mid-Aug to Dec 03 (i.e. 64,176 visitors in full year as projected)
No. of education programmes/ guided visits organized in 2003	45	323	197	218 from mid-Aug to Dec 03 (i.e. 581 in full year as projected)
Annual Recurrent Expenditure (\$)M	\$0.06M	\$0.656M	\$1.029M	\$1.668M

Notes:

(1)The operation of the Tsuen Wan ERC from April 03 to March 05 has been contracted out to Green Power with funding from the Environment and Conservation Fund.

(2)The Fanling ERC has commenced operation since mid-August 03.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.
ETWB(ET)053

Question Serial No.

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

0270

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

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

Question : It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2004-05 that the department will complete the study on the treatment of animal carcasses. What are the details of the study and the estimated expenditure on the area concerned?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply : The study is to find out the appropriate facilities to be provided for treatment of animal carcasses. The estimated expenditure is \$6.4 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.
ETWB(ET)054

Question Serial No.

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

0518

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

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

Question : The financial provision for waste facilities in 2004-05 is \$1,376.4 million. Out of this provision, how much is estimated to be used in research work and what are the details of respective research projects?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

Reply : In 2004-05, about \$4 million will be allocated for consultancy studies to develop the Recovery Park in Tuen Mun Area 38 and to examine the recovery and recycling of wastes that are difficult to handle (e.g. waste tyres, electrical and electronic appliances) as well as means to further promote waste reduction and recovery.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.
ETWB(ET)055

Question Serial No.

Head : 44 Environmental Protection
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

1605

Programme : (7) Community Relations

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

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

Question : What is the effectiveness of the waste separation and recovery programmes for 2003-04? What are the details of the estimated development of the programmes in 2004-05? What is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply : Overall, the recovery rate for municipal solid waste in Hong Kong has risen from 36% in 2002 to 41% in 2003. The increase is mainly attributed to a surge in metal recovery in 2003 as a result of a strong demand for waste metals in the Mainland as well as increased Government efforts in promoting waste recycling. The amount of plastic bottles, plastic bags, electrical and electronic appliances recovered also registered significant increases in 2003.

In 2004-05, it is estimated that a total of about \$6 million will be allocated to more than 15 programmes to promote waste separation and recovery. These include the extension of the dry and wet waste separation trial in the Eastern District, continuation of programmes to recover wastes which are difficult to handle (e.g. plastic bottles, plastic bags, electrical & electronic appliances) and trials on various new waste recovery systems.

In support of the Government's programmes, the waste recycling campaign in housing estates organized by the Environmental Campaign Committee has now reached over 1,300 public and private housing estates covering some 5 million people. The amount of waste paper and aluminium cans collected under this programme in 2003 was 31% and 69% higher respectively than that collected in 2002, although there was a slight drop in the amount of plastic bottles recovered. The Environmental Campaign Committee will continue to support the Government's efforts in promoting waste reduction and recycling in financial year 2004-05. Funding for community groups to conduct waste reduction and recycling programmes will also continue to be made available through the Environmental and Conservation Fund. The amount to be made available will depend on the nature of individual applications.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.
ETWB(ET)056

Question Serial No.

Head : 44 Environmental Protection

Subhead (No. & title):

1606

Department

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

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

Question : Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2004-05:

1. It is mentioned that the government will "continue to implement measures to further promote waste separation and recovery". What are the details? What is the expenditure involved? How is it different from the "waste separation and recovery programmes" under Programme (7)?
2. What are the details for implementing the product responsibility schemes?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply : 1. In 2004-05, it is estimated that a total of \$6 million will be allocated to more than 15 programmes to further promote waste separation and recovery. These include the extension of the dry and wet waste separation trial in the Eastern District, continuation of programmes to recover wastes that are difficult to handle (e.g. plastic bottles, plastic bags, electrical & electronic appliances) and trials on various new waste recovery systems. These initiatives under Programme 1 are measures to promote waste reduction, separation and recovery under the Waste Reduction Framework Plan while the programmes on waste separation and recovery under Programme 7 aim to educate the general public and increase community awareness on waste reduction and recovery.

2. The Government is exploring how product responsibility schemes may be employed to manage wastes that are not commercially attractive for recycling such as vehicle tyres, batteries, electrical & electronic appliances and beverage containers. The Environmental Protection Department has been discussing with the relevant business sectors on possible means to implement product responsibility schemes in Hong Kong.

Concurrently, the Government is carrying out a series of regulatory impact assessments to examine the costs, benefits and impacts on stakeholders for different product responsibility options with a view to identifying preferred options. Stakeholders are consulted in the process. The first product being examined is waste tyres and the findings of the regulatory impact assessment would be available in mid 2004.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.
 ETWB(ET)057

Question Serial No.

Head : 44 Environmental Protection

Subhead (No. & title):

1391

Department

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

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

Question : Provision for fees for operation of waste facilities in 2004-05 is \$1,237,970,000, representing an increase of 8.9% over the revised estimate for 2003-04. Would the Administration provide:

- 1) a breakdown of the financial provision for this Subhead;
- 2) the quantity of wastes handled by individual waste facilities in the past two years and their estimated quantity in 2004-05 as well as their respective percentages of the annual handling capacity of individual wastes facilities;
- 3) Since the estimated quantity of wastes to be handled by strategic landfills and refuse transfer stations in 2004 will not have significant increase as compared to 2003, please explain why there is an increase of 8.9% in the estimated expenditure for fees for operation of waste facilities in 2004-05.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply : **For 1) and 2)**

The estimated expenditure for the operation of the waste facilities in 2004-05 and the quantities of wastes handled in the past two years and the coming financial year 2004-05 are as follows:

	Chemical Waste Treatment Centre	Refuse Transfer Stations	Landfills	Livestock waste composting service	Contingency	Total
1. Breakdown of 2004-05 financial provision for the Subhead on Fees for Operation of Waste Facilities (\$M)	345	375	430	14	74	1,238
2(a) Quantity of wastes handled (tonnage) :						
2002	52,400	2,128,397	7,722,647	7,744		
2003	42,800	2,102,523	6,481,394	7,425		
2004 (Plan)	48,000	2,100,000	6,500,000	8,000		
2(b) % of annual handling capacity of individual waste facilities :						
2002	52.4%	59%	N/A*	106%		
2003	42.8%	58%	N/A*	102%		
2004 (Plan)	48%	58%	N/A*	N/A		

* There is no design annual throughput capacity for landfills and therefore no comparison figure could be provided.

For 3)

Apart from the projected increase in waste intake due to an expected improved economy in 2004-05, the estimated increase of 8.9% in the expenditure for the operation of waste facilities is also attributable to the inclusion of a contingency having regard to the many uncertainties in the estimation of waste quantities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title _____

Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.
ETWB(ET)058

Question Serial No.

Head : 44 Environmental Protection

Subhead (No. & title):

1011

Department

Programme : (6) Environmental Assessment and Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

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

Question : The aim of this Programme is to "pre-empt environmental problems associated with projects, plans, policies and strategies by assessing their environmental implications and ensuring that effective preventive and mitigatory measures are implemented where potential problems are identified."

Does the scope of work of the Environmental Protection Department include the review of existing policies / strategies / regulations / guidelines etc. adopted by the Government and various departments to see if there are any underlying adverse implications or constraints on the environment, and the provision of solutions? If yes, please provide details of the review, the amount of provision set aside for this purpose and the staff resources required in 2004-05? If no, please give the reasons.

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

Reply : The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is not charged with the responsibility of independently reviewing or auditing existing government policies / strategies / regulations / guidelines, etc. The department does, however, have a role to play in advising on the potential environmental implications of proposed new policies, strategic plans, regulations, etc. when they are being formulated. The staff establishment in the EPD directly involved in strategic environmental assessment studies comprises 1 Senior Environmental Protection Officer and 2 Environmental Protection Officers. The corresponding expenditure including both staff costs and operating expenses for the Financial Year 2004-05 is about \$ 2.02 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.
ETWB(ET)059

Question Serial No.

Head : 44 Environmental Protection
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

1545

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

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

Question :

1. What is the estimated unit cost for handling one tonne of solid waste in landfills in 2004-05? Is there any increase or decrease as compared to that in 2003-04?
2. What is the proportion of the administration fee in the existing costs for waste treatment?
3. What is the current rate of waste recovery?
4. What was the amount of wastes recovered for recycling or reuse in the last financial year through recovery programmes jointly organised by the Government, district councils and community organisations? What is the amount of savings in waste treatment?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

1. The estimated unit cost for handling one tonne of solid waste in landfills in 2004-05 is about \$129 (including administrative cost) per tonne which is similar to that in 2003-04.
2. The administration fee in the existing cost for landfilling of waste is about 3%.
3. The overall recovery rate for municipal solid waste increased from 36% in 2002 to 41% in 2003. This increase of 5% was mainly attributed to a strong demand for waste metals in the Mainland and increased Government efforts in promoting waste recycling.
4. In 2003-04, a total of about 1300 tonnes of wastes (including paper, plastic bottles, clothes, aluminium and tin cans, electrical & electronic appliances, expanded polystyrene, plastic bags etc) were recovered through partnership programmes with District Councils and non-government organisations. If we use a landfill disposal cost of \$125 per tonne as basis, then there is a saving of some \$162,500.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title _____

Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.
ETWB(ET)060

Question Serial No.

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

0403

Programme : (7) Community Relations

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

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

Question : The provision under Programme 7 for 2004-05 is \$5.8M lower than the revised estimate for 2003-04, amounting to 14%, mainly due to the effect of reduced operating expenses and non-recurrent expenditure, but with only one post deleted. Please provide details of the expenditure cut and its impact on services and performance indicators concerned.

Asked by : Hon. WU king-cheong, Henry

Reply : The reduction of \$5.8 million is mainly due to the effect of the 2004-05 civil service pay cut (\$0.6 million), deletion of one Chief Environmental Protection Inspector post as a result of the Second Voluntary Retirement Scheme (\$0.4 million), reduced operating expenses on community relations activities (\$2.0 million), and a reduced requirement for non-recurrent expenditure on projects which have been completed or are nearly completed (\$2.2 million).

The reduction in spending on community relations activities will entail a reduction in the frequency of some outreaching activities, but this will be compensated by providing more technical advice for schools and community groups to organize their own environmental activities. We will also strengthen our lending service of environmental education materials and enhance the dissemination of updated environmental information through the internet.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(ET)061

Head : 48 – Government Laboratory Subhead (No. & title) Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Advisory and Investigative Services

1636

Controlling Officer : Government Chemist

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

Question :

The number of tests performed on air monitoring samples will be reduced from 119 551 (actual) in 2003-04 to 95 000 (estimate) in 2004-05. Would the Government inform us in detail:

- the reasons for the substantial deduction in the number of tests?
- whether other monitoring methods will be used to test the air quality?

Asked by : Hon. MAK Kwok-fung, Michael

Reply :

- The 119 551 tests conducted in 2003 included 13 051 tests done for ad hoc projects which are now near completion. The estimate for 2004 has not included such tests. Also, in 2003, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) requested for around 12 000 tests to be carried out for elemental analysis of total suspended particulates (TSP). EPD has estimated that in 2004 only 509 tests will be required because the elemental information required for TSP has been compiled. Updating the information base will not require the same amount of analytical work. Due to these two factors, the estimated number of tests for 2004 is 95 000.
- The reduction in the estimated number of tests will not result in less information about air quality. It is not necessary to replace them with other monitoring methods.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Dr D.G. Clarke

Post Title Government Chemist

Date 24.3.2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)062

Head :
60 Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) Question Serial No.

0113

Programme : (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : During 2004-05, the Highways Department will proceed with the investigation study of the Hong Kong Section of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and North Lantau Highway Connection. What is the estimated provision of the study and how will the provision be used?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

Reply : The Finance Committee approved upgrading of the project for investigation and preliminary design (I&PD) of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Section and North Lantau Highway Connection to Category A on 5.12.2003 with an approved project estimate of \$58.90 million in money-of-the-day prices. The estimate comprises consultancy fees of \$29.20 million, site investigation cost of \$25.74 million, and contingencies of \$3.96 million. The I&PD study has commenced in March 2004. Our estimated expenditure for the fiscal year 2004-05 is about \$48 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **MAK CHAI KWONG** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Highways** _____

Date _____ **24 March 2004** _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)063

Head :
60 Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) Question Serial No.

1739

Programme : (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : According to the information provided by the department, the planning study of the Regional Express Line is being finalized. What are the details of the planning and the construction schedule? What is the anticipated date of commissioning?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply : The Regional Express Line contemplated in the Railway Development Strategy 2000 now becomes the Hong Kong section of the proposed Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link. The Environment, Transport and Works Bureau of the HKSAR and the Ministry of Railways have set up a Joint Expert Group on the express rail link to take forward the strategic planning for the proposed infrastructure. The Joint Expert Group embarked on a joint investigative study on the feasibility of the express rail link, and has completed the first stage of the study which, among other things, confirmed the strategic value of the rail link. The findings were reported to the Mainland/HKSAR Conference on the Coordination of Major Infrastructure Projects (Coordination Conference) in September 2002. The Joint Expert Group has subsequently embarked on the second stage of the study, which examines issues such as rail technology, crossing points, economic and financial performance of the rail link. We will discuss with the Mainland authorities the best way to proceed with the proposed rail link upon finalisation of the feasibility study.

The Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link is a strategic cross-boundary infrastructure project. The Joint Expert Group has to consider a broad range of issues, including the town planning and transportation development on both sides. We hope to be able to complete the study as soon as possible.

As the study is still on-going, the implementation programme of the project has not yet been decided.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(ET)064

Head :
60 Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

1740

Programme : (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : What are the current planning schedules of the Shatin to Central Link, MTRCL West Hong Kong Island Line and South Hong Kong Island Line?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply : Railway Development Strategy 2000 envisaged the completion of the Shatin to Central Link by end 2011. This remains our working target.

MTRCL will submit a proposal on West Island Line and South Island Line to Government by the second quarter of 2004 for consideration. The Administration would then examine the proposal, negotiate with MTRCL and consult the public as soon as practicable.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **MAK CHAI KWONG** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Highways** _____

Date _____ **24 March 2004** _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)065

Head :
60 Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title Question Serial No.

1741

Programme : (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : Regarding the transport and planning studies with railway planning input provided by the Highways Department or consultants, please provide the contents and findings of the studies implemented/to be implemented in 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply : The details of the consultancies commissioned by Highways Department on railway planning in the calendar years 2002 to 2004 are as follows:

Study title	Scope	Present progress	Study recommendations
(1) Provision of technical assistance and advice on transport policy issues in relation to the feasibility study on MTRCL/KCRC merger	To provide transport technical data in respect of the design and operation of railway systems both locally and overseas	Substantially completed	As the Study only involves provision of technical data, the Consultant is not required to make any conclusion/recommendations.
(2) Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link – Technical and Institutional Study (Joint study with the Ministry of Railways)	To carry out preliminary study on the technical and institutional aspects of the Express Rail Link	In progress	As the Study is still on-going, its conclusion/recommendations have yet to be finalized.

Reply Serial No.

Question Serial No.

In order not to lose sight of railway planning issues and for better co-ordination of railway interfaces, we also provide railway planning input to other Government departments in respect of their transport and planning studies.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)066

Head :
60 – Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

0409

Programme : (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : Regarding the traffic noise mitigation measures, could the Government provide the details of projects to be commenced shortly and under construction. Besides, what are the total construction costs of the said measures and the average construction cost per item? Please provide a detailed breakdown of the locations and construction costs of the projects.

Asked by : Hon. Lau Kong-wah

Reply : In November 2000, the Government introduced administrative measures to address the noise impact of existing roads on residents in their neighbourhood by way of retrofitting of noise barriers and resurfacing with low noise material where practicable. We have identified 32 noisy road sections for the retrofitting programme and 72 local noisy road sections for resurfacing with low noise materials. The details of projects to commence shortly are tabulated as below -

1. Retrofitting of noise barriers

	Location	Estimated Commencement Date	Estimated Completion Date	Cost of Work (\$M)
1	Fanling Highway near Choi Yuen Estate	Aug. 2004	Dec. 2005	108
2.	Fanling Highway near Fanling Centre	Aug. 2004	Dec. 2005	67
3.	Cheung Pei Shan Road	mid 2005	mid 2007	245
4.	Ma On Shan Road	mid 2005	mid 2007	51
5.	Tuen Mun Road	end 2005	2011	383
Total :				854

As for the other retrofitting projects, the implementation programme and estimates of cost are currently under review.

2. The low noise resurfacing works for the 72 road sections costing about \$78 million either are under planning or has commenced. Of these, three road sections in Public Square Street, Embankment Road and Yim Po Fong Street were completed in 2003. It is expected that another 15 road sections shown below will be completed in 2004. The remaining road sections are under review.

Resurfacing works to be completed in 2004	Cost Estimate (\$M)
Hing Wah Street	0.71
Sai Yee Street	0.79
Fa Yuen Street	0.58
Mong Kok Road	1.05
Tonkin Street	0.84
Un Chau Street between Hing Wah Street and Tonkin Street	1.40
Un Chau Street between Tonkin Street and Yen Chow Street	0.60
Cox's Road	0.62
Oak Street	0.66
Whitty Street	0.27
Wong Nai Chung Road	0.70
Johnston Road	0.71
Queen's Road West between Western Street and Pok Fu Lam Road	0.50
Kingston Street	0.53
Queen's Road West between Des Voeux Road and Hill Road	0.73
Total :	10.69

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 25 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)067

Head :
60 Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) Question Serial No.

0410

Programme : (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : During 2004-05, the number of projects to be carried out by in-house staff is estimated to be 90, representing a total cost of \$8,550 million and an average cost of \$95 million per item. However, the total cost of the 192 capital projects under design and construction by consultants is \$115,000 million, representing an average cost of \$598 million per item. The average cost incurred by the consultants is much higher than that by the in-house staff. Please specify:

- a. the reason for the higher average construction cost incurred by the consultants than the in-house staff;
- b. the breakdown of the projects to be carried out by consultants and their company names.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : (a) Consultants are usually engaged for large scale and complex/specialized projects which inevitably incur higher construction costs than those being undertaken by in-house staff.

- (b) The following are some of the major assignments undertaken by consultants in 2004-05-

Consultancy Title	Consultants
Kam Tin Bypass - design and construction	Black & Veatch H.K. Ltd.
Castle Peak Road Improvement between Area 2 and Ka Loon Tsuen, Tsuen Wan design and construction	Mouchel / Halcrow Joint Venture
Central - Wan Chai Bypass and Island Eastern Corridor Link - design and construction	Maunsell Consultants Asia Ltd.
Route 9 between Tsing Yi and Cheung Sha Wan - Stonecutter Bridge - design and construction	Ove Arup & Partners HK Ltd.
Route 9 between Tsing Yi and Cheung Sha Wan - design and construction	Ove Arup & Partners HK Ltd.
Route 9 between Cheung Shan Wan and Sha Tin - design and construction	Maunsell Hyder Joint Venture

Consultancy Title	Consultants
Improvement to Tung Chung Road between Lung Tseng Tau and Cheung Sha - design and construction	Mott Connell Ltd.
Widening of Yuen Long Highway between Lam Tei and Shap Pat Heung Interchange - design and construction	Scott Wilson Ltd.
Tender and Construction of Improvement to Castle Peak Road between Ka Loon Tsuen and Siu Lam – tender and construction	Ove Arup & Partners HK Ltd.
Deep Bay Link - design and construction	Ove Arup & Partners HK Ltd.
Reconstruction and Improvement of Tuen Mun Road - investigation and preliminary design	Maunsell Consultants Asia Ltd.
Further Study on Reconstruction and Improvement of Tuen Mun Road – investigation	Maunsell Consultants Asia Ltd.
Shenzhen Western Corridor -design and construction	Ove Arup & Partners HK Ltd.
Improvements to San Tin Interchange – investigation	Maunsell Consultants Asia Ltd.
Improvements to San Tin Interchange - design and construction	Maunsell Consultants Asia Ltd.
Improvements to Island Eastern Corridor section between North Point Interchange and Sai Wan Ho - design and construction	Maunsell Consultants Asia Ltd.
Hong Kong - Zhuhai - Macao Bridge Hong Kong Section and the North Lantau Highway Connection Ecological Baseline Survey	Mouchel Asia Ltd.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)068

Head :
60 Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) Question Serial No.

0411

Programme : (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : What is the current progress of the construction of Kam Tin Bypass and New Boundary Bridge between Lok Ma Chau and Huanggang? In which quarter of 2004-05 will the remaining works be expected to complete? Besides, what is the actual expenditure of the construction?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : Works for the New Boundary Bridge between Lok Ma Chau and Huanggang are in progress and the bridge is targeted for commissioning in December 2004. The latest project cost is estimated to be \$300 million.

The construction works of Kam Tin Bypass is scheduled for completion in June 2004. The latest project cost is estimated to be \$181 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)069

Head :
60 Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

0412

Programme : (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : What are the details of the investigation study of the Hong Kong Section of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and North Lantau Highway Connection to be carried out in 2004-05? What is the expected completion date of the study?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : The Investigation and Preliminary Design Study for the Hong Kong Section of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) and the North Lantau Highway Connection (NLHC) has commenced in March 2004 for completion by end 2004. The scope of the study comprises an examination of alignment and design options, impact assessments in respect of, for example, the environmental, traffic, marine and aviation aspects, conceptual design of the Hong Kong Section of HZMB, preliminary design of the NLHC, and the associated site investigation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **MAK CHAI KWONG** _____

Post Title _____ Director of Highways _____

Date _____ 24 March 2004 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)070

Head :
60 Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) Question Serial No.

0414

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : During 2004-05, the Highways Department will assist in implementing road improvement works which are essential to the commissioning of the Ma On Shan to Tai Wai Rail Link and the East Rail Extension to Tsim Sha Tsui. What are the current progress and the estimated expenditure of these projects?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : To facilitate the commissioning of the Ma On Shan (MOS) Rail, four subways at Tai Wai Station, Che Kung Temple Station, Tai Shui Hang Station and Heng On Station, one footbridge at City One Station and two public transport interchanges (PTIs) at Tai Wai Station and Wu Kai Sha Station are being built.

The subway at Tai Wai Station has been completed and opened to public on 24.12.2003. Structural works of the remaining three subways and the footbridge have been substantially completed, and architectural builders' works and finishes are in progress. As for the two PTIs at Tai Wai Station and Wu Kai Sha Station, they are about 62% and 52% complete respectively. All works are scheduled for completion by end 2004 to tie in with the commissioning of the MOS Rail.

In addition to the above, we are also implementing the enhancement of pedestrian road crossing facilities and erection of traffic signs near MOS Rail stations. These works will be in place to tie in with the commissioning of MOS Rail.

The cost of these subways/footbridge and the two PTIs (under PWP Item Nos. 49TR and 47TR) are \$117.9M and \$92.1M respectively. The other improvement works are estimated to cost about \$2M.

A total of \$77 M has already been spent and the estimated expenditure for the financial year 2004-05 is about \$17M.

Regarding the Tsim Sha Tsui Extension (TST), a subway network under Mody Road, Hanoi Road, Blenheim Avenue, Signal Hill and Middle Road is being built to connect the new KCR East Tsim Sha Tsui (ETS) Station to the

existing MTR TST Station. Structural works for these subways have been completed. E&M, architectural and building finishing works, and the related road reinstatement works are now in progress. All works are scheduled for completion before end 2004 to tie in with the opening of the new KCR ETS Station.

The estimated construction cost of these subways funded under PWP Item No.48TR is about \$1.1B. A total of \$ 652 M has already been spent and the estimated expenditure for the financial year 2004-05 for these subway works is about \$0.2B.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)072

Head :
60 Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

0416

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : Regarding the employing of methods of automating data collection on road surface conditions to improve the cost effectiveness and efficiency of highway maintenance, what are the details and the level of expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : Automated data collection methods on road surface conditions include employing data capture device, video survey and ground penetration radar. These methods of pavement condition survey help enhance the prioritization of road maintenance works thereby optimizing the use of maintenance funds. The total estimated expenditure on these surveys is about \$15 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title _____ Director of Highways

Date _____ 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)073

Head :
60 Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

0417

Programme : (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : In 2000, the Administration promulgated the Railway Development Strategy 2000. During 2004-05, the Highways Department will assist in updating the rail expansion plan and carry out any necessary studies on new railway proposals. Since the study on MTRCL/KCRC merger is underway, there are changes in population growth and town planning in Hong Kong. Will the Highways Department review the Railway Development Strategy 2000 to give the public a picture of the future railway development in the territory?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : The Railway Development Strategy 2000 provides a strategic framework for the further expansion of Hong Kong's rail network. We monitor and review the need for, and timing of individual rail projects closely as and when more updated planning information are available. The review will take account of the changes in socio-economic and demographic data in the society including assumptions on population growth, employment, economic changes and future landuse planning. It is through this continuous monitoring and planning process that we determine the best network expansion plan that will bring the most benefit to the community as a whole. The latest progress of individual rail projects will be regularly reported to Members.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **MAK CHAI KWONG** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Highways** _____

Date _____ **24 March 2004** _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)074

Head :
60 Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

0418

Programme : (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : During 2004-05, the Administration will receive and assess proposal on the West Hong Kong Island Line Phase 1 and South Hong Kong Island Line. What is the schedule of promulgating the study details of the two projects?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : MTRCL will submit the proposal on the two projects to Government for consideration by the second quarter of this year. The Administration would then examine the proposal and consult the public as soon as practicable.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)075

Head :
60 Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

0419

Programme : (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : During 2004-05, the Administration will co-ordinate with the Mainland authorities on cross-boundary infrastructure development. What are the details? Will the Administration meet the relevant Mainland authorities on a regular basis to study the development?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : During the planning and construction of cross-boundary infrastructural projects, the Administration maintains regular liaison with the Mainland authorities. In the context of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor and the New Boundary Bridge between Lok Ma Chau and Huanggang, joint working groups and technical subgroups have been set up to discuss overall coordination of the projects as well as design and construction matters including standards, appearance and interfacing issues. Construction of both projects has started and the sub-groups have been meeting regularly to discuss technical and interfacing issues and monitor works progress.

In accordance with the approval of the State Council, the governments of Guangdong, HKSAR and Macao SAR have established a Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) Advance Work Co-ordination Group (Co-ordination Group) to take forward the advance work for the HZMB. The Co-ordination Group has recently commissioned a design institute to undertake the feasibility study for the Bridge. It will also set up a project office in Guangzhou shortly to undertake advance planning work for the Bridge. The three governments will continue to liaise closely with each other in the context of the Co-ordination Group to discuss issues related to the implementation of the HZMB.

In the context of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link, a Joint Expert Group with the Mainland side has been formed to conduct a joint investigative study on the feasibility of the express rail link. Under this Joint Expert Group, a Technical Group has been set up to study the technical issues.

The Joint Expert Group has completed the first stage of the study, and findings were reported to the Mainland/HKSAR Conference on the Co-ordination of Major Infrastructure Projects (Co-ordination Conference) in September 2002. The Joint Expert Group has embarked on the second stage of study which examines issues such as rail technology, crossing points, economic and financial performance of the rail link. We will discuss with the Mainland authorities the best way to proceed with the proposed rail link upon finalization of the feasibility study.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)076

Head :
60 Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

0420

Programme : (4) Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : In 2002 and 2003, the numbers of landscape submissions checked were 1 000 and 1 085 respectively, while the numbers of landscape cases designed/implemented were 2 400 and 2 052 respectively. Please account for the substantial decrease of the landscape submissions checked and landscape cases designed/implemented to 850 and 1 350 respectively this year. What will be the amount of savings achieved as a result?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : While we anticipate that landscape submissions from private developers in 2004 will remain steady, Highways Department (HyD) plans to handover to the Civil Engineering Department the design/implementation of the latter's landscaping projects which were previously undertaken by the Department.

The estimated savings, which is mainly staff costs, from a reduction in landscaping works to be undertaken by HyD is insignificant and will be redeployed for other work within the Unit.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **MAK CHAI KWONG** _____

Post Title _____ Director of Highways _____

Date _____ 25 March 2004 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)077

Head :
60 Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

0421

Programme : (4) Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : During 2004-05, the Administration will continue to adopt new technologies with a view to reducing public lighting maintenance cost. What are the details and the percentage of the maintenance cost reduced as a result of the adoption of the new technologies?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : In 2004-05, Highways Department will continue to replace the obsolete lanterns with modern lanterns which are dust-tight and water proof. The modern lanterns will require less frequent cleaning. We plan to replace all the obsolete lanterns in the next three financial years, which will reduce the cost of cleaning by about 10%.

Highways Department will also continue to replace less efficient lamps by modern lamps with lower lamp failure rate and longer service life. The modern lamps will require less frequent replacement. We plan to replace all the obsolete lamps in the next three financial years, which will reduce the cost of replacement of unlit lamps by about 10% and lamp failure cases will be reduced by about 2 500 annually.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **MAK CHAI KWONG** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Highways** _____

Date _____ **24 March 2004** _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)078

Head :
60 Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :
272 Electricity for public lighting

Question Serial No.

0422

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : The provision for electricity expenses for public lighting will be increased from \$150 million in 2003-04 to some \$180 million in 2004-05. As the provision for the expenses continued to rise, please specify:

- a. has the Administration reviewed the existing energy saving measures of public lighting?
- b. does the Administration pay all the electricity expenses for the ventilation equipment and lighting systems at bus termini? If so, will the Administration consider sharing the expenses with the operators of these bus termini?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : a. The Administration has reviewed constantly the existing energy saving measures of public lighting and the following measures have been implemented:

- i) to replace less efficient lamps and the associated obsolete lanterns with more efficient lamps and modern lanterns for conventional road lighting;
- ii) to replace electromagnetic ballast by electronic ballast to reduce energy loss for fluorescent lights used in footbridges, subways, etc.; and
- iii) to switch off the perimeter lighting for some Public Transport Interchanges (PTIs) during daytime.

- b. Currently, the Administration is responsible for the operation and maintenance, including both the electricity expenses for the ventilation equipment and lighting systems, of all the Government-owned PTIs. Since such PTIs are provided to meet the transport needs of the community and are used by passengers of different public transport operators and private car users, the Government does not have plans to ask the public transport operators to share the electricity expenses of the PTIs.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)079

Head :
60 Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

1581

Programme : (4) Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : Regarding the “adoption of new technologies with a view to reducing public lighting maintenance cost”, please specify—

- (a) the details of the work, the new technologies to be adopted and the amount of estimated expenditure;
- (b) the costs saved as a result and the amount of savings achieved.

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply : (a) In 2004-05, Highways Department will continue to replace the obsolete street lightings with modern lamps and lanterns which are more efficient, durable, water proof and require less frequent cleaning. We plan to replace 10 000 obsolete street lightings in the next three financial years at an estimated cost of \$15 million.

- (b) Replacement of all the obsolete street lightings in the next three financial years will reduce the cost of cleaning by about \$500,000 annually and the annual lamp failure cases by about 2 500, representing an estimated annual savings of \$250,000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)080

Head :
60 Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

0815

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : In improving the cost effectiveness of highway maintenance, please specify:

- (a) in 2003-04:
 - (i) the kinds of materials used to pave footpaths;
 - (ii) the area (in square metre) of footpaths paved;
 - (iii) the three materials most frequently used, their costs and service lives.
- (b) has the department planned to use recycled materials to pave footpaths? If not, what is the reason?
- (c) what are the cost and service life of recycled materials used as paving materials in footpaths?

Asked by : Hon. TANG Siu-tong

- Reply :
- (a) (i) Materials for footpath paving usually consist of concrete and paving blocks.
 - (ii) In 2003-04, the total area of footpath paved is about 335 000 m².
 - (iii) The costs and expected service lives of the three most frequently used materials are:

<u>Material</u>	<u>Unit Cost</u> <u>(\$/m²)</u>	<u>Expected</u> <u>Service Life</u>
Concrete	60-150	15-20 Years
Precast paving blocks	230	10 Years
High quality paving blocks	390	15 Years

- (b) Highways Department is keen to use recycled materials to pave footpaths. A trial on laying of concrete block pavers made with aggregates recycled from construction and demolition waste materials has been carried out on a section of footpath at Cheung Sha Wan Road and the results were satisfactory. We will continue to promote the wider use of recycled materials.
- (c) Concrete block paver made with recycled aggregates is a relatively new material and we only have limited practical experience with it. Based on our trial results and information gathered from the market, the cost and service life of concrete block pavers made with recycled aggregates should be similar to those made with virgin aggregates, which are 10 years at \$230 per square metre.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)081

Head :
60 Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

1414

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : Regarding the road drains,

- (a) how many exclusive road drains are designated as black spots? Please set out their exact locations. Besides, how does the Administration tackle these black spots?
- (b) what is the level of expenditure required for each inspection/cleaning of these black spots?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

- Reply : (a) There are 226 road drainage blackspots in the territory of which 79 are located on the Hong Kong Island, 85 in Kowloon and 62 in the New Territories. The department would install additional gullies as appropriate to relieve the flooding problem. Additional inspection and cleaning, on top of the regular scheduled ones, at the blackspots will be conducted prior to the onset of the rainy season. The department would also inspect these spots after heavy rain and carry out urgent cleaning work if necessary.
- (b) The average cost for inspecting/cleaning of road drainage blackspots is about \$3,000 to \$4,500 per location.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **MAK CHAI KWONG** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Highways** _____

Date _____ **25 March 2004** _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)082

Head :
60 Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

1415

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : The Administration anticipates that the estimated expenditure on highways maintenance in 2004 will be substantially higher than that in 2003. What is the reason?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : The increase in estimated expenditure on highways maintenance in 2004 is for the maintenance of newly completed highways and bus termini, including the widening of the Tolo Highway between Island House interchange and Ma Liu Shui interchange and eight newly completed public transport interchanges.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **MAK CHAI KWONG** _____

Post Title _____ Director of Highways _____

Date _____ 24 March 2004 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)083

Head :
60 Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

1416

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : The Administration anticipates that the estimated expenditure on roadside slope works in 2004 will be substantially higher than that in 2003. What is the reason? Besides, how many roadside slope will be incorporated into the project scope in 2004?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : The estimated increase in expenditure on roadside slope works in 2004 is for the implementation of a programme to enhance slope maintenance and a programme to provide safe access on slopes to facilitate inspection and maintenance to comply with the construction safety legislation. 90 slopes will be included in the former programme while 1 400 slopes will be included in the latter programme in 2004. These are new slopes on top of the 13 000 roadside slopes that Highways Department is currently maintaining.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **MAK CHAI KWONG** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Highways** _____

Date _____ **25 March 2004** _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)084

Head :
60 Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

1418

Programme : (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : Regarding the planning study, please set out –

- (a) the planning studies carried out by consultants in 2004 and the consultant fees for each study;
- (b) the titles of the transport and planning studies with railway planning input provided by the Highways Department in 2004 and their estimated expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : (a) The fees of consultancies commissioned by Highways Department on railway planning, with cashflow requirement in 2004, are as follows:

	Consultancy fees
Provision of technical assistance and advice on transport policy issues in relation to the feasibility study on MTRCL/KCRC merger	\$0.8m
Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link – Technical and Institutional Study	\$1.25m
Total	\$2.05m

- (b) Highways Department also provides railway planning input to other Government departments in respect of their transport and planning studies.

Our railway planning advisory services to other Government departments are undertaken by our in-house staff. No extra funding is required.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)085

Head :
60 Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

1419

Programme : (4) Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : The Administration indicates that it will adopt new technologies with a view to reducing public lighting maintenance cost. What are the details of these new technologies? What is the percentage of the estimated cost reduced?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : In 2004-05, Highways Department will continue to replace the obsolete lanterns with modern lanterns which are dust-tight and water proof. The modern lanterns will require less frequent cleaning. We plan to replace all the obsolete lanterns in the next three financial years, which will reduce the cost of cleaning by about 10%.

Highways Department will also continue to replace less efficient lamps by modern lamps with lower lamp failure rate and longer service life. The modern lamps will require less frequent replacement. We plan to replace all the obsolete lamps in the next three financial years, which will reduce the cost of replacement of unlit lamps by about 10% and lamp failure cases will be reduced by about 2 500 annually.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **MAK CHAI KWONG** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Highways** _____

Date _____ **25 March 2004** _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)086

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
(Environment and Transport Branch)

Question Serial No.

1751

Programme : (2) Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment and Transport)

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

Question : What is the progress related to the planning of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge as well as the breakdown of the expenditure thereof?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply :

In accordance with the approval of the State Council, the governments of Hong Kong, Guangdong and Macao set up a Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Advance Work Co-ordination Group (Co-ordination Group) in August 2003 to take forward the advance work for the Bridge.

The Co-ordination Group has recently commissioned a design institute to undertake the feasibility study for the Bridge. We expect that the study will be completed by end 2004 and the Co-ordination Group will submit the study report to the National Development and Reform Commission to seek approval for creation of a project item. The Co-ordination Group will set up a project office in Guangzhou shortly to undertake advance planning work for the Bridge.

The total cost of the feasibility study is to be equally shared among the three governments. HKSAR's share of the cost will be below HK\$15 million. Detailed arrangement for the project office in Guangzhou is being worked out by the Co-ordination Group. The cost to be incurred by the project office will be shared equally amongst the three governments.

Reply Serial No.

Question Serial No.

In parallel, HKSAR has commenced in March an Investigation and Preliminary Design (I&PD) study for the Hong Kong Section of the Bridge and its connecting infrastructure within the boundary of Hong Kong. The study is scheduled for completion by end 2004. The Finance Committee approved the upgrading of the I&PD study to Category A on 5 December 2003 with an approved project estimate of \$58.9 million in money-of-the-day prices.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS MARGARET FONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment and
Transport) (Ag.)

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)087

Question Serial No.

1752

Head: 158 – Government Secretariat: Subhead(No. & title):
Environment, Transport and
Works Bureau (Environment
and Transport Branch)

Programme: (2) Transport

Controlling
Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment and Transport)

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

Question: Please provide the list of franchised bus companies working jointly with the Administration for the deployment of environmentally-friendly buses. Does this involve any subsidies or financial support to the bus companies?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply: We have been working with franchised bus companies with bus routes operating along busy corridors for the deployment of more environmentally-friendly buses in such corridors. These franchised bus companies include the Kowloon Motor Bus (1933) Company Limited, Citybus Limited and New World First Bus Services Limited. The deployment of environmentally-friendly buses is made by the aforesaid franchised bus companies, and such arrangement does not involve provision of any subsidy or financial support to the bus companies.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS MARGARET FONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment and
Transport) (Ag.)

Date 25 March 2004

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

ETWB(ET)088

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
(Environment & Transport Branch)

Question Serial No.

1753

Programme : (2) Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment and Transport)

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

Question : What is the manpower and expenditure involved in the detailed planning and design of the Shatin to Central Link as well as the Kowloon Southern Link?
Is there a need to contract out the work?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : KCRC is fully responsible for the detailed planning and design of the Shatin to Central Link and Kowloon Southern Link at its own cost. We deploy internal resources to oversee the planning.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS MARGARET FONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment and
Transport) (Ag.)

Date 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)089

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
(Environment and Transport Branch)

Question Serial No.

0914

Programme : (2) Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment and Transport)

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

Question : The Administration will work jointly with the Mainland authorities on the development of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link. What is the estimated expenditure for 2004-05 in this regard? When will the study be expected to complete?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

The Environment, Transport and Works Bureau of the HKSAR and the Ministry of Railways have set up a Joint Expert Group on the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link to take forward the strategic planning for the proposed infrastructure. The Joint Expert Group has embarked on a joint investigative study on the feasibility of the express rail link, and has completed the first stage of the study which, among other things, confirmed the strategic value of the rail link. The findings were reported to the Mainland/HKSAR Conference on the Coordination of Major Infrastructure Projects (Coordination Conference) in September 2002. The Joint Expert Group has subsequently embarked on the second stage of study which examines issues such as rail technology, crossing points, economic and financial performance of the rail link. We will discuss with the Mainland authorities on the best way to proceed with the proposed rail link upon finalisation of the feasibility study. The work involved will be absorbed by the Railway Development Office of Highways Department.

The Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link is a strategic cross-boundary infrastructure project. The Joint Expert Group has to consider a broad range of issues, including the town planning and transportation development on both sides. We hope to be able to complete the study as soon as possible.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS MARGARET FONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment and
Transport) (Ag.)

Date 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)090

Question Serial No.

0915

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :700
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
(Environment and Transport Branch)

Programme : (2) Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment and Transport)

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

Question : For the traffic consultancy on road harbour crossings and the ticketing system for taxi access to Lok Ma Chau Control Point during the extended hours, when will they be expected to complete?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply : The consultancy study on road harbour crossings will be completed in 2004.

The review of the trial scheme of allowing Green Mini-buses and taxis to operate at the Lok Ma Chau Control Point during the extended hours (12:00 midnight to 6:30 a.m.) will be completed in 2004.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS MARGARET FONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment and
Transport) (Ag.)

Date 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)091

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
(Environment and Transport Branch)

Question Serial No.

0265

Programme : (2) Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment and Transport)

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

Question : It is mentioned in “Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2004-05” that the branch will formulate an objective and transparent fare adjustment mechanism for public transport services. What are the details of this mechanism and the timetable for its formulation? What is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

The proposed fare adjustment mechanism is based on a price-cap model. It would allow transport fares to go up or down in light of relevant factors including consumer price index and transport operators' input price changes in accordance with a specified formula.

We are now discussing details of the proposed mechanism with the relevant public transport operators with a view to achieving a mutually acceptable proposal. The formulation of the fare adjustment mechanism will entail consideration of possible impact of the mechanism on the economic benefits and operating costs of public transport operators, competition environment, interests of the passengers, the existing fare mechanism, etc. We have to examine the issues carefully in order to balance the interests of all relevant parties.

We have also specified the adoption of a more objective and transparent fare adjustment mechanism as a parameter for the negotiations by the two railway corporations on a possible merger.

Development of the fare adjustment mechanism is being handled by existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS MARGARET FONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment and
Transport) (Ag.)

Date 24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)092

Question Serial No.

0075

Head: 158 Government Secretariat: **Subhead(No. & title):**
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
(Environment and Transport Branch)
22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Department
42 Electrical and Mechanical Services
Department
43 Civil Engineering Department
44 Environmental Protection Department
60 Highways Department
100 Marine Department
118 Planning Department
186 Transport Department

Programme: (1) Environmental Protection and Conservation
(2) Transport

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment and Transport)

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

Question: Regarding consultancy studies for policy making and assessment (if any) commissioned by your bureau, please provide details in the following format:

(1) Please provide the following details on the consultancy studies for which financial provision has been allocated respectively in 2003-04:

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy Fees (\$)	Progress on consultancy Studies (planning/ in progress/ completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made (if available)	Whether study reports completed are publicized; if yes, their channels and if not, the reasons.

(2) Has financial provision been allocated for commissioning consultancy studies in 2004-05? If yes, please provide the following details :

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy Fees (\$)	Progress on consultancy studies (planning/ in progress/ completed)	Whether study reports scheduled for completion in 2004-05 will be publicized; if yes, their channels and if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

(1) The Environment, Transport and Works Bureau (Environment and Transport Branch) (ETWB(E&T)), Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD), Environmental Protection Department (EPD) and Highways Department (HyD) commissioned consultancy studies for policy making and assessment in 2003-04. Details are as follows:

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy Fees	Progress on consultancy studies (planning/ in progress/ completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made	Whether study reports completed are publicized; if yes, their channels and if not, the reasons.
Wilbur Smith Associates Limited	The study serves to collect data and conduct researches on Mainland and overseas experience in operating and managing tunnel and tolled roads with a view to exploring ways to optimise the utilization of road harbour	\$3.400M	Largely completed	The findings of the study have been reported to LegCo Panel on Transport in April 2003.	N.A.

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy Fees	Progress on consultancy studies (planning/ in progress/ completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made	Whether study reports completed are publicized; if yes, their channels and if not, the reasons.
	crossings. (ETWB(E&T))				
Hong Kong Productivity Council	Study on development of energy consumption indicators & benchmarks for Hospitals, Clinics, Universities, Schools, Hotels, Medium and Heavy Goods Vehicles (EMSD)	\$1.200M	Completed	The study has just been completed in March 2004 and the recommendations are being reviewed.	Uploading of the indicators and benchmarks onto the EMSD website for public access is being arranged.
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd.	Study on life cycle energy analysis of building construction (EMSD)	\$7.000M	In progress	The inter-departmental steering committee monitoring the progress and deliverables of the consultancy study, has recently endorsed the research report. The development work of the study is on schedule.	N.A.
Camp Dresser & McKee International Inc	Study on the potential application of renewable energy in Hong Kong (EMSD)	\$4.900M	In progress	Stage 1 study completed. The consultant's findings and recommendations are being reviewed. Stage 2 of the study is in progress.	Full stage 1 study report has been uploaded onto the EMSD website for public access since February

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy Fees	Progress on consultancy studies (planning/ in progress/ completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made	Whether study reports completed are publicized; if yes, their channels and if not, the reasons.
				Technical data will be collected until mid 2004.	2003.
Parsons Brinckerhoff (Asia) Limited	Implementation study for water-cooled Air-conditioning systems at Wan Chai and Causeway Bay – Investigation (EMSD)	\$3.800M	In progress	N.A.	N.A.
Parsons Brinckerhoff (Asia) Limited	Territory-wide implementation study for water-cooled air conditioning systems in Hong Kong (EMSD)	\$11.126M	Completed	The study was completed in April 2003. The findings and recommendations were presented to the LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs in July 2003 and supported in principle by the Panel. The administration will formulate an implementation plan for the wider use of water-cooled air-conditioning	The executive summary was posted onto the EMSD website in August 2003 for public consultation. Major stakeholders were also invited by letters to comment on the study findings.

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy Fees	Progress on consultancy studies (planning/ in progress/ completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made	Whether study reports completed are publicized; if yes, their channels and if not, the reasons.
				systems.	
Crow Maunsell Management Consultants	Regulatory Impact Assessment on Product Responsibility Schemes for Vehicle Tyres and Batteries (EPD)	\$0.898M	In progress (started in October 2003)	N.A.	N.A.
MVA Hong Kong Ltd	Provision of technical assistance and advice on transport policy issues in relation to the Feasibility Study on MTRCL/KCRC Merger (HyD)	\$0.800M	Substantially completed	Invited MTRCL and KCRC to commence negotiation on a possible merger.	The consultant's advice on the pros and cons of a merger has been incorporated in the concerned LegCo Brief issued on 24.2.2004.
Mott Connell Limited	Feasibility study for contracting out road maintenance to private sector in the form of Public Private Partnership and drafting	\$0.800M	Largely completed	Some proposals from the consultant have been incorporated into the recent maintenance contracts on a trial basis.	N.A.

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy Fees	Progress on consultancy studies (planning/ in progress/ completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made	Whether study reports completed are publicized; if yes, their channels and if not, the reasons.
	standard Public Private Partnership contract (HyD)				

For other departments, there have been no provisions for conducting such consultancy studies in 2003-04.

- (2) Proposed provisions have been included in the Estimates for continuing three studies by EMSD, one study by EPD and one study by HyD in 2004-05. Details are as follows:

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy Fees	Progress on consultancy studies (planning/ in progress/ completed)	Whether study reports scheduled for completion in 2004-05 will be publicized; if yes, their channels and if not, the reasons.
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd.	Study on life cycle energy analysis of building construction (EMSD)	\$7.000M	In progress	The study results will be uploaded onto the EMSD website. Briefings and seminars will also be organized for the professional institutions.

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy Fees	Progress on consultancy studies (planning/ in progress/ completed)	Whether study reports scheduled for completion in 2004-05 will be publicized; if yes, their channels and if not, the reasons.
Camp Dresser & McKee International Inc	Study on the potential application of renewable energy in Hong Kong (EMSD)	\$4.900M	In progress	Full study report will be released to the community for information.
Parsons Brinckerhoff (Asia) Limited	Implementation study for water-cooled air-conditioning systems at Wan Chai and Causeway Bay – Investigation (EMSD)	\$3.800M	The study is near completion. The administration will consult the public in due course.	The executive summary will be posted onto the EMSD website for public consultation. Major stakeholders will be invited by letters to comment on the Study findings.
Crow Maunsell Management Consultants	Regulatory Impact Assessment on Product Responsibility Schemes for Vehicle Tyres and Batteries (EPD)	\$0.898M	In progress	The stakeholders will be consulted on the recommendations of the study through seminars and briefings.

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy Fees	Progress on consultancy studies (planning/ in progress/ completed)	Whether study reports scheduled for completion in 2004-05 will be publicized; if yes, their channels and if not, the reasons.
MVA Hong Kong Ltd	Provision of technical assistance and advice on transport policy issues in relation to the Feasibility Study on MTRCL/KCRC Merger (HyD)	\$0.800M	Substantially completed	The consultant's advice on the pros and cons of a merger has been incorporated in the concerned LegCo Brief issued on 24.2.2004.

For other departments, there have been no provisions for conducting such consultancy studies in 2004-05.

Signature _____
Name in block letters MISS MARGARET FONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment and Transport) (Ag.)

Date 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(ET)093

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
(Environment and Transport Branch)

Question Serial No.

1078

Programme : (2) Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment and Transport)

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

Question : Concerning the formulation of an objective and transparent fare adjustment mechanism for public transport services, what is the progress so far? What specific work had been carried out by the Government in 2003-04? According to the progress at present, when will the mechanism be finalized and implemented?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

The proposed fare adjustment mechanism is based on a price-cap model. It would allow transport fares to go up or down in light of the relevant factors including consumer price index and transport operators' input price changes in accordance with a specified formula. We briefed the Legislative Council Panel on Transport on this proposal on 1 August 2003.

We are now discussing details of the proposed mechanism with the relevant public transport operators with a view to achieving a mutually acceptable proposal. The formulation of the fare adjustment mechanism will entail consideration of possible impact of the mechanism on the economic benefits and operating costs of public transport operators, competition environment, interests of the passengers, the existing fare mechanism, etc. We will continue our efforts to examine the issues carefully in order to balance the interests of all relevant parties.

We have also specified the adoption of a more objective and transparent fare adjustment mechanism as a parameter for the negotiations by the two railway corporations on a possible merger.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS MARGARET FONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment and
Transport) (Ag.)

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)094

Question Serial No.

1079

Head :158 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title): 700 General non-recurrent
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
(Environment and Transport Branch)

Programme : (2) Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment and Transport)

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

Question : Regarding 007 – “Traffic consultancy on optimizing the utilisation of road
harbour crossings” under Subhead 700, what is the progress of it? What
results have been achieved so far? When will the entire study be expected to
complete?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply : The study on optimising utilisation of road harbour crossings is largely completed.
We have collected information on the management of toll roads in the Mainland and in
other countries. The study will be completed in 2004.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MISS MARGARET FONG

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment and
Transport) (Ag.)

Date _____ 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)095

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
(Environment and Transport Branch)

Question Serial No.

0807

Programme : (2) Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment and Transport)

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

Question : The Administration will review the current regulatory system for cross-boundary traffic in 2004-05. What are the details? What benefits does it have in terms of economic interest and public expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply :

The cross-boundary vehicle quota system, which is jointly administered by the HKSARG and the Mainland authorities, aims to regulate cross-boundary traffic to ensure that our land crossings are not overloaded, and to facilitate smooth cross-boundary freight traffic flow, which is vital to Hong Kong's economy. Under this system, except for goods vehicles, all cross-boundary vehicles are subject to quota control.

There has been significant growth in cross-boundary traffic in the past few years. To cope with the growing demand, the Government has been continuously upgrading facilities at our control points and streamlining clearance procedures to improve clearance capacity. Together with the Mainland authorities, we are reviewing the quota system on a regular basis and will grant additional quotas having regard to the handling capacity of our control points and the traffic demand.

The completion of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor will improve our capacity in handling cross-boundary traffic and provide room for relaxing the present quota system. We are examining the possible options and will discuss the issue with the Mainland authorities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS MARGARET FONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment and
Transport) (Ag.)

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)096

Head :158 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
(Environment and Transport Branch)

0423

Programme: (2) Transport

Controlling Officer :Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment and Transport)

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

Question :The Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor will be commissioned in 2005 and the Administration will continue to oversee the progress of the project in 2004-05. What is the progress at present?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

Construction of the Hong Kong – Shenzhen Western Corridor commenced in August 2003 and is progressing on schedule. As at February 2004, about 23% of the works has been completed.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS MARGARET FONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment and
Transport) (Ag.)

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)097

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
(Environment and Transport Branch)

Question Serial No.

0424

Programme : (2) Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment and Transport)

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

Question : For the development of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link, what is the progress of the discussion with the Mainland authorities? Will the Administration consult the public on the development of the railway project?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : The Environment, Transport and Works Bureau of the HKSAR and the Ministry of Railways have set up a Joint Expert Group on the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link to take forward the strategic planning for the proposed infrastructure. The Joint Expert Group has embarked on a joint investigative study on the feasibility of the express rail link, and has completed the first stage of the study which, among other things, confirmed the strategic value of the rail link. The findings were reported to the Mainland/HKSAR Conference on the Coordination of Major Infrastructure Projects (Coordination Conference) in September 2002. The Joint Expert Group has subsequently embarked on the second stage of the study which examines issues such as rail technology, crossing points, economic and financial performance of the rail link. We will discuss with the Mainland authorities on the best way to proceed with the proposed rail link upon finalisation of the feasibility study. We will report to the Legislative Council after the study has been completed and confirmed by the Coordination Conference.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS MARGARET FONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment and
Transport) (Ag.)

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)098

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
(Environment and Transport Branch)

Question Serial No.

0425

Programme : (2) Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment and Transport)

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

Question : Advance preparatory work for the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge is in progress. What are the details? Will the Administration consult the public on the work and make it more transparent?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

In accordance with the approval of the State Council, the governments of Hong Kong, Guangdong and Macao set up a Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Advance Work Co-ordination Group (Co-ordination Group) in August 2003 to take forward the advance work for the Bridge.

The Co-ordination Group has recently commissioned a design institute to undertake the feasibility study for the Bridge. We expect that the study will be completed by end 2004 and the Co-ordination Group will submit the study report to the National Development and Reform Commission to seek approval for creation of a project item. The Co-ordination Group will set up a project office in Guangzhou shortly to undertake advance planning work for the Bridge.

In parallel, we will conduct an Investigation and Preliminary Design study for the Hong Kong Section of the Bridge and its connecting infrastructure within the boundary of Hong Kong. The study has commenced in March for completion by end 2004.

Since August 2003, we have consulted the Legislative Council, the Advisory Council on the Environment and the Transport Advisory Committee on the Bridge project on several occasions. We will continue to do so at suitable junctures in the future.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS MARGARET FONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment and
Transport) (Ag.)

Date 24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)099

Question Serial No.

0426

Head 158 – Government Secretariat:
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
(Environment and Transport Branch)

Subhead (No.& title): 000
Operational Expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment and Transport)

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

Question: The provision for general departmental expenses in 2003-04 was \$11,057,000. However, in 2004-05, it will be \$13,800,000, which is 24.8% higher than that of 2003-04. Please advise the reasons for the increase and the expenditure components.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply: The increase of 24.8% or \$2.7 million is mainly to meet the projected increase in operating expenditure arising from a number of projects such as public opinion survey on environmental responsibility, Construction Waste Disposal Charging Bill, Road Safety Campaign and possible merger of Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation and MTR Corporation Limited. The expenditure includes advertising and publicity, hire of services, copying and printing, etc.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

MISS MARGARET FONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment and Transport) (Ag.)

Date _____

24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)100

Question Serial No.

0904

Head: 158 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. &
Environment, Transport and title):
Works Bureau (Environment and
Transport Branch)

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment and Transport)

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

Question:

Regarding policy research projects and the expenditure involved, please provide detailed information on the policy research projects commenced or being conducted by the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau (Environment and Transport Branch) itself or with the funding of the Branch in 2003-04, including

- 1) project title, objective and subject matter;
 - 2) expenses;
 - 3) latest progress;
 - 4) whether the Administration has followed up on the research results.
- Also, is there any provision earmarked for policy research in 2004-05? If yes, what is the amount? What are the objectives and subject matters of the respective projects?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply: Our major task is to formulate and co-ordinate policies in respect of areas under our purview. To achieve this, we carry out extensive and intensive research into these areas using as far as possible information available and with inhouse resources. In view of the wide range and the large amount of such research work, it is impossible to list each and every task. If consultants are used, we have prepared a breakdown in response to a separate question on that particular subject. Details of the more important items for ongoing work and new initiatives are listed in the Policy Agenda accompanying the CE's policy addresses and highlighted in the Controlling Officer's report. It is impossible to give a breakdown on expenditure for each of these items as we have not conducted detailed costing work

for each of them. However, we have provided an indication of the expenditure involved in each of our programmes in the Controlling Officer's report. If after research, consultation and deliberation, a new policy should be introduced, we shall consult the relevant panel of the Legislative Council.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS MARGARET FONG

Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment and
Post Title Transport) (Ag.)

Date 25 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)101

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
(Environment and Transport Branch)

Question Serial No.

0008

Programme : (2) Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment and Transport)

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

Question : The Administration indicates that it will work jointly with franchised bus companies for the deployment of environmentally-friendly buses along busy corridors. Is there any financial provision for the deployment? If there is, what is the amount?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply : We have been working with franchised bus companies to deploy more environmentally-friendly buses to operate in busy corridors. As deployment of environmentally-friendly buses is made by franchised bus companies and our work with the companies is undertaken by existing staff, there is no financial provision for the Government for such deployment.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS MARGARET FONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment and
Transport) (Ag.)

Date 24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)102

Question Serial No.

0836

Head 158 – Government Secretariat: Environment,
Transport and Works Bureau (Environment
and Transport Branch)

Subhead (No.& title): 000
Operational Expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment and Transport)

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

Question:

Please list the revised estimate for duty visits outside Hong Kong in 2003-04 for the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works and the Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment and Transport), with particulars of : (1) the purposes and details of the visits; (2) the main means of public transport and related expenses for the visits; (3) board and lodging expenses for the visits. What is the corresponding estimated expenditure for 2004-05? Has the Administration laid down a ceiling on the amount of allowances that can be granted and a set of criteria for approving such allowances?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply:

There is no breakdown of expenditure on duty visits outside Hong Kong for the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (SETW) and the Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment and Transport) (PSET) since both of them from time to time went on the same visits or with other officials. The purposes of the visits varied, which included meetings with other Government officials on general or specific issues, and participation in conferences. Transportation would depend on the distance and mode of transport available. The revised estimate for travelling and board and lodging expenses for duty visits outside Hong Kong in which SETW and PSET participated in 2003-04 is \$100,000.

It is estimated that the travelling and board and lodging expenses for duty visits outside Hong Kong in which SETW and PSET will participate in 2004-05 will be at about the same level as in the current year.

Under the current policy, an officer who is on duty outside Hong Kong may be granted a subsistence allowance at specified daily rates to cover the cost of the appropriate standard of accommodation and meals, laundry charges, gratuities, travelling expenses within town and all minor incidental out-of-pocket expenses. The rates of the subsistence allowance differ from country to country to take into account the different costs in different countries. The amount of allowance paid is abated in case of sponsorship of hotel accommodation or in cash.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS MARGARET FONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment and Transport) (Ag.)

Date 24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)103

Question Serial No.

0838

Head 158 – Government Secretariat:
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
(Environment and Transport Branch)

Subhead (No.& title): 000
Operational Expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment and Transport)

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

Question:

Please provide a breakdown of the provision for entertainment expenses to be incurred by the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works and the Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment and Transport), such as hosting receptions, in the revised estimate for 2003-04 and the estimate for 2004-05. Has the Government set an upper limit for such expenses? Are there any objective criteria for approving such expenses?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply:

There is no breakdown of the entertainment expenses for the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works and the Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment and Transport) since both of them would have attended the same functions together and with other officers on a number of occasions. An estimate for the Environment and Transport Branch can however be provided. The revised estimate for official entertainment of the Environment and Transport Branch in 2003-04 is approximately \$150,000. It is estimated that the official entertainment of the Environment and Transport Branch in 2004-05 will be at about the same level as in the current year.

Under the current policy, expenditure on entertainment may be charged to public funds only when it is directly related to the discharge of an officer's duties or is a necessary part of making or maintaining contacts in his official capacity, and is in the public interest. All such expenditure must be approved by the head or deputy head of the bureau or department personally, or by a directorate officer duly authorised by the head of department.

There are Civil Service Regulations and general guidelines issued by the Director of Administration governing the charging of the entertainment expenses to public funds.

Signature _____

Name in block
letters MISS MARGARET FONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment and Transport) (Ag.)

Date 24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)104

Question Serial No.

1298

Head: 158 Government Subhead (No. &
Secretariat: Environment, title):
Transport and Works Bureau
(Environment and Transport
Branch)

Programme:

Controlling Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
Officer: (Environment and Transport)

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

Question:

The 2004 Policy Address has mentioned about the need to raise the standard of policy research undertaken by the Government:

“To improve our governance, we must raise the level of sophistication with which both the Government and the community handle policy issues. We need to do more public policy research, particularly from a macro and long-term perspective. Objective and concrete public policy research will help us better realise the objectives of effective governance. It will help us avoid sweeping, politicised and emotional policy debates, thus making it easier for the Government and various sectors of the community to reach a consensus on public issues. This will ensure that our policies are implemented more effectively and better able to serve the long-term development needs of Hong Kong.”

Please advise whether provision has been made or resources deployed in the 2004-05 Estimates to take forward a stated commitment of the Policy Address that public policy matters will be pursued with a higher standard. If yes, please give a detailed account of the projects funded. If not, what are the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply:

We have all along been undertaking policy studies internally in an objective, impartial and comprehensive manner which meets the objective set by CE even though funds have not been earmarked for this specifically.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS MARGARET FONG

Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment and
Post Title Transport) (Ag.)

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)105

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) :
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
(Environment and Transport Branch)

Question Serial No.

1721

Programme : (2) Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment and Transport)

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

Question :

What is the specific arrangement for the study regarding the development of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link carried out jointly with the relevant Mainland Authority? How much is the planned provisions?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

The Environment, Transport and Works Bureau of the HKSAR and the Ministry of Railways have set up a Joint Expert Group on the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link to take forward the strategic planning for the proposed infrastructure. The Joint Expert Group has embarked on a joint investigative study on the feasibility of the express rail link, and has completed the first stage of the study which, among other things, confirmed the strategic value of the rail link. The findings were reported to the Mainland/HKSAR Conference on the Coordination of Major Infrastructure Projects (Coordination Conference) in September 2002. The Joint Expert Group has subsequently embarked on the second stage of study which examines issues such as rail technology, crossing points, economic and financial performance of the rail link. We will discuss with the Mainland authorities on the best way to proceed with the proposed rail link upon finalisation of the feasibility study. The work involved will be absorbed by the Railway Development Office of Highways Department.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

MISS MARGARET FONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment and
Transport) (Ag.)

Date _____

24 March 2004

- (b) No resources were set aside for the scheme in the Approved Estimates 2003-04 as the decision to implement the scheme was taken after the Draft Estimates were prepared. The actual expenditure for the scheme in 2003-04 was \$0.8 million, of which \$0.32 million was funded under item 011. The rest was funded through savings in other areas and by the Transport Department. We have included a provision of \$0.78 million for 2004-05.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>MISS MARGARET FONG</u>
Post Title	<u>Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment and Transport) (Ag.)</u>
Date	<u>25 March 2004</u>

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(ET)107

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

1113

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : How many staff members are involved and what are the expenses for the issuance of Group 1 (Private Car and Light Goods Vehicle) Private Driving Instructors' Licence? What are the detailed arrangements of the exercise?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : The exercise to issue 173 Group 1 Private Driving Instructors' (PDI) licences commenced in December 2002. Four contract staff were deployed for one year at a cost of about \$0.4 million. This staff cost and other administrative costs were absorbed by the Transport Department.

Under the exercise, eligible applicants were invited to take the Group 1 PDI test according to their balloted priority number. The test is divided into two parts: written test and road test. Applicants who pass both parts would be issued with a Group 1 PDI licence. The exercise would stop when all the 173 licences are issued. Up to 20 March 2004, 170 licences have been issued.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 24 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(ET)108

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

1114

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : What are the implementation details of the seat belt legislation for public light bus and the expenditure items for implementation?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : In view of the relatively high accident rate and the rear seat casualty rate of public light buses (PLB) compared to other types of vehicles, new safety measures are considered necessary to further protect PLB passengers. Two amendment Regulations, viz. Road Traffic (Construction and Maintenance of Vehicles) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulation 2002 and Road Traffic (Safety Equipment) (Amendment) Regulation 2002, which set out the safety standards required for the installation of passenger protection equipment on new PLBs including seat belts and impact energy absorption high back seats, were passed by the Legislative Council in November 2002. The new amendment Regulations will take effect on 1 August 2004 so as to give the vehicle manufacturers sufficient lead-time to develop the new safety equipment. New PLBs registered on or after 1 August 2004 must comply with the new legislation.

No additional expenditure is required for implementation of the new legislation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 24 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(ET)109

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

Question Serial No.

Programme: (1) Planning and Development

1339

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : In relation to Programme (1), the number of licences estimated to be granted or extended for licensed ferry services in 2004 is 86, which compares less with the past. What is the reason?

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply : Since the validity period of ferry service licences may vary and the expiry dates of the licences differ, the number of licences estimated to be extended in different years may not be the same. Although the number of licences to be extended in 2004 is smaller than the actual figure in 2003, the total number of valid ferry licences as at March 2004 is 108, which is the same as in 2003.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 24 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(ET)110

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

1340

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : According to Programme (1), the number of bus-bus interchange (BBI) schemes to be implemented in 2004 is 23, which is less than that in 2002. What are the reasons? What are the details of the 23 BBI schemes?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply : As at end 2003, there were 120 BBI schemes in operation involving 373 bus routes. The Government encourages the bus companies to formulate more BBI schemes in order to improve bus network efficiency and to improve traffic and environment in busy corridors. In formulating the BBI schemes, the bus companies take into account factors such as scope of a scheme to improve network coverage and efficiency, operational and financial implications and suggestions from the public. Owing to variations of these factors, the number of BBI schemes planned for each year may differ.

—
The 23 BBI schemes planned for 2004 involve 83 routes with fare discounts ranging from \$2.7 to \$5.1.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 24 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(ET)111

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

Question Serial No.

Programme: (1) Planning and Development

1341

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Under Programme (1), the Government has indicated to continue to facilitate the conversion of diesel public light buses (PLBs) to environmentally-friendly models. In 2003, what was the percentage of environmentally-friendly PLBs in terms of the total fleet?

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

As at end 2003, there were 642 liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) PLBs, representing about 15% of the total PLB fleet size of 4 350.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 24 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(ET)112

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

1342

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Government is upgrading the VALID system to a web-based VALID IV. Has Government estimated the life span of VALID IV?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply : We expect VALID IV to have a life span of at least ten years.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)113

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

1343

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : To ease traffic congestion in the Central Business District, the Administration will implement additional traffic improvement proposals in 2004-05. Please provide details.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply : The following traffic improvement schemes for the Central Business District will be implemented in 2004-05:

- (a) To enhance the ground-level traffic flow to Sheung Wan, the westbound carriageway of Connaught Road Central near its junction with Gilman Street will be widened to provide an additional traffic lane. Works are scheduled for completion in mid-2004.
- (b) An additional northbound traffic lane will be provided on Cotton Tree Drive outside Bank of America Tower to enhance the traffic flow to eastbound Harcourt Road. Works are scheduled to be completed in mid-2004.
- (c) Traffic signals will be installed at the junction of Man Kat Street and the eastbound downramp of Rumsey Street Flyover in order to reduce weaving / conflicting movements of vehicles and enhance the traffic flow on eastbound Connaught Road Central. Works are scheduled to be completed in mid-2004.
- (d) To relieve the traffic pressure on Jackson Road and to provide an additional access for the vehicles on Chater Road / Lambeth Walk to Connaught Road Central, the traffic along Murray Road between Connaught Road Central and Chater Road will be re-routed from southbound to northbound. Related works are scheduled to be completed in late 2004.
- (e) The bus bay on Connaught Road Central eastbound outside Jardine House will be widened. This would provide more road space for stacking buses waiting to observe the bus stop thereat and release the nearside lane for other traffic. Works are scheduled to be completed by the end of 2004.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 24 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(ET)114

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

1344

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : On provision of off-street terminal facilities for cross-boundary coaches, will the Administration advise on the locations of these planned facilities and whether the costs are included in this Estimates of Expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply : We plan to allocate some loading and unloading bays for cross-boundary coaches at the existing public transport interchanges (PTIs) at Discovery Park in Tsuen Wan and West Rail Kam Sheung Road Station in Yuen Long in 2004-05. As these two PTIs are existing facilities, no additional capital or recurrent cost is needed.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 24 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(ET)115

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (4) Management of Transport Services

1345

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : What is the annual breakdown figures for on-street parking meters in the past three years? What is the operating cost for the parking meters ? What are the measures implemented to reduce cost?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

- (a) The annual breakdown statistics for on-street parking meters in 2001, 2002 and 2003 were around 34 000, 38 000 and 18 000 respectively. The significant improvement in 2003 was mainly attributed to the replacement of the liquid crystal display board on e-Park card meters (which had been the main cause of complaints during the rainy season) at the own cost of the management contractor, and the installation of the new Octopus-card operated meters since June 2003.
- (b) The operating cost for the parking meters is about \$35 million per annum, including contractor management fee and e-Park card production and distribution fees.
- (c) As the existing e-Park card meters approach the end of their serviceable life, the Administration has started to replace them with Octopus card meters. The replacement programme has started since June 2003 and is due for completion by end 2004. It is expected that, after all e-Park card meters have been replaced, Government could achieve a saving of about \$8.4 million per annum, mainly through the saving of costs in the production and distribution of e-Park cards.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 24 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(ET)116

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (4) Management of Transport Services

1346

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : According to Programme (4), the Administration will improve the physical environment of ten public transport interchanges (PTIs). Please list out the locations of the ten PTIs, the costs for improvement of each PTI and the improvement measures involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply : The locations of the ten PTIs and estimated costs for the respective improvement works are as follows:

Locations of the PTI	Estimated cost (\$M)
1. Cheung Sha Wan Plaza	5.9
2. Lok Fu	11.7
3. Tsuen Wan MTR Station	8.3
4. Admiralty (East)	7.7
5. Yen Chow Street	4.6
6. Exchange Square	A total sum of \$60 million are earmarked for improvement works for these five PTIs. Breakdown of project cost for each PTI will be available upon completion of detailed design.
7. Sai Lau Kok (Tsuen Wan)	
8. South Horizons	
9. Tuen Mun Town Centre	
10. Whampoa Garden	

Improvement measures generally include repainting ceiling and ventilation ductworks, resurfacing walls and columns with low maintenance materials, resurfacing passenger platforms and pedestrian-ways with paving blocks, provision of facilities for people with disability such as ramps and tactile guide paths, and replacing galvanized steel railings with stainless steel railings.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 24 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(ET)117

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :
700 – General non-recurrent

Question Serial No.

1347

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Regarding Subhead 700 Item 558, when will the feasibility study on introducing trolley bus system in Hong Kong be completed?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply : The study on the feasibility of using trolley bus system in Hong Kong has been completed and the findings were presented to Legislative Council Panel on Transport in June 2001. We may need to examine the possibility of introducing trolley buses, amongst other environmentally-friendly transport modes, in South East Kowloon Development (SEKD) depending on the progress of SEKD and the choice of major mode of transport to serve the development.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)118

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

0460

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Regarding the noise nuisance caused by public transport carriers to their passengers and staff, has the Administration got any plan to address such problem in 2004-05? If yes, what are the detailed plan and the associated cost? If not, why?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : It is the Government's on-going task to ensure that public transport operators would implement appropriate measures to improve the travelling environment and comfort for their passengers and drivers. Normally traffic noise generated by public transport can be mitigated through regular inspection, proper maintenance and improved design of the vehicles. Further, promulgation of good driving practice, e.g. to apply the brake properly, or to slow down while negotiating bends, would also help reduce traffic noise and hence improve the comfort for both passengers and drivers.

With regard to the sound from audio-visual broadcasting on buses, Transport Department has been working closely with the relevant bus operators to put in place measures to address some passengers' concern about broadcasting volume, such as designation of quiet zone on buses. All relevant measures are implemented by the transport operators at their costs and monitored by the Government using existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN _____

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport _____

Date _____ 24 March 2004 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)119

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

1736

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : What is the difference of the details (including the route groups involved) of those bus-bus interchange (BBI) schemes in operation in 2003 and those to be implemented in 2004? What is the estimated number of passengers using these BBIs and estimated fare savings?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply : The BBI schemes in operation in 2003 and those planned for 2004 are different in terms of bus routes involved and fare discounts offered.

As at end 2003, there were 120 BBI schemes in operation. They were introduced by franchised bus operators progressively over the past years. They involve 373 bus routes in the New Territories, Kowloon, Hong Kong Island, Lantau Island and the airport. The fare discounts offered range from \$0.1 to \$20.7. The 23 BBI schemes planned for 2004 will involve 83 routes in the New Territories, Kowloon and Hong Kong Island, with fare discounts ranging from \$2.7 to \$5.1.

On average, about 110 000 passengers used the BBI schemes each day as at end 2003. The BBI schemes planned for 2004 are expected to be used by an addition of 6 000 passengers daily.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 24 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(ET)120

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead(No. & title) :
700 – General non-recurrent

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

1737

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Regarding Item 570 “Restructuring and Enhancement of the Third Comprehensive Transport Model”, what are the details and programme?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply : The Third Comprehensive Transport Study (CTS-3) Model was developed in late 1999 and is used for assessing and evaluating transport projects and changes in transport policies. Since 1999, the model has been regularly updated to ensure accuracy in forecasting future traffic flows. It is now the appropriate time to enhance the model in order to guarantee its continued performance in the future. The proposed consultancy study “Restructuring and Enhancement of the Third Comprehensive Transport Model” will involve the comprehensive restructuring of the Model using the latest modelling methodology, travel characteristics survey data, and computer software packages. It is planned to commence the proposed study in late 2004 for completion in late 2006.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 24 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(ET)121

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead(No. & title) :
700 – General non-recurrent

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

1738

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Regarding Item 571 “Preparatory work prior to the opening of Ma On Shan Railway and East Rail Extension and subsequent coordination work”, please provide details about the scope and nature of works to be involved.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

An amount of \$1.75 million has been provided for the preparatory work prior to the opening of Ma On Shan Railway (MOSR) and East Rail Extension to Tsim Sha Tsui (TSTE) in late 2004 and the subsequent coordination work. These include the following activities:

- (a) conducting traffic and transport surveys before and after the commissioning of MOSR and TSTE to facilitate planning for the re-organisation of various public transport services in the area concerned and subsequent monitoring of the actual changes of the passenger demand of the public transport services after the opening of the MOSR and TSTE; and
- (b) producing publicity materials on the changes in the public transport services in connection with commissioning of MOSR and TSTE. The publicity will include advertisements in newspapers, and booklets and posters with details of the changes. The publicity booklets will be distributed to households in Sha Tin District before the commissioning of MOSR.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 24 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(ET)122

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

0798

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : What are the details of 'Quality Driving Instructor Course' which will be launched in 2004-05?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply :

The Quality Driving Instructor Course is at the planning stage. It aims at enhancing the instruction skills of driving instructors. Participation in the course will be voluntary. The Vocational Training Council (VTC) and the Institute of Advanced Motorists Hong Kong (IAM) have been invited to jointly develop the course. We are working closely with the VTC and the IAM on the development of the course content. We will consult the trade concerned before finalisation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)123

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

Question Serial No.

Programme :

0799

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : What are the savings after the business process reengineering of the licensing services?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply :

The business process reengineering initiatives on licensing services are part of the VALID IV project. It is envisaged that 32 posts at an annual staff cost of \$10 million can be deleted after the implementation of the VALID IV system, as a result of the business process reengineering initiatives.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)124

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

0800

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Why are the 2003 average vehicular speeds in the urban areas and New Territories higher than the target speeds?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

The target speed provides an indicator of a reasonable level of vehicle mobility at morning peak hours on major roads in the territory. The fact that the measured speed is slightly higher than the target speed is an indication that the conditions on our road network in 2003 are generally acceptable.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)125

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

0801

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Please provide details of the additional traffic improvement proposals to be implemented for the Central Business District in 2004-05.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply : The following traffic improvement schemes for the Central Business District will be implemented in 2004-05:

- (f) To enhance the ground-level traffic flow to Sheung Wan, the westbound carriageway of Connaught Road Central near its junction with Gilman Street will be widened to provide an additional traffic lane. Works are scheduled for completion in mid-2004.
- (g) An additional northbound traffic lane will be provided on Cotton Tree Drive outside Bank of America Tower to enhance the traffic flow to eastbound Harcourt Road. Works are scheduled to be completed in mid-2004.
- (h) Traffic signals will be installed at the junction of Man Kat Street and the eastbound downramp of Rumsey Street Flyover in order to reduce weaving / conflicting movements of vehicles and enhance the traffic flow on eastbound Connaught Road Central. Works are scheduled to be completed in mid-2004.
- (i) To relieve the traffic pressure on Jackson Road and to provide an additional access for the vehicles on Chater Road / Lambeth Walk to Connaught Road Central, the traffic along Murray Road between Connaught Road Central and Chater Road will be re-routed from southbound to northbound. Related works are scheduled to be completed in late 2004.
- (j) The bus bay on Connaught Road Central eastbound outside Jardine House will be widened. This would provide more road space for stacking buses waiting to observe the bus stop thereat and release the nearside lane for other traffic. Works are scheduled to be completed by the end of 2004.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN _____

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport _____

Date _____ 24 March 2004 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)126

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

0803

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : In respect of provision of off-street terminal facilities for cross-boundary coaches, will the Administration advise on the details of the planned facilities in 2004-05?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply : We plan to provide off-street terminal facilities for cross-boundary coaches at the public transport interchanges (PTIs) at Discovery Park in Tsuen Wan and at West Rail Kam Sheung Road Station in 2004-05. Cross-boundary passengers can interchange to and from other transport modes at the two PTIs.

The Transport Department will invite applications from all existing cross-boundary coach operators for using the above new cross-boundary terminal facilities. Details of the application arrangements are being worked out.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 24 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(ET)127

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

0548

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Regarding the implementation of ‘Driver Improvement Scheme’ and ‘Quality Driving Instructor Course’, would the Administration advise:

- (a) What are the course contents of the above courses?
- (b) Before the implementation of the above courses, have the departments concerned consulted the members of the trade? If yes, what was the result? If no, why no consultation was conducted?
- (c) The expenditure estimated for the implementation of the above courses? Besides, what is the actual expenditure in 2003-04 and the estimated expenditure for 2004-05?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

- (a) The Driver Improvement Scheme (DIS) has been implemented since September 2002. The course is divided into two sessions with seven modules lasting up to eight hours. The course covers the driving offence points system, defensive driving, accident prevention, proper and safe driving techniques, drink/drug/impaired/aggressive driving and proper driving behaviour.

The Quality Driving Instructor Course is at the planning stage. It aims at enhancing the instruction skills of driving instructors. Participation in the course will be voluntary. The Vocational Training Council (VTC) and the Institute of Advanced Motorists Hong Kong (IAM) have been invited to jointly develop the course. We are working closely with the VTC and the IAM on the development of the course content.

- (b) Before the implementation of the DIS, the transport trades concerned were consulted. They all supported the introduction of the scheme. As regards the Quality Driving Instructor Course, we will consult the trade concerned before finalisation of the course details.
- (c) The actual expenditure for the implementation of the DIS in 2003-04 was \$0.12 million and the estimated expenditure for 2004-05 is \$0.441 million.

In the light of the small number of candidates involved (about 1 000), the expense for promotion of the Quality Driving Instructor Course and other administrative expenses are expected to be minimal.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)128

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

0549

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : The Administration indicated that the annual target for franchised bus spot check inspection is 14 buses per day. Please elaborate:

- (a) What are the criteria and procedures for the daily spot checks on franchised buses? What is the annual expenditure?
- (b) In the past year, has the Administration taken any follow-up action on the buses which have been spot checked? If yes, what proportion out of the chosen buses required follow up action? And what are the details of the follow-ups?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong Wah

Reply :

- (a) Transport Department's Motor Vehicle Examiners go to the bus companies' depots to carry out spot check inspections according to a list of bus registration numbers randomly selected by computer. Those which have recently been complained upon (e.g. smoky or noisy buses) will also be checked. Selected buses are required to return to the bus depots for examination. In addition to the spot checks at the depots, Motor Vehicle Examiners also carry out random spot checks on buses at bus termini to ensure their roadworthiness. The estimated cost for carrying out spot checks in 2003 was approximately \$2.4 million.
- (b) If defects are found on a bus during spot checks, the bus companies are required to rectify them immediately and to the satisfaction of Transport Department's Motor Vehicle Examiners before the bus can be released for normal service. In 2003, about 64% of the buses that had undergone spot checks required some remedial actions. Over 98% of the defects found were minor in nature, such as lamp defective, single loose bolt or minor oil leakage. Serious safety defects will be prosecuted and there were a total of nine prosecutions in 2003. Transport Department holds quarterly meetings with bus companies to discuss the defects found during spot checks and review improvement action plan of the company.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)129

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

0550

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Concerning the development of new tourist attractions in Lantau, at present only the New Lantau Bus Co. Ltd. provides the main public transport service in the area. Would the Administration advise whether:

- (a) it would consider allocating additional resources to provide supporting transport facilities to match with the new tourism development in Lantau; and
- (b) it would consider allocating additional resources to facilitate discussion, after commissioning of the Hong Kong Disney Theme Park and the Cable Car Link, with the New Lantau Bus Co. (1973) Ltd. (NLB) to encourage the company to provide fare concessions to reduce the transport cost of passengers visiting these recreational facilities?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : (a) A new public transport terminal will be provided at Ngong Ping by Government under the Tung Chung Cable Car project. It will be about 9 000 m² in size, consisting of a bus terminal, taxi stand, parking spaces for tourist coaches and parking spaces for private cars. The construction of the new public transport terminal has just started for completion around end 2004.

(b) It is Government's on-going task to encourage bus operators to provide fare concessions taking account of their own operating conditions to alleviate the burden of the traveling public. As such discussion work is undertaken by existing staff, no additional resources are allocated for this purpose.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN _____

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport _____

Date _____ 24 March 2004 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)130

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

0551

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : With regard to continuing efforts to assist conversion of diesel public light buses (PLBs) to environmentally-friendly vehicles, would the Administration advise on:

- (a) the number of diesel PLBs converted to environmentally-friendly vehicles each year since the launching of the scheme;
- (b) the amount of financial subsidy granted each year under the scheme;
- (c) the number of diesel PLBs and its percentage in terms of overall PLB fleet size that have not been converted to environmentally friendly vehicles up till now; and
- (d) any estimate on the timetable for full conversion of all PLBs to environmentally-friendly vehicles?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

- (a) An incentive scheme to promote the replacement of diesel PLBs with LPG or electric PLBs was introduced on 27 August 2002. Up to 18 March 2004, a total of 732 diesel PLBs have been replaced by LPG PLBs under the scheme. This consisted of 414 and 318 LPG PLBs for 2002-03 and 2003-04 (up to 18 March 2004) respectively.
- (b) A total of \$42.54 million in cash financial assistance has been granted to the applicants under the scheme: \$24.18 million in 2002-03 and \$18.36 million in 2003-04 (up to 18 March 2004).
- (c) As at 18 March 2004, there were 3 620 diesel PLBs accounting for about 83% of the total PLB fleet.
- (d) The incentive scheme is a voluntary scheme and replacement is not mandatory. Owners of diesel PLBs can take into account factors affecting their operation in deciding whether to switch to LPG PLBs. Only those who switch to LPG PLBs are eligible to apply for the incentive. The incentive scheme will end in December 2005. The Administration will continue to work closely with the PLB trade to expedite replacement of old diesel PLBs by environmentally-friendly ones.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 24 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(ET)131

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

0552

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : The number of summons for disqualification resulting from the driving offence points system is 2 500 and 3 029 for the years 2002 and 2003 respectively. The estimated number for 2004 is 3 000. Would the Administration advise:
(a) the distribution of the causes of disqualification over the past two years;
(b) whether it has reviewed and investigated the situation and will conduct any remedial measures to improve the quality of the drivers? If yes, what is the result of the review and its detail?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

- (a) The major cause of disqualification resulting from the driving offence points system in both 2002 and 2003 was speeding, which accounted for about 60% of the offences committed by the disqualified drivers. This was followed by careless driving (15%), failing to obey a direction of a police officer/comply with traffic signals (13%) and crossing double white lines (11%).
- (b) We have launched a Driver Improvement Scheme since September 2002 to enhance the driving manners and attitudes of the motorists. Drivers may attend the Driving Improvement Course (DIC) voluntarily, or under court orders if they are convicted of traffic offences incurring five or more driving-offence points. We are currently examining the feasibility of making it mandatory for repeated traffic offenders to attend the DIC.

A new Skills Upgrading Scheme (SUS) which aims to improve professional drivers' skills and attitudes will be implemented in mid 2004. The DIC will be included as part of the SUS.

In addition, we have worked in collaboration with the Road Safety Council to step up publicity of road safety messages via the media, printed materials and the Internet. Campaigns and competitions are also held to arouse public awareness of the importance of road safety. We shall continue our education and publicity efforts so as to foster a culture of safe and considerate driving in Hong Kong.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)132

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

0553

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : The Administration indicated that it would continue to encourage franchised bus companies to retrofit their buses with emission reduction devices in 2004-05. Will the Administration advise:

- (a) the number of buses installed with the above devices by each franchised bus company at present; and
- (b) whether it has evaluated and reviewed the improvement in air quality in busy corridors, including Causeway Bay and Nathan Road, brought about by the retrofitting of the above devices by the franchised bus companies? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

(a) As at 31 January 2004, a total of 3 246 franchised buses have been retrofitted with emission reduction devices, with details as given below :

- KMB – 2 443
- Citybus – 398
- New World First Bus – 358
- New Lantao Bus – 38
- Long Win – 9

(b) The air quality in busy corridors, which include Causeway Bay and Mong Kok, has improved after implementation of the retrofitting of emission reduction devices and other measures. The respirable suspended particulates and nitrogen oxides concentration measured in busy corridors in 2003 reduced by 13% and 23% respectively when compared with those in 1999. The improvement could have been due partly to the retrofit programme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)133

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

0554

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : For the regulation and monitoring of public transport operation, the Administration indicated that it would keep close contact with public transport operators and the concerned trade representatives. Please provide:

- (a) details of meetings with the public transport operators and trade associations in the past year and the achievements; and
- (b) name of the public transport operators and trade representatives which attended such meetings.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

- (a) In the past year, Transport Department held a total of over 700 meetings with the operators and/or trade representatives of the railways, franchised buses, public light buses, taxis, non-franchised buses, ferries, tramways, peak tram and rehabuses. These meetings were held to discuss various matters relating to the planning, regulation, monitoring and management of public transport services, such as transport contingency arrangements, opening of the West Rail and Tin Shui Wai extension of the Light Rail Transit, fare concession/reduction schemes for rail, bus and ferry services, bus-bus/bus-rail/bus-green minibus interchange schemes, provision of public transport passenger facilities, road safety, improvement of public transport interchanges, green minibus operators selection exercise, green minibus trial scheme for operation on Route 3, quality taxi and public light bus services, non-franchised bus operation, improvement of the Lok Ma Chau Control Point, provision of cross-boundary coach terminating facilities, pier tenancy agreement, ferry service arrangements, taxi operation and rehabus services. These meetings generally achieved the intended results.
- (b) The public transport operators and trade representatives who attended these meetings included MTRCL, KCRC, the franchised bus companies, Hong Kong Tramways Limited, Peak Tramways Company Limited, 121 green minibus operators, two green minibus associations, 17 red minibus associations, 26 urban taxi associations, 15 NT taxi associations, one Lantau taxi association, Public Omnibus Operators Association, Hong Kong Guangdong Boundary Crossing Bus Association Limited, Motor Transport Workers General Union, School Buses Operators Association Limited, Private Hire Car for Young Children Association Limited, licensed ferry operators, kaito operators and Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN _____

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport _____

Date _____ 24 March 2004 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(ET)134

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

0555

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : On provision of off-street terminal facilities for cross-boundary coaches in this financial year, would the Administration advise on :

- (a) the locations of these planned facilities and their resources implications;
- (b) the management and operation arrangements for these off-street facilities;
- (c) the current patronage of the cross-boundary coach routes;
- (d) the operation details of these cross-boundary coaches;
- (e) the complaints on the existing operators over the past two years and their details; and
- (f) any plan to allow more coach operators to increase the competitiveness of the services?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

- (a) We plan to allocate some loading and unloading bays for cross-boundary coaches at the existing public transport interchanges (PTIs) at Discovery Park in Tsuen Wan and West Rail Kam Sheung Road Station in Yuen Long in 2004-05. As these two PTIs are existing facilities, no additional capital or recurrent cost would be required.
- (b) The cross-boundary coach operators will be invited to apply for the use of the above loading and unloading facilities. The selected operators will be required to submit service timetables for the Transport Department's approval. They will have to operate their coach services according to the approved service timetables and ensure smooth operation of their services without unduly affecting other users of the PTIs.
- (c) & (d) There are presently 86 operators operating some 240 cross-boundary coach routes from various destinations in Hong Kong to the Mainland, mostly to cities in the Pearl River Delta Region. They consist of about 90 routes from the Airport and the New Territories, 120 routes from Kowloon and 30 routes from Hong Kong Island. In 2003, some operators introduced short shuttle routes that terminate at or near the control points on the Mainland side. The cross-boundary buses carried about 38 000 passengers daily via the three land crossings in 2003.
- (e) In the past two years, the Transport Department received some 60 complaints about cross-boundary coaches, mostly about driver behaviour, non-adherence to service schedules and coaches causing traffic obstruction and noise nuisance to the nearby residents.

- (f) Cross-boundary coach services are operated under a cross-boundary quota system jointly administered by the Hong Kong and the Mainland authorities because of the limited handling capacities of the land control points. The authorities regularly review the quota. There is currently no plan to allow more operators to provide cross-boundary coach services.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)135

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :
661- Minor plant, vehicles and equipment
(block vote)

Question Serial No.

0557

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Provision of \$3,100,000 under Subhead 661 – Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote) represents an increase of 195.8% over the revised estimate for 2003-04. Please provide details of the new equipment and equipment due for replacement.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : The provision of \$3,100,000 covers capital expenditure on the following new and replacement equipment:-

	Description	\$
(a)	Replacement of emergency standby generator set in the Cross-Harbour Tunnel	1,100,000
(b)	Installation of Vehicle Appointment Booking Control Backup System	2,000,000
	Total	<u>3,100,000</u>

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)136

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

1300

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : According to the information provided by the Administration, the number of ferry services licences granted or extended in 2002 and 2003 was 98 and 91 respectively. In 2004, the estimated number is 86 only which is less than 2002 by 12. What is the reason? Please list the names of the companies for which licences will not be extended and their operating condition in the past.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : Since the validity period of ferry service licences may vary and the expiry dates of the licences differ, the number of licences estimated to be extended in different years may not be the same. Although the number of licences to be extended in 2004 is smaller than the actual figure in 2002 and 2003, the total number of valid ferry licences as at March 2004 is 108, which is the same as in 2003 and similar to 107 in 2002. Each application for extension of ferry service licence will need to be considered on its own merits, taking into account the performance of the licensee. Information on whether any and which ferry service licence will not be extended in 2004-05 is not available.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

ETWB(ET)137

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

1301

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

Question : The Administration indicated that in 2004-05, it would continue to consider measures to further improve the quality and efficiency of public bus services through rationalisation and bus-bus interchange (BBI) schemes. Will the Administration provide details on :

- (a) the existing BBI schemes operated by the various bus companies, and their effect on patronage and revenue in the past year;
- (b) the BBI schemes to be implemented in the coming year; and
- (c) the bus rationalisation packages under study and current progress.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wahReply :

- (a) As at end 2003, there were 120 BBI schemes in operation involving 373 bus routes. About 110 000 passengers per day used these BBI schemes and enjoyed fare discounts ranging from \$0.1 to \$20.7. Information on the effect of existing BBI schemes on franchised bus companies' revenue is commercially sensitive and is not available.
- (b) A total of 23 BBI schemes is planned for implementation in 2004. These 23 planned BBI schemes involve 83 routes with fare discounts ranging from \$2.7 to \$5.1.
- (c) A total of about 70 bus route rationalisation packages are planned for implementation in 2004 to enhance bus network efficiency and improve traffic and environment on busy corridors. These packages include proposals for route cancellation, vehicle reduction, route truncation / amalgamation, re-routeing, frequency reduction, terminal change, conversion to peak-only service and conversion to weekend / holiday service only. The relevant District Councils are being consulted on these route rationalisation packages.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMANPost Title Commissioner for TransportDate 24 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(ET)138

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Planning and development

1302

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Regarding the programme to continue the planning and design of new public transport interchanges (PTIs) and related transport facilities to tie in with the opening of new railways, will the Administration give details on:

- (a) the number of PTIs and related transport facilities in the territory at present; and
- (b) the management arrangement and recurrent operating costs for the above-said PTIs and related transport facilities in the recent three years?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : (a) At present, there are 285 PTIs and related transport facilities in Hong Kong, of which 233 are owned by government, 48 by the Housing Authority and four by private developers.

(b) The routine management, maintenance and cleansing works for the above government-owned PTIs are the responsibility of relevant government departments, including Highways Department, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and Architectural Services Department, or management contractors appointed by Transport Department. Over the past three years, the total cost borne by TD for the above government-owned PTIs was about \$50 million, including the cost of appointing management contractors.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 24 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(ET)139

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

1303

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : With regard to the travel characteristics survey commissioned by Government, will consideration be given to publicise the relevant collected data? If yes, what is the programme? If no, what is the reason?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : The Travel Characteristic Survey 2002 conducted by Transport Department has been completed in early March 2004. The English and Chinese version of the final report of the study will be uploaded onto Transport Department's Homepage on the Internet by late March 2004 for reference by the public.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)140

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead(No. & title) :
700 – General non-recurrent
843 – Minor consultancies for traffic
and transport studies (block vote)

Question Serial No.

1586

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Is the study on “professional drivers’ working time as one of the causes of accident involving professional drivers” included as an item under Subhead 700 or 843? If yes, how much had been spent and what were the details? If no, what are the reasons? Has the Administration considered conducting the study before; and whether it would consider carrying out a study in the future?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Fu-wah

Reply : We are aware that excessive working time could cause professional drivers to experience drowsiness. Therefore, although we have not carried out any separate study on this particular factor, we have been monitoring the trend of various driver contributory factors to traffic accidents including the one described as drivers found to be “asleep or drowsy”. In the past three years, 0.4% of the number of professional drivers involved in accidents were found to be ‘asleep or drowsy’ at the time of the accident. We will closely monitor the traffic accident statistics and consider conducting a separate study, should the situation warrant it.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)141

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead(No. & title) :
700 – General non-recurrent

Question Serial No.

1650

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

- Question :
- (a) Regarding Item 533 “Tuen Mun and Yuen Long district traffic study” under Subhead 700, please advise on the work progress and result last year. In 2004-05, what will be the focus and estimated cost?
 - (b) Is there any consultancy study for the pedestrian schemes in the coming financial year? What will be the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : (a) The Tuen Mun and Yuen Long district traffic study was completed in 2002. It has recommended a number of improvement measures and we are now implementing these measures.

In 2003-04, we completed the improvements of pedestrian crossing facilities along Castle Peak Road (Yuen Long section) and Yuen Long On Ning Road, the junctions of Tuen Mun Heung Sze Wui Road/Hoi Chu Road and Kau Yuk Road/Yuen Long Tai Yuk Road and two bus bays in Tin Shui Wai. We also started the works for the widening of the bridge between Long Tin Road and Shan Ha Road and a one-way gyratory system on Fung Cheung Road, which are scheduled to be completed in mid 2005 and early 2005 respectively. The total expenditure of these works amounts to \$2.5 million.

In the coming financial year, we shall start the works for improving the junctions of Kau Yuk Road/Tai Tong Road and Castle Peak Road /Yuen Long Tai Yuk Road, providing a footbridge across the nullah at Wang Tat Road/Ma Wang Road, adding a cycle track along Hung Tin Road, and extending/providing bus bays at six locations. The estimated cost of the works involved is about \$11 million. These engineering works are funded under the respective capital works item.

- (b) TD is carrying out an “Area Improvement Study for Tsim Sha Tsui” jointly with Planning Department. The scope includes urban design, pedestrianisation schemes, and landscape enhancement. TD’s expenditure on the study in the coming financial year is \$1 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN _____

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport _____

Date _____ 24 March 2004 _____

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(ET)142

Question Serial No.

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

1723

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Please list out the non-recurrent items in the Programme “Planning and Development” for 2004-05. What is the estimated expenditure for each item?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : In 2004-05, there are 12 non-recurrent items in the Programme “Planning and Development”. The estimated expenditure for each item is shown as follows:-

Description	HK\$'000
1. Hong Kong Island North and Kowloon West district traffic study	200
2. Tuen Mun and Yuen Long district traffic study	600
3. Studies on co-ordination of other public transport services with new railways	60
4. Consultancy for Base District Traffic Models	1,500
5. Survey and demand analysis on Intelligent Transport Systems in Hong Kong	750
6. Consultancy to update the Parking Demand Study	324
7. Feasibility study on introducing trolley bus system in Hong Kong	1,200
8. Travel Characteristics Survey 2002	991
9. Surveys on ferry services	742
10. Survey on Goods Vehicle Trip Characteristics 2003	350
11. Restructuring and enhancement of the Third Comprehensive Transport Study Model	2,000
12. Minor consultancies for traffic and transport studies	3,700
Total	<u>12,417</u>

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(ET)143

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

1724

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

Question : What are the locations of the bus-bus interchange (BBI) schemes planned for 2004?
 What are the resources required?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chungReply :

A total of 23 BBI schemes have been planned for implementation in 2004. These BBI schemes are located at :

Hong Kong Island

1. Shau Kei Wan Road

Kowloon

2. Lung Cheung Road

4. Prince Edward Road East

6. Ma Tau Chung Road

3. Kwun Tong Road

5. Choi Hung Estate Bus Terminus

7. Ma Tau Wai Road

New Territories

8. Castle Peak Road

10. Hing Fong Road

12. Tai Wo Bus Terminus

14. Sheung Shui Landmark North

16. Sheung Shui Bus Terminus

18. Tai Ho Road

20. New Town Plaza Bus Terminus

22. Yuen Wo Road

9. Kwai Chung Road

11. Tsing Yi Airport Railway Station Bus Terminus

13. Luen Wo Hui

15. Pak Wo Road

17. Bayview Garden Bus Terminus

19. Cheong Wing Road

21. Hung Mui Kuk Road

23. Tai Chung Kiu Road

These BBI schemes will be provided by the franchised bus companies concerned and will require no additional resources from the Government.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMANPost Title Commissioner for TransportDate 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)144

Question Serial No.

1725

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : How many new public transport interchanges will be planned and designed in 2004-05 and what are the resources involved?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : Four new public transport interchanges (PTIs) will be at an advanced stage of planning and design in 2004-05. TD's input to the planning and design of these PTIs will be provided through existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN _____

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport _____

Date _____ 24 March 2004 _____

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(ET)145

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

1726

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : In assisting the replacement of diesel public light buses (PLBs) with environmentally-friendly models, what is the target expenditure for this financial year?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

Under the incentive scheme to encourage early replacement of diesel PLBs with environmentally cleaner models, cash grants of \$60,000 and \$80,000 per vehicle are provided to PLB owners for replacement of diesel PLBs that run on liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) or electric models respectively. \$261 million has been reserved to fund the replacement of the entire fleet of 4 350 PLBs. Up to 18 March 2004, a total of 732 diesel PLBs have been replaced by LPG PLBs involving a total cash grant of \$43.9 million.

We do not have a year-by-year replacement plan for the scheme. The incentive scheme is a voluntary scheme which will end on 31 December 2005, and replacement is not mandatory. There are other factors apart from the cash grant which affect the PLB operators' decision on vehicle replacement. The Administration will continue to work closely with the PLB trade to expedite replacement of old diesel PLBs by environmentally cleaner ones.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN _____

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport _____

Date _____ 24 March 2004 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)146

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

1727

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : The number of planned items of the route development programme for franchised bus services in 2004 is 132, which is 43% higher than the number of items implemented for 2003. In what major districts will those items be implemented?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : About 80% of the route development items are for various districts in the New Territories. These include rationalisation of bus services in connection with the opening of West Rail in late 2003, improvement of bus services to meet additional demand arising from population intake to new residential developments in Tung Chung new town and redevelopment of housing estates in Tsuen Wan and Kwai Chung, and service upgrading and rationalisation for network efficiency in various parts of the New Territories. The remaining 20% mainly include service improvement items to cater for population growth on Hong Kong Island and Kowloon, e.g. Cyberport, Western District, West Kowloon, Yau Tong and Hung Hom Bay.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN _____

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport _____

Date _____ 24 March 2004 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(ET)147

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

1728

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for TransportDirector of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and WorksQuestion : Transport Department will process 70 bus route rationalization packages in 2004.
What are the major districts that these rationalisation packages will effect?Asked by : Hon TAM Yiu-chungReply : Transport Department will process about 70 bus route rationalisation packages in 2004 to enhance bus network efficiency and to improve traffic and environment in busy corridors. Many of these rationalisation proposals arise from the opening of new transport infrastructure such as the West Rail, or from synergy achievable following the corporate restructuring of Citybus and New World First Bus. Accordingly, districts in Northwest New Territories as well as Hong Kong Island have more rationalisation proposals, while individual rationalisation proposals are also proposed for most of the other districts to improve network efficiency as well as traffic and environmental conditions.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMANPost Title Commissioner for TransportDate 24 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(ET)148

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

Question Serial No.

Programme: (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

1729

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : What districts will be served by the seven green minibus (GMB) routes planned for introduction in 2004?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply:

The terminal points of the seven proposed GMB routes including four routes in Kowloon and three routes in the New Territories are listed below:

1. Parc Palais - Jordan MTR
2. Sham Shui Po (Site 10) - Mei Foo MTR
3. Beacon Heights - Kowloon Tong MTR (Circular)
4. Dynasty Heights - Kowloon Tong MTR (Circular)
5. Yuen Long (Yoho Town) - Sun Yuen Long Centre (Circular)
6. Shatin - Tai Po KCR Station
7. Belvedere Garden - Tsing Yi Airport Railway Station

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 24 March 2004

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(ET)149

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

0817

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : In 2001 and 2002, the average waiting time for driving tests was 63 days. What was the average waiting time for driving test in 2003? Besides, will Transport Department consider adjusting the associated performance measure from 85 days to 65 days or lower? If not, why? What is the anticipated average waiting time in 2004-05?

Asked by : Hon. TANG Siu-tong

Reply :

The average waiting time for driving tests in 2003 was 72 days. We will try our best to shorten the average waiting time as far as possible.

We do not propose to adjust our performance measure at this stage because:

- (a) the majority of our driving test centres are on short term tenancy. We may not be able to secure extension of all these sites or find replacement sites;
- (b) with the recovery of the economy, the number of driving test candidates may increase resulting in longer waiting times.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)150

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

Question Serial No.

Programme :

1427

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

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

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

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply : The items under Subhead 4100DX that involve works in Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin districts in 2004-05 are -

1. Installation of an improved odour control system at Kwun Tong preliminary treatment works;
2. Construction of a new sewer from Wong Tai Sin Temple to Shatin Pass Road;
3. Detailed design and investigation works for drainage improvement works in East Kowloon; and
4. Improvement work to access openings of stormwater drainage culverts in Kowloon Bay.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ R.T.K. CHEUNG

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.
ETWB(ET)151

Question Serial No.

Head : 705 Civil Engineering

Subhead (No. & title): 5101DX

1765

Environmental works, studies
and investigations for items in
Category D of the Public Works
Programme

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

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

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

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply : Among items under Subhead 5101DX, part of the "Feasibility study on the environmental review of urban landfills and Tseung Kwan O landfills" is in Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin districts.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title Director of Environmental Protection

Date 24 March 2004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)152

Head : Subhead (No. & title) :
Head 706 - Highways Capital Works Reserve Fund 6100TX

Question Serial No.

1430

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : Regarding the block allocation Subhead 6100TX "Highway works, studies and investigations for items in Category D of the Public Works Programme", please set out in details the items in Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin districts.

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply : There are five items under Subhead 6100TX being implemented in Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin districts in 2004-05 -

- (a) Reconstruction of Tung Yuen Street and Yan Yue Wai;
- (b) Upgrading of Lok Fu public transport interchange;
- (c) Reconstruction of footways and run-ins at Ngau Tau Kok Road (East bound) between On Shin Road and Hong Ning Road;
- (d) Provision of lifts to the footbridges across Kwun Tong Road near Choi Shek Lane; and
- (e) Provision of lifts at the footbridges across Kwun Tong Road near Block 8 of Lower Ngau Tau Kok Estate.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 25 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)153

Question Serial No.

1062

Head: 707 - New Towns and Urban Area Development Subhead (No. & title): 7771TH

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Territory Development

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

Question: Subhead 7771TH shows that the Administration has planned to apportion \$200,000 for the Tsuen Wan Road upgrading - site investigation and preliminary design. When will the upgrading works of Tsuen Wan Road commence?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply: We commenced an investigation study for upgrading of Tsuen Wan Road under Subhead 7771TH in July 2002. We plan to complete the study by the end of 2004. The implementation programme of the upgrading works will be reviewed under the study.

Signature _____

Name in block letters John S. V. CHAI

Post Title Director of Territory Development

Date 24 March 2004

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)154

Question Serial No.

1431

Head: 707 - New Towns and Urban Area Development Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: New Territories East Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Territory Development

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

Question: Has the Item 7584TH "Tseung Kwan O development, Phase III – Western Coast Road", which was included as a Category B project in the 1999-2000 Budget, been deleted? Or is it still under study? If feasibility study of the project is being carried out, what is the progress of the study? When is it expected to be submitted to this Committee for consideration? When are the works expected to commence and complete?

Asked by: Hon LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply: The original proposed coastal alignment of Western Coast Road (WCR) under Item 7584TH met with strong public objection. We have subsequently included under Item 7683CL entitled "Feasibility Study for Further Development of Tseung Kwan O" the alignment review, feasibility study and preliminary design for WCR. After a comprehensive review on various alternative alignments, we have recommended a tunnel alignment for WCR that has received general public support. Under the Feasibility Study, we are now carrying out detailed engineering and environmental impact assessments on the recommended alignment to ascertain its feasibility. The study also includes detailed traffic impact assessment for further development of Tseung Kwan O for formulation of an implementation programme for infrastructure development which will include WCR. We have scheduled completion of the Feasibility Study by the end of 2004.

Signature _____

Name in block letters John S. V. CHAI

Post Title Director of Territory Development

Date 24 March, 2004