

Panel on Environmental Affairs**List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 18 February 2004)****Proposed timing for
discussion****1. Noise Control (Amendment) Bill 2001**

The Bills Committee on Noise Control (Amendment) Bill 2001 has requested the Panel to follow up on the Code of Practice to be issued by the Noise Control Authority and to examine the deterrence and effectiveness of existing environmental legislation. It has also requested the Panel to consider the propriety of exempting public officers from personal criminal liability for contravention of the Noise Control Ordinance.

Suggested for deletion upon receipt of the Administration's information paper on the results of the consultation with the relevant trades and industries.

2. Setting up of free collection points for oil refuse from vessels

Referred by Members after the meeting with Southern District Council (SDC) on 2 May 2002 (LC Paper No. CB(1) 2544/01-02). SDC members were concerned about the environmental pollution caused by illegal dumping of oil refuse by vessels and had urged the Administration to provide collection points for marine waste oil in the Southern District. As illegal dumping of oil refuse by vessels was not effectively controlled under existing legislation, they considered it necessary to step up publicity and introduce legislative requirements for vessels to be equipped with waste oil disposal. However, this requirement should not be applied to existing vessels to avoid unnecessary disruption to the industry. Members requested that the issue be followed up by the Panel on Environmental Affairs, and that members of the Panel on Economic Services should be invited to attend the meeting when the subject was discussed.

The Administration will provide further information on the subject.

3. Modification of Chemical Waste Treatment Centre (CWTC) to receive clinical waste

The Bill on Clinical Waste Control Scheme has been introduced into LegCo in June 2003. The Administration proposes to brief the Panel on the modification of CWTC so that the facility can receive clinical waste to tie in with the implementation of the Control Scheme.

First quarter 2004

Proposed timing for discussion

4. Trials and Studies for the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme (HATS)

The Administration to report to the Panel the findings of the HATS-related trials and studies.

First quarter 2004

5. Large-scale waste management facilities

The Administration proposes to report to the Panel the technologies/facilities to handle municipal solid waste recommended by the Advisory Group, which mainly comprises non-officials, to examine the proposals from the technological, economics, environmental, social and consumer perspectives.

Second quarter 2004

6. Public consultation on review of nature conservation policy

The Administration to consult the Panel on the new nature conservation policy and measures after taking account of the views collated in the public consultation exercise. Consideration may be given to holding a joint meeting with the Panel on Planning, Lands and Works when the subject is ready for discussion.

Second quarter 2004

7. Disposal of polystyrene (plastic foam)

Referred by Members after the meeting with Sha Tin District Council (STDC) on 13 June 2002 (LC Paper No. CB(1) 90/02-03). STDC members were concerned about the large volume of undegradable plastic foam being disposed of at landfills. They supported that measures should be introduced to discourage the use of plastic foam, and that more studies should be performed on the feasibility of using alternative materials for packaging and lunch boxes. Members requested that the issue be followed by the Panels on Environmental Affairs and Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene.

2003/2004

Proposed timing for discussion

8. Decommissioning of Cheoy Lee Shipyard and land contamination policy

The Administration to report to the Panel the outcome of the legal pursuits arising from the decommissioning of the Cheoy Lee Shipyard as well as the progress in the formulation of a policy on land contamination.

To be confirmed pending development over legal pursuits.

9. Air quality in Hong Kong

Further to the discussion on the findings of the Study on Pearl River Delta Regional Air Quality at the Panel meeting on 22 July 2002, members have requested the Administration to brief the Panel on the latest development of the regional air quality management plan.

Details of the enhanced pollution control measures to be implemented in Hong Kong and Guangdong are set out in Annex to LC Paper No. CB(1) 756/03-04(01) issued for the policy briefing by the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works on 14 January 2004.

10. Emissions trading

Raised by the Chairman to follow up her motion on the subject which was carried at the Legislative Council meeting on 6 November 2002.

To be confirmed.