

ITEM FOR PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

HEAD 705 – CIVIL ENGINEERING Public Safety – Landslide Prevention Subhead 5001BX – Landslip Preventive Measures

Members are invited to recommend to Finance Committee to increase the approved allocation for **Subhead 5001BX** – Landslip Preventive Measures for 2008-09 from \$953.0 million by \$58.0 million to \$1,011.0 million.

PROBLEM

The approved block allocation for **Subhead 5001BX** for 2008-09 is insufficient to meet the estimated expenditure under the Landslip Preventive Measures (LPM) Programme in 2008-09.

PROPOSAL

2. The Director of Civil Engineering and Development (DCED), with the support of the Secretary for Development, proposes to increase the approved allocation for **Subhead 5001BX** from \$953.0 million by \$58.0 million to \$1,011.0 million to meet the unexpected additional expenditure in the current financial year for emergency slope stabilization works arising from the June 2008 rainstorm.

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PROJECT SCOPE AND NATURE

3. The ambit of **Subhead 5001BX** covers landslip preventive works, including remedial works resulting from unforeseen slope failures.

JUSTIFICATION

4. Following the record-breaking rainstorm in June 2008, a large amount of substantial stabilization works on failed or distressed slopes, funded under **Subhead 5001BX**, need to be urgently carried out to safeguard public safety. The urgent works, including clearing of landslide debris, soil nailing, slope surface protection, construction of landslide debris traps and barriers, are required to remove the immediate danger to the nearby areas. Some works have been implemented urgently so as to enable the reoccupation/reopening of the nearby houses and roads that were temporarily closed after the landslides. The locations of the slope works and the estimated costs are listed out in Enclosure 1. The estimated total cost of these emergency slope stabilization works is \$120.1 million, of which \$60.6 million will be expended within 2008-09. In the original allocation of \$953.0 million, only \$2.6 million was allowed for emergency repair works. The other scheduled items under **Subhead 5001BX** are in good progress and the items are already facing very tight funding constraints due to the large price fluctuation in 2008-09. No savings from the other items can be obtained to cover the cost of the emergency works. Hence, there is a shortfall of \$58 million to meet the estimated expenditure under **Subhead 5001BX** in 2008-09. We propose to increase the approved allocation for **Subhead 5001BX** for 2008-09 from \$953.0 million by \$58.0 million to \$1,011.0 million in order to maintain the original schedule of LPM works.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5. A comparison of the block allocation approved by the Finance Committee in January 2008 and the revised estimate for 2008-09 is as follows:

	\$ million
(a) Approved allocation for 2008-09	953.0
(b) Additional allocation required	58.0
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Total allocation required	1,011.0

6. The proposed increase in the approved block allocation has no additional recurrent financial implications.

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PUBLIC CONSULTATION

7. Public consultation was not carried out at district level as prompt implementation of the emergency stabilization works was called for to safeguard public safety, relieve the affected communities and restore the traffic infrastructure following the June 2008 rainstorm.

8. We consulted the Legislative Council Panel on Development on the proposed increase in block allocation by circulation of an information paper on 21 October 2008. Members raised no objection to the proposal.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

9. The proposed increase in the allocation is to cover the emergency works in the interest of public safety for repair and reinstatement of the failed slopes / hillsides and the areas affected by the landslide debris. The proposed increase in the allocation will not have any environmental implications. We have included in the project estimates the cost to implement suitable mitigation measures to control environmental impacts.

HERITAGE IMPLICATIONS

10. The project will not affect any heritage site, i.e. all declared monuments, proposed monuments, graded historic sites/buildings, sites of archaeological interest and Government historic sites identified by the Antiquities and Monuments Office.

LAND ACQUISITION

11. The emergency slope stabilization works do not involve any land acquisition.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

12. **Subhead 5001BX** is a block allocation for landslip preventive works and related studies approved together with other block allocations on an annual basis by the Finance Committee under the Capital Works Reserve Fund. The approved allocation for **Subhead 5001BX** in the current financial year is \$953.0 million.

13. We estimate that the proposed works will create about 129 jobs (112 labourers and another 17 professional/technical staff) providing a total employment of 1 550 man-months.

Development Bureau
October 2008

**List of Sites Involving Emergency Stabilization Works
on Failed or Distressed Slopes**

Location	Estimated Expenditure in 2008-09 (\$ million)	Project Estimate (including Expenditure beyond 2008-09) (\$ million)
Tsz Ching Estate, Shatin Pass Road	3.0	3.0
Mount Davis, Sai Wan	6.5	8.6
Yu Tung Road, Tung Chung	5.8	7.2
Above Catchwaters at Tai O and Keung Shan	2.0	2.5
Nam Chung Tsuen, Tai O	13.6	28.4
Tai O San Tsuen, Tai O	12.6	35.1
Wang Hang Village, Tai O	5.5	11.0
Keung Shan Road, Lantau	4.1	16.7
Sham Wat Road, Lantau	1.4	1.4
15 other areas each having works costing less than \$1 million	6.1	6.2
Fund Required:	60.6	120.1
Deduct funds initially earmarked for emergency slope stabilization works in 2008-09	(2.6)	-
Shortfall:	58.0	-