

Panel on Environmental Affairs

**List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 19 October 2018)**

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

- 1. Proposed making permanent a supernumerary directorate post in the Environment Bureau to take forward tasks in relation to the promotion of renewable energy and issues related to long-term electricity market development**

November 2018

The Administration will invite the Panel's views on the proposal to make permanent a supernumerary post at the rank of Administrative Officer Staff Grade C to take forward tasks in relation to the promotion of renewable energy. The post will also take forward tasks in relation to the long-term development of the electricity market including the future fuel mix for electricity generation, taking into consideration the environmental objectives of Hong Kong.

Members of the Panel on Economic Development will also be specifically invited to join the discussion of the item.

The Administration plans to submit the proposal to the Establishment Subcommittee and the Finance Committee in December 2018 and January 2019 respectively.

- 2. Three Dimensional Air Pollution Monitoring System**

November 2018

The Administration will consult the Panel on the funding proposal relating to the development of the "Three Dimensional Air Pollution Monitoring System". Based on laser remote sensing technology to obtain vertical pollution distribution profiles, the monitoring system will be used to measure pollutant concentration, detect high pollution events and estimate the amount of pollution transported from areas outside Hong Kong.

The Administration plans to submit the proposal to the Finance Committee in January 2019.

- 3. Improvement of roadside air quality**

December 2018

The Administration will report to the Panel the progress of improving roadside air quality and its proposed plan for controlling emissions from vehicles.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

4. Review of the operation and effectiveness of the Recycling Fund

December 2018

The Administration will brief the Panel on the findings and recommendations of the mid-term review of the implementation of the Recycling Fund.

Mr CHAN Hak-kan proposed in his letter to the Chairman dated 8 June 2018 (LC Paper No. CB(1)1105/17-18(01)) that the Panel discuss the captioned subject, in particular the administrative cost of the Recycling Fund and measures to streamline the procedure for application for subsidies under the Fund.

5. Review of Air Quality Objectives ("AQOs")

December 2018

The Administration will brief the Panel on the findings of the AQO review.

6. Review of wild pigs management strategies

4th quarter of 2018

In view of the rising nuisance and public safety concerns brought about by wild pigs, the Administration will consult members on the way forward for wild pigs management strategies, taking into account both public safety and animal welfare perspectives.

7. Retrofitting of noise barriers on Long Tin Road

January or February 2019

The Administration will invite the Panel's views on the financial proposal to upgrade 6832TH – Retrofitting of noise barriers on Long Tin Road to Category A.

8. Implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury ("the Convention") in Hong Kong

February 2019

The Administration will brief the Panel on the background and the requirements of the Convention, and the scope and approach of the proposed legislation enabling Hong Kong to effectively discharge its obligations under the Convention.

9. Combating climate change

1st quarter of 2019

The Administration will report the progress of its work on

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

combating climate change.

As suggested by Mr CHU Hoi-dick at the meeting on 12 October 2017, members agreed that the item should be brought up for discussion by the Panel every year. At the meeting on 11 October 2018, Mr CHU further proposed that the Administration should review its targets and strategy of reducing greenhouse gas emissions with reference to the findings in the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in October 2018; and Dr Elizabeth QUAT suggested that the Administration should brief members on its initiatives related to the development of a "smart environment", including the use of new technologies to combat climate change.

10. Shek Wu Hui Effluent Polishing Plant

1st quarter of 2019

The Administration will invite the Panel's views on the proposal to upgrade part of sewerage item 4388DS – Shek Wu Hui Effluent Polishing Plant – Main Works Stage 1 to Category A.

11. Management of waste paper and waste plastics

1st or 2nd quarter of 2019

Management of waste paper

As suggested by Mr Kenneth LEUNG at the meeting on 12 October 2017, members requested the Administration to step up efforts to reduce use of paper towels in public toilets.

Mr HUI Chi-fung wrote to the Chairman on 27 February 2018 (LC Paper No. CB(1)663/17-18(01)) proposing discussion on the recycling of waste paper, including the Administration's policy on supporting the local recycling of waste paper.

Management of waste plastics

In his letter to the Chairman dated 24 November 2017 (LC Paper No. CB(1)281/17-18(01)), Mr KWOK Wai-keung proposed discussion on the regulation of the manufacturing and sale of products containing microplastics in Hong Kong. The Administration's written response was circulated to members on 15 December 2017 vide LC Paper No. CB(1)360/17-18(01).

Mr HUI Chi-fung wrote to the Chairman on 6 June 2018 (LC Paper No. CB(1)1084/17-18(01)) proposing discussion on the

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

regulation of single-use plastic products.

12. Management of marine fill and marine disposal of dredged/excavated sediment

2nd quarter of 2019

The Administration will brief the Panel on the management of marine fill and disposal of dredged/excavated sediments by the project owners.

The subject was raised by Mr Steven HO at the meeting on 15 December 2014.

At the meeting on 28 November 2016, Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung suggested the Panel discuss the environmental issues relating to illegal disposal of construction and demolition materials into the sea/river. The Administration advised that these issues could be discussed under this item.

13. Excessive external lighting and noise pollution

2nd or 3rd quarter of 2019

As suggested by Dr Elizabeth QUAT and Mr SHIU Ka-fai at the meeting on 30 October 2017, members agreed to discuss the Administration's initiatives to regulate excessive external lighting and noise pollution.

On 12 April 2018, the Panel received a referral (LC Paper No. CB(1)802/17-18(01)) arising from the meeting between Legislative Council Members and Wan Chai District Council members on 26 January 2018 concerning the nuisance caused by excessive external lighting.

14. Review of the Seventh Technical Memorandum ("TM") for Allocation of Emission allowances for Power Plants

3rd quarter of 2019

The Administration will seek members' views on the legislative proposal to further reduce emission allowances for power plants starting from 1 January 2024 by way of issuing a new TM under section 26G of the Air Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap. 311).

15. Management of restored landfills

3rd quarter of 2019

In his letter to the Chairman dated 25 May 2018 (LC Paper No. CB(1)1023/17-18(01)), Mr Kenneth LEUNG proposed discussion on the captioned subject, including the progress of

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

developing public facilities on the 13 restored landfills, implementation progress of the Restored Landfill Revitalisation Funding Scheme, and issues related to the handling of landfill gas, leachate and uneven ground settlement on the sites concerned.

16. Review of the environmental impact assessment ("EIA") system

To be confirmed

Mr Kenneth LEUNG wrote to the Chairman on 24 November 2015 (LC Paper No. CB(1)202/15-16(01)) proposing discussion on the review of the EIA system, including the arrangements for the conduct of EIAs, public consultation arrangements, and enforcement of the environmental permit conditions. The Administration's response was circulated vide LC Paper No. CB(1)537/15-16(01) on 3 February 2016.

At the meeting on 11 October 2018, Mr Steven HO brought this issue up and suggested that the Administration should improve the transparency of the EIA system and public understanding of EIA reports, in anticipation of public concerns over the environmental impact of future reclamation works.

17. Implementation of the Integrated Waste Management Facilities ("IWMF")

As the IWMF contract was awarded in November 2017, the Administration suggests that the item be deleted.

The Public Accounts Committee ("PAC") issued a referral memorandum dated 16 February 2017 (LC Paper No. CB(1)586/16-17(01)) recommending the Panel to follow up PAC's recommendation on expediting the implementation of IWMF (waste-to-energy facilities).

The Administration obtained funding approval for IWMF (waste-to-energy facilities) from the Finance Committee in January 2015 and completed the prequalification exercise in the same year. The tender invitation for the Design-Build-Operate contract from the pre-qualified tenderers was issued in November 2016. PAC has considered Report No. 65 of the Director of Audit, a chapter of which is on the Government's efforts in managing municipal solid waste.

18. Existing policies on bicycles and promoting bicycles as a mode of transport as an initiative to improve roadside air

To be confirmed

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

quality

Mr HUI Chi-fung wrote to the Chairman on 23 May 2017 (LC Paper No. CB(1)1009/16-17) proposing to hold a joint meeting with the Panel on Transport to discuss issues relating to the existing policies on bicycles and promoting bicycles as a mode of transport. Mr HUI further wrote to the Chairman on 12 October 2017 proposing to discuss bicycle-friendly policies (LC Paper No. CB(1)86/17-18(01)).

Separately, an item on "Cycling safety and consultancy study on cycling networks and parking facilities in existing new towns" is currently on the list of outstanding items for discussion of the Panel on Transport.

19. Development of an artificial bathing beach at Lung Mei in Tai Po

Letter from Save Lung Mei Alliance on 25 October 2016 requesting the Panel on Environmental Affairs and the Panel on Development to discuss and monitor the captioned issue (LC Paper No. CB(1)42/16-17(01)).

The Civil Engineering and Development Department has provided an information paper on the issue, which was circulated vide LC Paper No. CB(1)9/18-19(01) on 10 October 2018.

20. Environmental pollution issues caused by garages in urban areas

On 19 December 2017, the Panel on Environmental Affairs, Panel on Development and Panel on Security received a referral (LC Paper No. CB(1)382/17-18(01)) arising from the meeting between Legislative Council Members and Eastern District Council members on 14 July 2017 concerning the safety issues of garages in urban areas. The problem of garages/vehicle repair workshops which pollute the environment in residential areas was referred to this Panel for follow-up.

The Administration has provided an information paper on the environmental pollution issues associated with the operational activities of garages in urban areas and the measures taken to tackle the issues, with focus on the situation in Eastern District. The paper was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(1)1298/17-18(01) on 25 July 2018.

21. Proposed overseas duty visit to study development of recycling facilities, renewable energy and restored landfills

To be confirmed

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

In his letter to the Chairman dated 28 May 2018 (LC Paper No. CB(1)1058/17-18(01)), Mr HUI Chi-fung proposed that the Panel conduct a duty visit to study overseas experience in the development of recycling facilities (in particular those for waste plastics) and the recycling industry. Members considered the proposal at the meeting on 25 June 2018, and suggested the proposed visit could also study the development of renewable energy including implementation of feed-in-tariff, and development and management of restored landfills. The Research Office of the Legislative Council Secretariat has been requested to prepare relevant information notes to facilitate the Panel's consideration of the proposed duty visit.

At the meeting on 11 October 2018, Mr Kenneth LEUNG suggested that the Panel should further discuss the proposal in the 2018-2019 legislative session.

22. Management of yard waste

To be confirmed

At the meeting on 11 October 2018, Mr CHU Hoi-dick and Dr Elizabeth QUAT suggested that the Panel discuss the overall management of yard waste and measures to promote reuse/recycling of such waste, including the contingency arrangements for fallen trees and branches caused by natural disasters.

23. Promoting the use of electric vehicles ("EVs")

To be confirmed

This item was proposed by Mr CHAN Hak-kan, Ms Tanya CHAN and Dr Elizabeth QUAT at the meeting on 11 October 2018. Members would like to be briefed on the relevant policies and measures, the latest development in the provision of ancillary facilities (such as charging facilities) for EVs, and the Administration's long-term plan (if any) to phase out conventional vehicles.

24. Control of invasive alien species

To be confirmed

At the meeting on 11 October 2018, Mr CHAN Han-pan proposed discussion on the measures to cope with the threats of invasive alien species to local habitats, with particular focus on *Mikania micrantha* and *Leucaena leucocephala*.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

25. Regulation of trade in bear bile products

To be confirmed

This item was raised at the meeting on 11 October 2018 by Dr Elizabeth QUAT, who expressed concern about the inhumane practice of extracting bile from live bears. Members would like to be briefed on the statistics on and regulation of trading activities associated with bear bile and its products, and whether the Administration would consider prohibiting the trade in products containing bile extracted from live bears.