

Panel on Environmental Affairs

**List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 25 April 2019)**

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. Yuen Long Effluent Polishing Plant

27 May 2019

The Administration will seek the Panel's views on the proposed upgrading of part of 4408DS – Yuen Long Effluent Polishing Plant to Category A. The project aims to improve the existing Yuen Long sewage treatment works to increase its treatment capacity to 100 000 cu m per day and update the sewage treatment standard to tertiary level.

The Administration plans to submit the proposal to the Public Works Subcommittee and the Finance Committee in June and July 2019 respectively.

2. Promotion of energy efficiency and conservation as well as renewable energy through innovation and technology ("I&T")

27 May 2019

The Administration will report to the Panel on the initiatives to further promote energy efficiency and conservation as well as renewable energy through adoption of I&T, including (a) E&M InnoPortal, (b) encouraging adoption of I&T solutions and (c) Green I&T Day.

3. Combating climate change

24 June 2019

The Administration will report the progress of its work on 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 strategies for 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 the use of new technologies to combat climate change, thereby contributing to the development of a "smart environment". On 28 March 2019, Dr QUAT wrote to the Chairman (LC Paper No. CB(1)929/18-19(01)) appealing for early discussion of the item.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

- 4. Implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury ("the Convention") in Hong Kong** 2nd quarter of 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.

- 5. Management of waste paper and waste plastics** 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 regulation of single-use plastic products.

- 6. 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.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

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.

7. Management of yard waste

2nd or 3rd quarter of
2019

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.

The Administration would like to brief members on the development in the second or third quarter of 2019.

8. 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.

9. 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).

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

10. 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 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.

11. Enhanced protection of green turtles

4th quarter of 2019

The Administration will consult the Panel on the proposed measures to further enhance the protection of green turtles.

12. 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. In his letter to the Chairman dated 19 March 2019 (LC Paper No. CB(1)752/18-19(01)), Mr HO further expressed concerns about the ineffectiveness of EIAs in reflecting the cumulative environmental impacts of marine works projects and works related to new development areas on the agriculture and fisheries industries. The Administration's written response to the letter was circulated to members on 8 April 2019 vide LC Paper No. CB(1)859/18-19(01).

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

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

To be confirmed

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.

14. 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*.

15. 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.