

Panel on Environmental Affairs

**List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 13 July 2021)**

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. Public Consultation on the Scheme on Regulation of Disposable Plastic Tableware

23 August 2021

As reducing the use of disposable plastic tableware at source will help minimize the impacts of plastic pollution on the ecological environment and human health and reduce carbon emissions to mitigate climate change, the Government has conducted a study on the feasibility, scope and mechanism of the control of disposable plastic tableware. The study has been completed and having taken into account overseas experience and the local situation, the study report suggested introducing legislation in phases to regulate disposable plastic tableware with exclusions under special circumstances.

To this end, the Government launched a two-month public consultation on 9 July 2021 to consult the public, the trades and other relevant stakeholders on the Scheme on Regulation of Disposable Plastic Tableware. Subject to the views received and the ensuing legislative procedures, the first phase of the regulation is anticipated to be implemented in 2025.

The Administration will brief the Panel on the proposed scheme on the regulation of disposable plastic tableware and seek Members' views on the proposal.

The Administration plans to introduce the relevant legislative proposal into the Legislative Council in the first quarter of 2022.

2. Ameliorating noise problems in public places and domestic premises and wider use of innovative technologies to manage environmental noise

23 August 2021

The Administration will brief the Panel on the existing legislation and management practices in controlling noise nuisance caused by shop keepers crying their wares in public places and noise from domestic premises, as well as the application of innovative technologies to improve the efficiency of environmental noise management by the Environmental Protection Department.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

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

To be confirmed

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.

4. Review on measures to manage external lighting

To be confirmed

As suggested by some members at the meeting on 30 October 2017, members agreed to discuss the Administration's initiatives to regulate excessive external lighting.

On 12 April 2018 and 6 August 2019, the Panel received two referrals (LC Paper Nos. CB(1)802/17-18(01) and CB(1)1373/18-19(01)) arising from the meetings between Legislative Council Members and Wan Chai District Council members on 26 January 2018 and 28 June 2019 regarding the regulation of external lighting installations.

5. Combating climate change

To be confirmed

The Administration will update the Panel on the work related to the public engagement on Long-term Decarbonisation Strategy conducted by the Council for Sustainable Development.

As suggested by Mr CHU Hoi-dick at the meeting on 12 October 2017, members agreed that the topic of climate change 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

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1.5°C published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in October 2018; and Ms 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, Ms QUAT wrote to the Chairman (LC Paper No. CB(1)929/18-19(01)) appealing for early discussion of the topic.

- 6. Future arrangements for Dedicated Liquefied Petroleum Gas Filling Stations ("DFSs")** To be confirmed

The Administration will brief the Panel on the future arrangements for DFSs after the expiry of the existing contracts.

- 7. Management of waste paper** To be confirmed

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

- 8. 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, the Panel on Transport discussed at its meeting on 15 May 2020 "Improvement works of cycle track network in new towns and latest situation of automated dockless bicycle rental services".

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

9. Regulation of trade in bear bile products

To be confirmed

This item was raised at the meeting on 11 October 2018 by Ms 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.

10. Environmental impact of the use of tear gas

To be confirmed

This item was raised by Ms Tanya CHAN on behalf of Mr CHAN Chi-chuen at the meeting on 17 October 2019. Ms CHAN suggested that the Administration should brief the Panel on the environmental and health impacts of the frequent use of tear gas in the community in the preceding few months, and how it would tackle the environmental pollution, if any, caused by tear gas residues. The Panel received a submission from The Conservancy Association on the subject (LC Paper No. CB(1)161/19-20(01)).

11. Regulation of personal care and cosmetic products containing microbeads

To be confirmed

At the meeting on 24 May 2021, the Administration briefed the Panel on the plan to implement a voluntary scheme for phasing out personal care and cosmetic products containing microbeads, with a view to encouraging the trade to stop manufacturing, importing or selling such products. Members in general did not object to the implementation of the voluntary scheme, but considered that the Administration should embark on the legislative exercise to regulate these products as soon as practicable. The Chairman directed that the Panel should discuss the subject further at a future meeting.