

**Panel on Environmental Affairs**

**List of proposed discussion items  
(position as at 21 June 2024)**

**Proposed timing  
for discussion**

- 1. Proposal to amend Air Pollution Control Ordinance to combat the conduct of unlicensed specified processes more effectively through introducing closure notice mechanism and amend the coverage of “cement works”**

15 July 2024

Carrying out unlicensed specified processes may lead to serious air pollution consequences, damaging public health. In order to protect the environment and safeguard public health, the Administration proposes to amend the Air Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap. 311) to introduce a closure notice mechanism to provide a more effective legal means to close the relevant premises, thereby ceasing the operation of unlicensed specified processes as soon as possible. The Administration also proposes to amend the coverage of the specified process “cement works” to avoid the related works processes from circumventing the control of the specified process licence regime.

The Environmental Protection Department has consulted specified process license holders, the cement works industry and the construction industry regarding the amendment proposal.

The Administration plans to introduce the relevant legislative proposal into the Legislative Council in the fourth quarter of 2024.

- 2. Proposed amendments to Waste Disposal Ordinance**

15 July 2024

The Administration will brief the Panel on the proposed amendments to the Waste Disposal Ordinance (Cap. 354) to expand the coverage of import and export permit control from hazardous electrical and electronic waste to all electrical and electronic waste for implementing the relevant amendments to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal.

The Administration plans to introduce the relevant legislative proposal into the Legislative Council on 23 October 2024.

- 3. Implementation of Kigali Amendment on Hydrofluorocarbons in Hong Kong**

2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2024

The Administration will seek the Panel’s views on the regulatory proposal relating to the phase-down of the consumption of

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hydrofluorocarbons in Hong Kong, which will enable the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to fulfil its international obligations under the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

**4. Provision of village sewerage in West Kowloon and Tsuen Wan**

2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2024

The Administration will seek the Panel's views on its proposal to upgrade the following works item to Category A for the provision of sewerage network for parts of unsewered areas in West Kowloon and Tsuen Wan: part of 4391DS – West Kowloon and Tsuen Wan village sewerage – phase 2 (package 1).

**5. Implementation of a large scale floating solar farm at Plover Cove Reservoir and a large scale solar farm at South East New Territories Landfill**

2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2024

The Administration will seek the Panel's views on its proposals to upgrade the following works items to Category A to implement large scale solar systems:

- (a) 9001PR – Implementation of a Large Scale Floating Solar Farm at Plover Cover Reservoir; and
- (b) 9002PR – Implementation of a Large Scale Solar Farm at South East New Territories Landfill for Supplying Renewable Energy to the Tseung Kwan O Desalination Plant.

**6. Implementation progress and review of the Hong Kong Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan**

2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2024

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department attended the second part of the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of Conference of the Parties (“COP 15”) to the UN Biodiversity Convention, which was held from 7 to 19 December 2022. The Administration will brief the Panel on the developments in relation to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and relevant decisions adopted at COP 15; new emerging issues and priorities at local, regional and national levels; and preparation for the next biodiversity strategy and action plan.

At the meeting on 5 February 2024 between the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman and the Administration to discuss the work plan of the Panel (“work plan meeting on 5 February 2024”), the Administration

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advised that this item would also cover the city-level strategy for the designation and management of marine protected areas, in response to the Deputy Chairman's enquiry.

**7. Annual electricity tariff reviews**

2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2024

Pursuant to the Scheme of Control Agreements signed with the two power companies, the Government conducts annual tariff reviews with the power companies respectively. Thereafter, the two power companies will announce their tariffs for the following year and brief the Panel.

**8. Proposed amendments to Noise Control Ordinance and its subsidiary legislation**

2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2024

The Administration will brief members on the outcome of the public/trade consultation and seek their views on the proposals to tighten noise control.

**9. Promoting the development of green transport: the citywide green transformation roadmap for public buses and taxis**

2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2024

Ms Elizabeth QUAT, Mr CHAN Hak-kan, Mr Frankie YICK Chi-ming and Ir CHAN Siu-hung proposed discussion on promoting green transport development at the meeting on 17 January 2023. They suggested that the item should cover the progress of developing and adopting various types of zero-carbon transport technologies (such as hydrogen fuel cell, ammonia, and green methanol technologies), government support for transport operators to transition to new energy vehicles/vessels, and measures for promoting Hong Kong's development into a sustainable aviation fuel hub.

At the meeting on 16 January 2024, Mr CHAN Hak-kan further suggested the establishment of a demonstration zone for zero-carbon transport in the Northern Metropolis, and that relevant facilities such as charging stations and hydrogen refuelling stations should be provided in the demonstration zone.

In the Chief Executive's 2023 Policy Address, it was announced that the Government would formulate a citywide green transformation roadmap for public buses and taxis in the first half of 2024. The roadmap will cover the relevant targets, strategies, and key measures relating to the transformation.

**Proposed timing  
for discussion**

At the work plan meeting on 5 February 2024, it was agreed that the Panel explore arranging for a joint meeting with the Panel on Transport to discuss this item.

**10. Future development of Hong Kong's electricity market and effectiveness of 2023 Interim Review on Scheme of Control Agreements ("SCAs")**

To be confirmed

This discussion item was proposed by Ms Carmen KAN Wai-mun, Dr Hoey Simon LEE and Ms Elizabeth QUAT on 16 January 2024. They suggested that this item should cover the following issues: (a) structure of and regulatory framework for the local electricity market after the expiry of the existing SCAs; (b) progress of increasing the share of green energy in the fuel mix for electricity generation, capital investments involved and tariff impact; and (c) effectiveness of the modifications to SCAs following the 2023 Interim Review.

**11. Review of operation and cost-effectiveness of district cooling systems ("DCSs")**

To be confirmed

Mr CHAN Hak-kan suggested at the meeting on 16 January 2024 that the Administration should review the operation and cost-effectiveness of existing DCSs and report the details to the Panel, including the DCSs' operating and maintenance costs, rates of return on investment, etc., with a view to examining whether there would be a good business case for constructing new DCSs in new development areas/projects.

**12. Proposed amendments to Buildings Energy Efficiency Ordinance (Cap. 610)**

To be confirmed

The Administration will consult the Panel on the proposed amendments to the Buildings Energy Efficiency Ordinance (Cap. 610), with a view to commencing the legislative exercise in 2024 as stated in the Chief Executive's 2023 Policy Address.

**13. Balance between development and environmental protection**

To be confirmed

At the meeting on 25 January 2022, Mr CHAN Yung proposed discussion on the development potential of Green Belt sites. Mr CHAN Siu-hung suggested that the Administration should (a) introduce requirements relating to carbon emissions into contracts for public works projects, with a view to striking a better balance between development and environmental protection; and (b) promote

the adoption of ESG (i.e. environmental, social and governance) practices in both the public and private sectors. Prof LAU Chi-pang urged the Administration to ensure proper environmental protection during the development of the Northern Metropolis.

At the meeting on 16 January 2024, Mr Steven HO Chun-yin suggested that the impact of land development projects on existing industries (such as the logistics industry and the agriculture and fisheries industries) should be covered by this discussion item, and members of the relevant Panels should be invited to join the discussion.

At the work plan meeting on 5 February 2024, the Chairman suggested refining the scope of this item in future to enable more focused discussion.

#### **14. Update on waste reduction and management measures**

To be confirmed

##### Regulation on the proper collection and handling of recyclables in residential buildings

To strengthen the regulation on the proper handling of recyclables in residential buildings, it was announced in the Chief Executive's 2022 Policy Address that the Government would explore requiring by legislation the property management companies and the owners' organizations of major housing estates and single-block buildings with relatively large numbers of flats to collect common types of recyclables separately and pass them to downstream recyclers for proper processing.

At the work plan meeting on 5 February 2024, the Administration suggested consulting the Panel on the relevant legislative proposal when the Panel discusses waste reduction and management strategy and measures.

##### Implementation progress and cost-effectiveness of other waste reduction and recycling measures

The Administration will brief the Panel on the implementation progress of major waste-to-energy/resources facilities and measures for promoting waste reduction and recycling.

Dr Junius HO Kwan-yiu proposed discussing related issues at the meeting on 17 January 2023, and suggested that the Administration

should report to the Panel the cost-effectiveness of the said facilities and measures.

#### Regional collaboration

Ms Elizabeth QUAT suggested at the meeting on 16 January 2024 that the Administration should explore the sharing of waste treatment capacities between Hong Kong and other cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

#### Public education

At the meeting on 16 January 2024, Mr CHU Kwok-keung suggested that the Administration should enhance public education on environmental protection, in particular on topics such as waste reduction and MSW charging, and interdepartmental cooperation should be strengthened for the purpose.

#### Issues referred to the Panel for follow-up

The Subcommittee to Study Policy Issues Relating to Municipal Solid Waste Charging, Recovery and Recycling referred the following issues to this Panel for follow-up: promoting local reuse of recyclables and green procurement; planning and support for the development of the green industry and related manpower training; and regional collaboration and strategy for waste management.

### **15. Mitigation of road traffic noise**

Mr Dominic LEE Tsz-king expressed concern that some residential estates were seriously affected by road traffic noise (such as The Palazzo in Fo Tan and The Regent in Tai Po). At the meeting on 25 January 2022, he suggested that the Administration should brief the Panel on the measures for mitigating road traffic noise, including the retrofitting of noise barriers at strategic locations.

At the work plan meeting on 5 February 2024, the Administration advised that it would provide an information paper on the issue.