

## Head 49 — FOOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE DEPARTMENT

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**Controlling officer:** the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene will account for expenditure under this Head.

Estimate 2000–01 .....	<b>\$4,466.5m</b>
Establishment ceiling 2000–01 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 16 861 non-directorate posts at 31 March 2000 reducing by 511 posts to 16 350 posts at 31 March 2001 .....	<b>\$2,938.7m</b>
In addition there will be an estimated 14 directorate posts at 31 March 2000 and at 31 March 2001	
Capital Account commitment balance .....	<b>\$32.9m</b>

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### Controlling Officer's Report

#### Programmes

<b>Programme (1) Food Safety and Public Health</b>	This programme contributes to Policy Area 2: Food Supply and Food Safety (Secretary for the Environment and Food).
<b>Programme (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services</b>	These programmes contribute to Policy Area 32: Environmental Hygiene (Secretary for the Environment and Food).
<b>Programme (3) Market Management and Hawker Control</b>	
<b>Programme (4) Public Education and Community Involvement</b>	This programme contributes to Policy Area 2: Food Supply and Food Safety (Secretary for the Environment and Food) and Policy Area 32: Environmental Hygiene (Secretary for the Environment and Food).

#### Detail

##### Programme (1): Food Safety and Public Health

	1998–99 (Actual)	1999–2000 (Approved)	1999–2000 (Revised)#	<b>2000–01 (Estimate)</b>
Financial provision (\$m)	—	—	91.3	<b>339.7 (+272.1%)</b>

# The revised estimate for 1999–2000 represents the provision required for the three months from 1 January 2000 to 31 March 2000.

#### Aim

2 The aim is to ensure that food available for human consumption is wholesome, hygienic and safe; and to safeguard public health through testing and control of live food animals and effective pest control.

#### Brief Description

3 The work involves:

- conducting food surveillance at various points of the food chain and taking enforcement actions;
- ensuring pre-packaged food for sale is properly labelled;
- introducing and promoting the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) approach to ensure food safety;
- conducting risk assessment on food and providing timely information to the public;
- investigating and managing food incidents;
- exercising import control on high-risk food and issuing health certificates for food exports;
- exercising import control on live food animals;
- conducting inspections and tests on live food animals at slaughterhouses and wholesale markets;
- conducting risk assessment on pests affecting public health;
- taking control measures to prevent vector-borne diseases; and
- investigating incidents of vector-borne diseases.

4 The key performance measures are:

## Head 49 — FOOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE DEPARTMENT

### *Targets*

	Target	1998 (Actual)	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Plan)
approval for import of game, meat and poultry to be granted within five working days (%) .....	95	—	—	<b>95</b>
approval for import of milk and milk products to be granted within 13 working days (%) .....	95	—	—	<b>95</b>
approval for import of frozen confections to be granted within 13 working days (%).....	95	—	—	<b>95</b>
applications for export or re-export food health certificates to be granted within 13 working days (%) .....	95	—	—	<b>95</b>
inspecting vehicles carrying vegetables at Man Kam To Food Control Office (% of vehicles) .....	95	—	—	<b>95</b>
food surveillance through testing of food samples (no. of food samples tested per 1 000 population per year).....	8	—	—	<b>8</b>
initiating investigation of reports of food unfit for human consumption within 24 hours (%) .....	100	—	—	<b>100</b>
initiating investigation of complaints about food labelling within three working days (%) .....	100	—	—	<b>100</b>
promoting HACCP to food licensees (no. of food licensees approached).....	1 600	—	—	<b>1 600</b>
issuing veterinary health certificates for exported food containing animal products within three working days (%).....	95	—	—	<b>95</b>
inspecting vehicles carrying poultry at Man Kam To (% of vehicles) .....	95	—	—	<b>95</b>
testing pigs for beta-agonists (% of lots)....	95	—	—	<b>95</b>
initiating pest control measures within 24 hours upon receiving report of vector-borne diseases (%).....	100	—	—	<b>100</b>
dealing with complaints on pest control matters within seven working days (%) .	100	—	—	<b>100</b>

### *Indicators*

	1998 (Actual)	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Estimate)
no. of applications for import of game, meat and poultry .....	—	—	<b>2 800</b>
no. of applications for import of milk and milk products .....	—	—	<b>150</b>
no. of applications for import of frozen confections .....	—	—	<b>130</b>
no. of export/re-export food health certificates issued.....	—	—	<b>120</b>
no. of vehicles carrying vegetables inspected at Man Kam To Food Control Office.....	—	—	<b>87 600</b>
no. of food samples taken for testing .....	—	—	<b>56 000</b>
no. of labels checked .....	—	—	<b>30 000</b>
no. of food licensees attending HACCP seminars .....	—	—	<b>1 600</b>
no. of veterinary health certificates for exported food containing animal products issued.....	—	—	<b>120</b>
no. of vehicles carrying poultry inspected at Man Kam To ....	—	—	<b>22 000</b>
no. of blood samples taken from poultry for testing of avian influenza H5 .....	—	—	<b>308 000</b>
no. of pig urine samples taken for testing of beta-agonists.....	—	—	<b>48 000</b>
no. of poison treatments of rodent infestation in building blocks .....	—	—	<b>31 100</b>
no. of trappings .....	—	—	<b>5 320</b>
no. of mosquito breeding places eliminated.....	—	—	<b>19 650</b>
no. of fly breeding places eliminated .....	—	—	<b>67 000</b>
no. of pest control surveys conducted .....	—	—	<b>1 940</b>

## Head 49 — FOOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE DEPARTMENT

### *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2000–01*

- 5 During 2000–01, the department will:
- enhance food safety through the promotion of HACCP approach;
  - strengthen capability for data collection and analysis with a view to preventing food safety problems as well as taking speedy remedial actions;
  - formulate risk communication strategies and action plans for dissemination of food safety information;
  - conduct food consumption survey and laboratory researches on food science and toxicology;
  - strengthen the prevention and control of food-borne illnesses originating from live food animals; and
  - enhance surveillance and operational programmes for the prevention and control of vector-borne diseases.

### **Programme (2): Environmental Hygiene and Related Services**

	1998–99 (Actual)	1999–2000 (Approved)	1999–2000 (Revised)#	<b>2000–01 (Estimate)</b>
Financial provision (\$m)	—	—	702.4	<b>2,564.2</b> <b>(+265.1%)</b>

# The revised estimate for 1999–2000 represents the provision required for the three months from 1 January 2000 to 31 March 2000.

### *Aim*

6 The aim is to provide quality environmental hygiene services and facilities, and through licensing and regulation of licensed premises, to safeguard public health.

### *Brief Description*

- 7 The work involves:
- providing efficient and effective public cleansing services including street cleansing, household waste collection, desludging, management and maintenance of public cleansing facilities such as public toilets and refuse collection points;
  - licensing and inspecting food premises, and taking law enforcement actions against unlicensed and unhygienic food premises;
  - providing meat inspection services at licensed slaughterhouses;
  - processing liquor licence applications and servicing the Liquor Licensing Board;
  - licensing funeral parlours, private swimming pools and commercial bathhouses, places of public entertainment and offensive trades; and taking law enforcement action in relation to these activities;
  - managing cremation and burial facilities including public cemeteries, crematoria and columbaria; and
  - abating sanitary nuisances including dripping air-conditioners, water seepage, environmental hygiene blackspots etc.
- 8 The key performance measures are:

### *Targets*

	Target	1998 (Actual)	1999 (Actual)	<b>2000 (Plan)</b>
<i>Cleansing</i>				
main roads with 1st round street sweeping services completed before 9:00 a.m. (%) .....	95	—	—	<b>95</b>
public toilets provided with toilet attendant service (during day-time) (%) .....	40	—	—	<b>40</b>
<i>Licensing of food premises</i>				
cases where Letters of Requirements for restaurant licences can be issued within three weeks of joint inspection (%) .....	95	—	—	<b>95</b>

## Head 49 — FOOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE DEPARTMENT

	Target	1998 (Actual)	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Plan)
cases where food business licences can be issued within seven working days upon confirmation of compliance (%) .....	95	—	—	95
cases where issue of provisional licences for restaurant and other food premises can be issued within ten working days upon receipt of compliance letter (%) ....	95	—	—	95
cases where liquor licences can be issued within five working days upon approval by Liquor Licensing Board and issue of restaurant licence by licensing office (%).....	95	—	—	95
<i>Licensing of funeral parlours, private swimming pools, commercial bathhouses, offensive trades and places of public entertainment</i>				
cases where Letters of Requirements can be issued within eight weeks upon application (%) .....	95	—	—	95
cases where licences can be issued within seven working days upon confirmation of compliance (%)....	95	—	—	95
<i>Cemeteries and crematoria</i>				
cases where an applicant can book a cremation session within 15 days (%).....	95	—	—	95
cases where burial spaces can be allocated on the day of receipt of application (%) .....	95	—	—	95

### *Indicators*

	1998 (Actual)	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Estimate)
total amount of refuse collected (tonnes).....	—	—	2 260 000
total amount of sludge collected by gully emptiers (tonnes)...	—	—	9 300
no. of licensed food premises.....	—	—	22 700
no. of permitted food premises (e.g. sushi and milk retail outlets).....	—	—	12 300
no. of applications for food business licences.....	—	—	3 100
no. of applications for restricted food permits .....	—	—	1 300
no. of inspections to food premises.....	—	—	539 900
no. of raids against illegal slaughtering.....	—	—	220
no. of prosecutions against food premises			
licensed .....	—	—	8 300
unlicensed .....	—	—	6 600
no. of food business licences suspended/cancelled.....	—	—	400
no. of applications for private swimming pools, places of public entertainment etc. handled.....	—	—	100
no. of inspections conducted in respect of private swimming pools, places of public entertainment etc. ....	—	—	13 000
no. of burials			
coffin.....	—	—	2 100
urn .....	—	—	900
no. of cremations			
body .....	—	—	26 900
skeletal .....	—	—	2 200
no. of exhumations permits issued.....	—	—	5 100

### *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2000–01*

9 During 2000–01, the department will:

## Head 49 — FOOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE DEPARTMENT

- set clear standards on environmental hygiene and make visible improvements in public cleansing and management of public toilets;
- streamline procedures with a view to introducing a more effective mechanism to tackle environmental nuisances such as dripping air-conditioners;
- step up enforcement actions against unlicensed food premises;
- streamline processing procedures and shorten processing time for licence applications; and
- review the scope of light refreshment licences and food factories licences.

### Programme (3): Market Management and Hawker Control

	1998–99 (Actual)	1999–2000 (Approved)	1999–2000 (Revised)#	<b>2000–01 (Estimate)</b>
Financial provision (\$m)	—	—	407.5	<b>1,521.7</b> (+273.4%)

# The revised estimate for 1999–2000 represents the provision required for the three months from 1 January 2000 to 31 March 2000.

### Aim

**10** The aim is to maintain a clean and hygienic environment in public markets and to control on-street hawking activities.

### Brief Description

**11** The work involves:

- managing and maintaining public markets;
- inspecting markets to ensure cleanliness and compliance of tenancy requirements and conditions;
- controlling and containing on-street hawking activities;
- managing licensed hawker pitches, hawker permitted places and hawker bazaars; and
- taking law enforcement actions.

**12** The key performance measures are:

### Targets

	Target	1998 (Actual)	1999 (Actual)	<b>2000 (Plan)</b>
markets with common parts cleansed at least three times a day (%) .....	100	—	—	<b>100</b>
stalls let out (%) .....	85	—	—	<b>85</b>
response time to deal with complaints of illegal hawking in built-up areas (minutes) .....	30	—	—	<b>30</b>

### Indicators

	1998 (Actual)	1999 (Actual)	<b>2000 (Estimate)</b>
no. of licensed hawkers			
fixed pitch hawkers .....	—	—	<b>10 800</b>
itinerant hawkers .....	—	—	<b>1 200</b>
estimated number of unlicensed hawkers .....	—	—	<b>3 700</b>
no. of raids by Hawker Control Teams .....	—	—	<b>73 200</b>
no. of joint operations against illegal hawking with other departments .....	—	—	<b>950</b>
no. of hawker blackspots .....	—	—	<b>120</b>
no. of hawker licences cancelled .....	—	—	<b>180</b>

### Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2000–01

**13** During 2000–01, the department will review the management of market facilities and the mechanism for market stall rental adjustments.

## Head 49 — FOOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE DEPARTMENT

### Programme (4): Public Education and Community Involvement

	1998-99 (Actual)	1999-2000 (Approved)	1999-2000 (Revised)#	<b>2000-01 (Estimate)</b>
Financial provision (\$m)	—	—	10.8	<b>40.9</b> (+278.7%)

# The revised estimate for 1999-2000 represents the provision required for the three months from 1 January 2000 to 31 March 2000.

#### *Aim*

**14** The aim is to promote food safety and the maintenance of a hygienic environment through partnership with the community.

#### *Brief Description*

**15** The work involves:

- enhancing public awareness of the importance of food safety and empowering consumers to make informed choices;
- educating the public on their responsibility in maintaining a clean and hygienic living environment;
- organising targeted public education and publicity programmes to mobilise community involvement and support; and
- building a corporate image for the department.

**16** The key performance measures are:

#### *Targets*

	Target	1998 (Actual)	1999 (Actual)	<b>2000 (Plan)</b>
no. of organisations approached for organising community involvement programmes .....	25	—	—	<b>25</b>
no. of schools approached .....	100	—	—	<b>100</b>
response to requests for information/talks on food safety and environmental hygiene (% within one week) .....	100	—	—	<b>100</b>
advertising campaign .....	1	—	—	<b>1</b>

#### *Indicators*

	1998 (Actual)	1999 (Actual)	<b>2000 (Estimate)</b>
no. of community involvement programmes organised .....	—	—	<b>20</b>
no. of seminars for general public organised .....	—	—	<b>20</b>
no. of outreaching programmes targeted at schools organised .....	—	—	<b>20</b>
no of school talks organised .....	—	—	<b>100</b>
series of TV Announcements in the Public Interest .....	—	—	<b>1</b>
series of radio Announcements in the Public Interest .....	—	—	<b>1</b>

#### *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2000-01*

**17** During 2000-01, the department will:

- educate the public on their role in and responsibility for ensuring food safety;
- organise a programme of community involvement activities to enlist public support in maintaining a clean and hygienic living environment;
- conduct a survey to assess the level of public knowledge in the area of food safety; and
- launch a multi-media campaign to promote public awareness of the importance of food safety and environmental hygiene and to promote the new department's services.

## Head 49 — FOOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE DEPARTMENT

### ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	1998-99 (Actual) (\$m)	1999-2000 (Approved) (\$m)	1999-2000 (Revised)# (\$m)	2000-01 (Estimate) (\$m)
(1) Food Safety and Public Health .....	—	—	91.3	<b>339.7</b>
(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services .....	—	—	702.4	<b>2,564.2</b>
(3) Market Management and Hawker Control.....	—	—	407.5	<b>1,521.7</b>
(4) Public Education and Community Involvement.....	—	—	10.8	<b>40.9</b>
	—	—	1,212.0	<b>4,466.5</b> (+268.5%)

# The revised estimate for 1999-2000 represents the provision required for the three months from 1 January 2000 to 31 March 2000.

#### Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

##### Programme (1)

Provision for 2000-01 is \$248.4 million (272.1%) higher than the revised estimate for 1999-2000. This is mainly due to full-year provision for expenditure under this programme, partly offset by deletion of 27 posts in 2000-01. These posts were identified as surplus to requirement in the re-organisation of municipal services and will be deleted on 1 April 2000 upon redeployment of staff to other departments.

##### Programme (2)

Provision for 2000-01 is \$1,861.8 million (265.1%) higher than the revised estimate for 1999-2000. This is mainly due to full-year provision for expenditure under this programme and the provision of service to new areas in the New Territories, partly offset by deletion of 206 posts in 2000-01 due to the closure of the Cheung Sha Wan Abattoir and the Kennedy Town Abattoir By-product Plant, and 165 surplus posts identified in the re-organisation of municipal services. The surplus posts will be deleted on 1 April 2000 upon redeployment of staff to other departments.

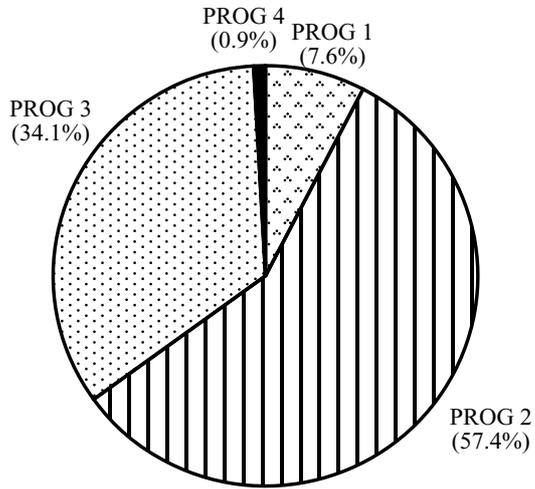
##### Programme (3)

Provision for 2000-01 is \$1,114.2 million (273.4%) higher than the revised estimate for 1999-2000. This is mainly due to full-year provision for expenditure under this programme, partly offset by a deletion of 113 posts in 2000-01. These posts were identified as surplus to requirement in the re-organisation of municipal services and will be deleted on 1 April 2000 upon redeployment of staff to other departments.

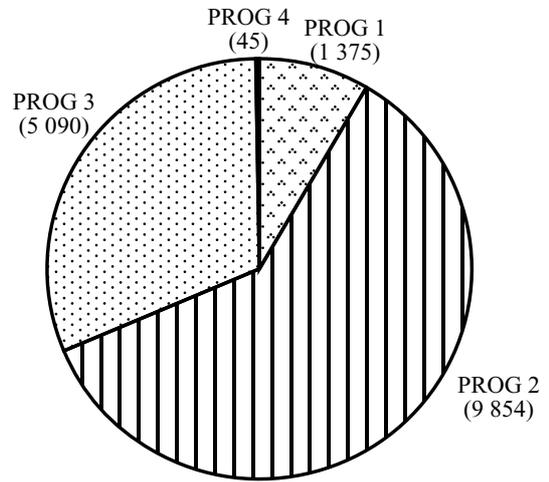
##### Programme (4)

Provision for 2000-01 is \$30.1 million (278.7%) higher than the revised estimate for 1999-2000. This is mainly due to full-year provision for expenditure under this programme.

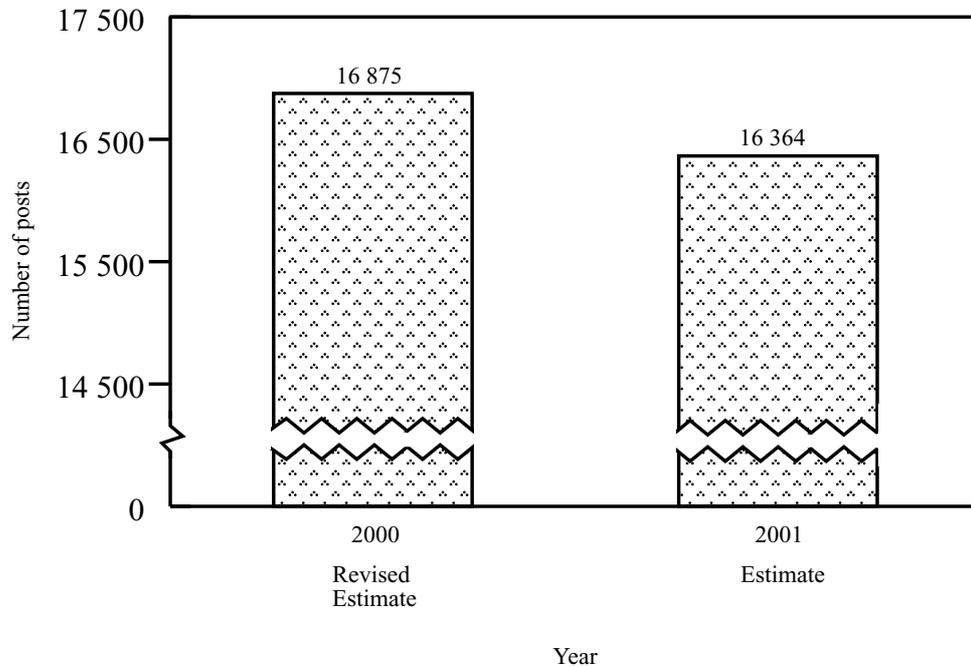
*Allocation of provision  
to programmes  
(2000-01)*



*Staff by programme  
(as at 31 March 2001)*



*Changes in the size of the establishment  
(as at 31 March)*



## Head 49 — FOOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE DEPARTMENT

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 1998–99	Approved estimate 1999–2000	Revised estimate 1999–2000#	Estimate 2000–01
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Recurrent Account</b>				
I — Personal Emoluments				
001	Salaries .....	—	—	802,280
002	Allowances .....	—	—	29,050
007	Job-related allowances .....	—	—	40,700
	Total, Personal Emoluments .....	—	—	872,030
III — Departmental Expenses				
149	General departmental expenses .....	—	—	294,619
	Total, Departmental Expenses .....	—	—	294,619
	Total, Recurrent Account .....	—	—	1,166,649
<b>Capital Account</b>				
I — Plant, Equipment and Works				
603	Plant, vehicles and equipment .....	—	—	—
661	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote) .....	—	—	10,601
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works .....	—	—	10,601
II — Other Non-Recurrent				
700	General other non-recurrent .....	—	—	34,772
	Total, Other Non-Recurrent .....	—	—	34,772
	Total, Capital Account .....	—	—	45,373
	Total Expenditure .....	—	—	1,212,022

# The revised estimate for 1999–2000 represents the provision required for the three months from 1 January 2000 to 31 March 2000.

## Head 49 — FOOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE DEPARTMENT

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### Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2000–01 for the salaries and expenses of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is \$4,466,542,000. This represents an increase of \$3,254,520,000 over the revised estimate for 1999–2000, which is a three-month provision for the period 1 January 2000 to 31 March 2000.

#### *Recurrent Account*

##### Personal Emoluments

**2** Provision of \$3,358,311,000 for personal emoluments represents an increase of \$2,486,281,000 over the revised estimate for 1999–2000 and takes into account full-year provision for posts created and filled in 1999–2000, partly offset by posts likely to be deleted during 2000–01.

**3** The establishment at 31 March 2000 will be 16 874 permanent posts and one supernumerary post. It is expected that 511 permanent posts will be deleted in 2000–01.

**4** Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated powers create or delete non-directorate posts during 2000–01, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$2,938,745,000, which will be reduced to \$2,935,037,000 upon the deletion of 20 abattoir grade posts in the course of the year.

**5** Provision of \$91,100,000 under *Subhead 002 Allowances* is for standard allowances. The increase of \$62,050,000 (213.6%) over the revised estimate for 1999–2000 is mainly due to full-year provision for this requirement.

**6** Provision of \$136,900,000 under *Subhead 007 Job-related allowances* is for standard job-related allowances. The increase of \$96,200,000 (236.4%) over the revised estimate for 1999–2000 is mainly due to full-year provision for this requirement.

##### Departmental Expenses

**7** Provision of \$1,017,347,000 under *Subhead 149 General departmental expenses* represents an increase of \$722,728,000 (245.3%) over the revised estimate for 1999–2000. This is mainly due to full-year provision for the activities undertaken by the new department.

#### *Capital Account*

##### Plant, Equipment and Works

**8** Provision of \$77,117,000 under *Subhead 661 Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)* represents an increase of \$66,516,000 (627.5%) over the revised estimate for 1999–2000. This is mainly due to the increased requirement for replacement of vehicles for environmental hygiene services.

## Head 49 — FOOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE DEPARTMENT

### Capital Account

#### Commitments

Sub-head (Code)	Item (Code)	Ambit	Approved commitment	Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.99	#Revised estimated expenditure for 1999–2000	Balance
			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
603		<i>Plant, vehicles and equipment</i>				
	004	On-board monitoring and weighing devices for refuse collection and mechanised cleansing vehicles .....	3,600	—	—	3,600
700		<i>General other non-recurrent</i>				
	001	Ex-gratia payments to cooked food hawker licencees.....	6,900	—	300	6,600
	002	Ex-gratia payment under Itinerant Hawker Licence Compulsory Deletion Policy .....	19,200	—	1,500	17,700
	003	Ex-gratia payment to abattoir grade staff .....	38,000	—	32,972	5,028
			<u>64,100</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>34,772</u>	<u>29,328</u>
		Total.....	<u>67,700</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>34,772</u>	<u>32,928</u>

# The commitments were created upon the setting up of the department on 1 January 2000. The revised estimated expenditure for 1999–2000 represents the estimated expenditure for the three months from 1 January 2000 to 31 March 2000.