

**Head 154 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT:
ENVIRONMENT AND FOOD BUREAU**

Controlling officer: the Secretary for the Environment and Food will account for expenditure under this Head.

Estimate 2000–01	\$57.9m
Establishment ceiling 2000–01 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 64 non-directorate posts at 31 March 2000 rising by six posts to 70 posts at 31 March 2001	\$32.3m
In addition there will be an estimated ten directorate posts at 31 March 2000 and at 31 March 2001.	
Capital Account commitment balance	\$1.6m

Controlling Officer's Report

Programmes

Programme (1) Food Supply and Food Safety	This programme contributes to Policy Area 2: Food Supply and Food Safety (Secretary for the Environment and Food).
Programme (2) Environmental Hygiene	This programme contributes to Policy Area 32: Environmental Hygiene (Secretary for the Environment and Food).
Programme (3) Environmental Protection and Conservation	This programme contributes to Policy Area 23: Environmental Protection and Conservation (Secretary for the Environment and Food).

Detail

Programme (1): Food Supply and Food Safety

	1998–99 (Actual)	1999–2000 (Approved)	1999–2000 (Revised)#	2000–01 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	—	—	4.2	17.4 (+314.3%)

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 formulate and oversee implementation of policies to ensure that the food available for human consumption is wholesome, hygienic and safe; to respond to food incidents promptly and effectively; to facilitate the development of the agricultural and fisheries industries; to prevent the spread and introduction of diseases in animals and plants; and to ensure adequate provision and efficient operation of government wholesale marketing facilities for fresh food produce.

Brief Description

3 The Bureau's main responsibility under this programme is to formulate and to keep under review policies relating to food supply and food safety.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2000–01

- 4 During 2000–01, the Bureau will, in consultation with the policy bureaux and departments concerned:
- institute a more proactive approach in disseminating information on the existing food safety regime to the community;
 - review the latest international trends in dealing with genetically modified food and determine the way forward for Hong Kong;
 - strengthen the food surveillance programme and enhance its openness and transparency;
 - oversee formulation of implementation plans of fisheries resources management measures agreed by the Working Group on Fisheries Management to conserve fisheries resources in Hong Kong waters;
 - strengthen efforts in aquaculture research and related services to help fish farmers enhance productivity;
 - continue discussion with the industry on the long-term development of agriculture in Hong Kong; and
 - draft legislation to strengthen control over the use of clenbuterol and other harmful chemicals in livestock feeds.

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Programme (2): Environmental Hygiene

	1998–99 (Actual)	1999–2000 (Approved)	1999–2000 (Revised)#	2000–01 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	—	—	6.9	16.1 (+133.3%)

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

Aim

5 The aim is to ensure a high standard of environmental hygiene in all parts of the territory; to minimise the risks and threats caused to public health by pest and other nuisances; to monitor the operation of slaughtering facilities; and to promote public awareness of and involvement in the upkeep of personal and environmental hygiene standards.

Brief Description

6 The Bureau's main responsibility under this programme is to formulate and coordinate policies and programmes relating to the above activities.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2000–01

- 7 During 2000–01, the Bureau will, in consultation with the policy bureaux and departments concerned:
- strengthen enforcement action against littering, unlicensed food premises, improper handling of food and operation of illegal slaughterhouses;
 - improve the efficiency in handling complaints relating to environmental hygiene and processing licence applications;
 - involve the District Councils more actively in monitoring environmental hygiene standards at the district level; and
 - continue to co-ordinate the Healthy Living Campaign to promote the concept of a healthy lifestyle in the community.

Programme (3): Environmental Protection and Conservation

	1998–99 (Actual)	1999–2000 (Approved)	1999–2000 (Revised)#	2000–01 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	—	—	4.8	24.4 (+408.3%)

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

Aim

8 The aim is to improve our urban, rural and marine environment, conserve our natural heritage and optimise the use of resources and goods so as to reduce pollution and waste and to promote health and the enjoyment of our living environment.

Brief Description

9 The Bureau's main responsibility under this programme is to formulate policies and to co-ordinate and oversee the implementation of programmes on environmental protection and conservation.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2000–01

- 10 During 2000–01, the Bureau will, in consultation with the policy bureaux and departments concerned:
- co-ordinate the work of the Environmental Protection Department and the Transport Department to achieve the objectives of reducing total emissions of respirable particulates emitted from vehicles by 60% by 2003 and 80% by the end of 2005 and reducing nitrogen oxide emissions by 30% by 2005;
 - draw up a comprehensive conservation policy to preserve our natural heritage;
 - co-ordinate energy efficiency programmes, including use of renewable energy in buildings and wider adoption of Water-cooled Air Conditioning Systems in Hong Kong;
 - formulate policy options for the management of greenhouse gas emissions;

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- provide advice on the environmental aspects of sustainable development;
- continue to work towards introducing landfill charges and revising other environmental charges to provide economic incentive to avoid pollution;
- review the need for tightening the control of daytime construction noise as part of the continued effort to reduce public exposure to excessive noise;
- co-ordinate waste reduction programmes;
- monitor progress of Stage 1 of the Strategic Sewage Disposal Scheme (SSDS) and review whether existing projects under the SSDS offer the most cost-effective and environmentally friendly means of handling the sewage from Hong Kong Island, taking account of the findings of an independent expert group, and propose changes to the strategy, if needed;
- oversee the implementation of a comprehensive Oil Spill Response Plan;
- increase cooperation with the Guangdong authorities in areas of mutual concern, including cross-boundary air pollution, acid rain, forestry conservation, water quality and environmental assessment; and
- adopt a more integrated approach in promoting public hygiene and environmental improvement by focusing on the close association between public health and the environment.

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ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	1998–99 (Actual) (\$m)	1999–2000 (Approved) (\$m)	1999–2000 (Revised)# (\$m)	2000–01 (Estimate) (\$m)
(1) Food Supply and Food Safety	—	—	4.2	17.4
(2) Environmental Hygiene	—	—	6.9	16.1
(3) Environmental Protection and Conservation	—	—	4.8	24.4
	—————	—————	—————	—————
	—	—	15.9	57.9 (+264.2%)

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 \$13.2 million (314.3%) higher than the revised estimate for 1999–2000. This is mainly due to full-year provision for the activities undertaken by the new Bureau.

Programme (2)

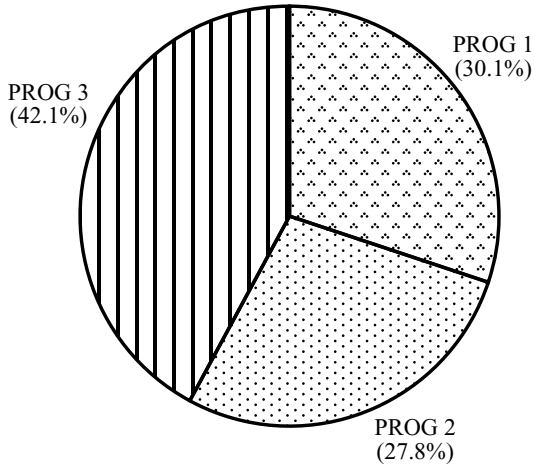
Provision for 2000–01 is \$9.2 million (133.3%) higher than the revised estimate for 1999–2000. This is mainly due to full-year provision for the activities undertaken by the new Bureau, partly offset by the reduced cashflow requirement for the project under the second phase of the Healthy Living into the 21st Century Campaign.

Programme (3)

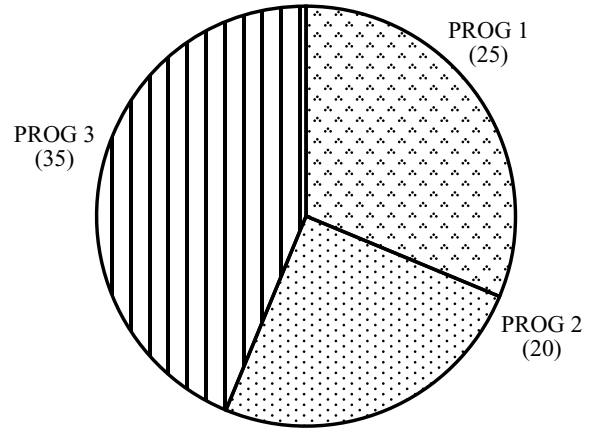
Provision for 2000–01 is \$19.6 million (408.3%) higher than the revised estimate for 1999–2000. This is mainly due to full-year provision for the activities undertaken by the new Bureau and also the creation of six posts to strengthen the support services for this programme.

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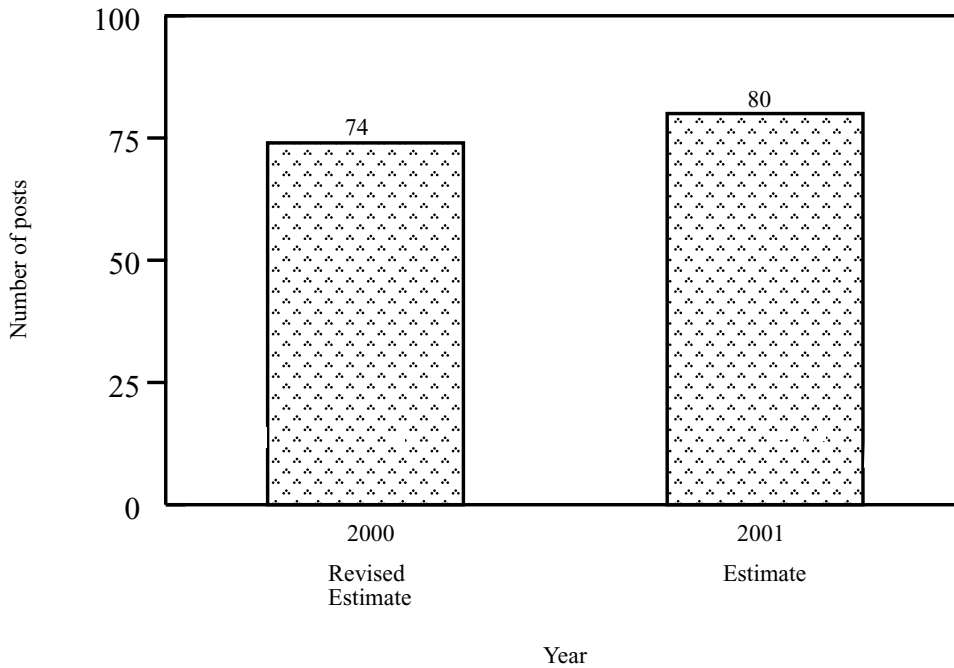
*Allocation of provision
to programmes
(2000-01)*



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



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



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Sub-head (Code)		Actual expenditure 1998–99	Approved estimate 1999–2000	Revised estimate# 1999–2000	Estimate 2000–01
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Recurrent Account					
I — Personal Emoluments					
001	Salaries	—	—	10,877	47,273
002	Allowances	—	—	300	2,087
007	Job-related allowances	—	—	90	90
	Total, Personal Emoluments	—	—	11,267	49,450
III — Departmental Expenses					
149	General departmental expenses	—	—	1,190	6,840
	Total, Departmental Expenses	—	—	1,190	6,840
	Total, Recurrent Account	—	—	12,457	56,290
Capital Account					
II — Other Non-Recurrent					
700	General other non-recurrent	—	—	3,463	1,571
	Total, Other Non-Recurrent	—	—	3,463	1,571
	Total, Capital Account	—	—	3,463	1,571
	Total Expenditure	—	—	15,920	57,861

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

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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 Environment and Food Bureau is \$57,861,000. This represents an increase of \$41,941,000 over the revised estimate for 1999–2000.

Recurrent Account

Personal Emoluments

2 Provision of \$49,450,000 for personal emoluments represents an increase of \$38,183,000 over the revised estimate for 1999–2000 and takes into account full-year provision for posts created in 1999–2000 and six new posts to be created during 2000–01.

3 The establishment at 31 March 2000 will be 74 permanent posts. It is expected that six permanent posts will be created 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 \$32,347,000.

5 Provision of \$2,087,000 under *Subhead 002 Allowances* is for standard allowances and the following non-standard allowance—

	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Master Pay Scale point</i>	<i>Rate per month† \$</i>
consolidated overtime allowance for Chauffeur grade	Chauffeur	6	5,570
		7	5,940
		8	6,330
		9	6,740
		10	7,145

† These rates are payable for the first 1–100 hours overtime per month. Overtime performed in excess of 100 hours will be compensated at 1% of the monthly rate per hour.

The increase of \$1,787,000 (595.7%) over the revised estimate for 1999–2000 is mainly due to full-year provision for the requirements.

6 Provision of \$90,000 under *Subhead 007 Job-related allowances* is for standard job-related allowances.

Departmental Expenses

7 Provision of \$6,840,000 under *Subhead 149 General departmental expenses* represents an increase of \$5,650,000 (474.8%) over the revised estimate for 1999–2000. This is mainly due to full-year provision for the activities undertaken by the new Bureau.

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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
700		<i>General other non-recurrent</i>				
	009	Second phase of the Healthy Living into the 21 st Century Campaign	10,000	—	8,429	1,571
		Total.....	<u>10,000</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>8,429</u>	<u>1,571</u>

The revised estimate for 1999–2000 includes the expenditure of \$4,966,000 incurred under Head 149— Government Secretariat: Health and Welfare Bureau up to 31 December 1999. The Environment and Food Bureau has taken up the policy matters on Healthy Living since its setting up on 1 January 2000.