Controlling officer: the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation will account for expenditure under this Head.

Estimate 2015–16	\$1,233.5m
<b>Establishment ceiling 2015–16</b> (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 2 053 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2015 rising by 20 posts to 2 073 posts as at 31 March 2016.	\$618.4m
In addition, there will be an estimated eight directorate posts as at 31 March 2015 and as at 31 March 2016.	
Commitment balance	\$1,205.7m

### **Controlling Officer's Report**

#### Programmes

Programme (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets	This programme contributes to Policy Area 2: Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety (Secretary for Food and Health).
Programme (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks	This programme contributes to Policy Area 5: Travel and Tourism (Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development) and Policy Area 23: Environmental Protection, Conservation, Power and Sustainable Development (Secretary for the Environment).
Programme (3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services	This programme contributes to Policy Area 2: Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety (Secretary for Food and Health), Policy Area 22: Buildings, Lands, Planning, Heritage Conservation, Greening and Landscape (Secretary for Development) and Policy Area 32: Environmental Hygiene (Secretary for Food and Health).

## Detail

#### Programme (1): Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets

	2013–14 (Actual)	2014–15 (Original)	2014–15 (Revised)	2015–16 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	313.0	519.0	304.2 (-41.4%)§	<b>320.8</b> (+5.5%)
				(or -38.2% on 2014-15 Original)

S The significant reduction is mainly due to reduced cash flow requirements for the one-off assistance package to fishermen affected by the trawl ban and the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund.

#### Aim

2 The aim is to facilitate agricultural and fisheries production and improve productivity.

#### **Brief Description**

- 3 The Department's work in pursuit of its aim involves:
- the provision of infrastructural support, technical assistance and advice, credit facilities and vocational training to local farmers and fishermen;
- the conduct of adaptive and technical studies, as well as introduction of modern technology and practices to local farmers and fishermen to facilitate their efficient production and improve the quality of their products;
- the planning and implementation of effective management activities and services for promoting sustainable development of the agriculture and fisheries industries;
- the provision of administrative and technical support to the operation of the Vegetable Marketing Organization and the Fish Marketing Organization; and
- the management of government fresh food wholesale markets.

4 The key performance measures in respect of agriculture, fisheries and fresh food wholesale markets are:

Targets

Targets				
	The state of the s	2013	2014	2015
	Targets	(Actual)	(Actual)	(Plan)
Agriculture				
accredited vegetable farms				
(total no.)#	314	297	305	314
(total hectares)β	3 414	2 759	3 012	3 414
Fisheries				
accredited fish farms				
$(\text{total no.})\Omega$	120	112	116	120
# The target is revised from 305 to 314 as from 20 β The target is revised from 3 000 to 3 414 as from Ω The target is revised from 115 to 120 as from 20	n 2015.			
Indicators				
		2013	2014	2015
		(Actual)	(Actual)	(Estimate)
4 . 1		(ricital)	(1 icitual)	(Estimate)
Agriculture		150	140	151
composite productivity index (100 in 1985) production		152	149	151
vegetables (tonnes)		16 300	15 500	15 500
(\$m)		100.0	116.0	116.0
livestock (tonnes)		19 100	18 200	19 000
(\$m)		503.0	534.0	520.0
throughput at Vegetable Marketing Organization	on			
market		127 200	120 164	120.000
(tonnes)		137 288 1,042.9	129 164 967.0	129 000
(\$m) new loans		1,042.9	907.0	1,006.0
(no.)		79	73	75
(\$m)		7.2	6.7	7.0
Fisheries				
production capture (tonnes)		170 129	161 000	161 000
(\$m)		2,338.0	2,531.0	2,531.0
culture (tonnes)		3 300	3 377	3 377
(\$m)		147.0	169.0	169.0
throughput at Fish Marketing Organization ma	rkets			
(tonnes)		44 980	45 430	45 430
(\$m)		2,687.3	2,934.3	2,934.3
new loans		201	202	220
(no.) (\$m)		281 88.0	282 177.2	330 200.0
new grants@		00.0	1//.2	200.0
(no.)		_		15
(\$m)		—	_	60.0
Government fresh food wholesale markets				
annual throughput (tonnes)		510 000	500 000	500 000
annual throughput (tonnes) rental market stall space occupied (%)		97.0	98.0	98.0
area of wholesale markets managed (m <sup>2</sup> )		295 645	295 645	295 645
requests for assistance handled (no.)		17 623	20 165	17 800
inspections conducted daily (no.)		208	198	200
recovery of rentable revenue in Cheung Sha W				
Wholesale Food Market and Western Whole Food Market (%)		95.0	96.0	96.0
roou marker (70)		93.0	90.0	90.0

@ New indicator as from 2015 as the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund has called for applications since July 2014.

## Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2015–16

- 5 During 2015–16, the Department will focus its work on:
- taking follow-up actions on the implementation of the legislation to ban trawling and better regulate fishing
  activities in Hong Kong waters, and continuing to implement other recommendations of the Committee on
  Sustainable Fisheries, with the aim of conserving and restoring marine resources;
- preparing legislation for implementing the requirements of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources in Hong Kong, including the Catch Documentation Scheme for toothfish and other relevant conservation measures;
- assisting farmers to capture high-value market niches by providing technical advice on organic cultivation and intensive greenhouse production;
- supporting the Food and Health Bureau in devising measures to sustain and upgrade the development of local agriculture, taking into account the views received from the public consultation exercise surrounding the new policy on agricultural development;
- administering the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund to help fishermen adopt a sustainable and high value-added operation mode and subsidise relevant programmes and research so as to enhance the overall competitiveness of the industry;
- assisting fishermen to switch to sustainable fisheries operations and fish farmers to develop sustainable aquaculture through technical support services and credit facilities, including offering free training on sustainable fisheries operations and implementing a pilot fish hatchery scheme; and
- promoting good aquaculture practices as well as stepping up monitoring of aquaculture environment and fish health management.

### **Programme (2): Nature Conservation and Country Parks**

	2013–14 (Actual)	2014–15 (Original)	2014–15 (Revised)	2015–16 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	546.7	583.0	591.7 (+1.5%)	<b>608.9</b> (+2.9%)
				(or +4.4% on

(or +4.4% on 2014–15 Original)

#### Aim

6 The aim is to conserve flora, fauna and natural habitats; to designate and manage country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserves; and to control international trade in endangered species of animals and plants in Hong Kong.

#### **Brief Description**

- 7 The Department's work in pursuit of its aim involves:
- the management and protection of country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserves under the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208) and the Marine Parks Ordinance (Cap. 476) for the purpose of nature conservation, recreation, nature based tourism and education;
- the conservation of biodiversity and promotion of compatible use of country and marine parks;
- the identification of sites of high scientific value for listing as Sites of Special Scientific Interest;
- the provision of nature conservation advice on development proposals, planning studies and environmental impact assessments;
- the monitoring and auditing of ecological mitigation measures for development projects approved under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Cap. 499);
- the promotion of public awareness of nature conservation and enforcement of nature conservation legislation;
- the licensing control of international trade in endangered species and curbing of illegal trade in endangered species in Hong Kong;
- the conservation and management of the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar site;
- the management of the Hong Kong Wetland Park; and
- the management and operation of the Hong Kong Global Geopark of China.

8 The key performance measures in respect of nature conservation and country parks are:

Targets
---------

0	Target	2013 (Actual)	2014 (Actual)	2015 (Plan)
country parks and special areas managed (hectares) marine parks and marine reserves managed	44 300	44 300	44 300	44 300
(hectares)	2 430	2 430	2 430	2 430
listed	67	67	67	67
issue of certificates in respect of endangered species (working days)	2	2	2	2
Indicators				
		2013 (Actual)	2014 (Actual)	2015 (Estimate)
seedlings producedµ seedlings plantedµ ecological impact assessment applications and st		685 200 691 800	549 900 555 900	400 000 410 000
handled participants in educational activities		168 292 000	159 280 600	160 330 000
visitors to country parks (million) hill fires attended to	•••••	11.4 23	11.2 26	11.5 21
endangered species licences/certificates endangered species inspections		26 935 31 932	25 894 33 357	26 200 33 000
endangered species prosecutions		161	266	270

μ As the majority of country park areas are now well-wooded or covered with good vegetation resulting in less available area for planting, there will be fewer seedlings to be produced and planted in 2015. The Department would focus on the quality of planting instead of quantity so as to enhance the overall biodiversity of plantations in country parks.

#### Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2015–16

- 9 During 2015–16, the Department will focus its work on:
- the implementation of a territory-wide survey programme to collect information required for maintaining and updating an ecological database,
- the promotion of public education and publicity on nature conservation and compatible use of country parks and marine parks,
- overseeing the implementation of management agreement projects for nature conservation,
- strengthening publicity and education of the Hong Kong Global Geopark of China for the promotion of geo-conservation,
- the inclusion of selected country park enclaves into country parks, and
- the preparation of the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

#### Programme (3): Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services

	2013–14 (Actual)	2014–15 (Original)	2014–15 (Revised)	2015–16 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	290.2	293.8	298.4 (+1.6%)	<b>303.8</b> (+1.8%)
				(0r + 3.4% 0n)

<sup>(0</sup>r +3.4% 0h 2014–15 Original)

## Aim

10 The aim is to safeguard the welfare of animals, and control the diseases in animals and plants through the enforcement of relevant legislation; protect public health; protect and regulate fisheries; and provide technical services.

## **Brief Description**

11 The Department is responsible for the prevention of the introduction and spread of animal and plant diseases, safeguarding animal welfare, regulation of drug use in livestock farms, provision of services to facilitate export of plants, animals and plant/animal by-products, prevention of rabies, and enforcement of regulations pertaining to animal welfare and import requirements, fisheries protection and marine fish culture. The work involves:

- the provision of quarantine services;
- the inspection of animals and plants imported into Hong Kong;
- the prevention and control of rabies and other zoonotic diseases;
- the testing of animal diseases, including zoonotic diseases, and chemical residues in food animals;
- the inspection of farms where food animals are kept;
- the inspection of premises and establishments where animals are kept for exhibition or trading purposes;
- the inspection of marine fish culture farms;
- the control of destructive fishing practices;
- the regulation of fishing activities with the use or aid of vessels; and
- the instigation of prosecution against offenders under relevant legislation.
- 12 The technical services provided by the Department include:
- managing agricultural weirs;
- licensing livestock farms;
- licensing marine fish culture farms;
- registering local fishing vessels;
- facilitating export trade in plants, animals and their products;
- safeguarding public health through the control of pesticides and drug use in livestock farms;
- assessing ex-gratia payments to primary producers arising from development projects affecting agriculture and fisheries; and
- regulating credit unions and co-operative societies.
- 13 The key performance measures in respect of animal, plant and fisheries regulation and technical services are:

## Targets

	Target	2013 (Actual)	2014 (Actual)	2015 (Plan)
Animal and plant regulation				
prevention				
reported cases of rabies	0	0	0	0
dogs vaccinated in strategic				
Rabies Control	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Areas (%)φ	80	80	80	80
enforcement				
issue of animal health	•	•	2	•
certificates (working days)	2	2	2	2
issue of licences/permits	2	2	2	2
(working days)	3	3	3	3
issue of sanitary certificates for				
products of animal	2	2	2	2
origin (working days)	3	3	3	3
Technical services				
management of agricultural weirs				
weirs to be cleansed	205	205	205	205
plant health certification	200	200	200	200
issue of phytosanitary				
certificates (working days)	2	2	2	2
control of pesticides				
issue of pesticide				
permits (working days)	2	2	2	2

## Head 22 — AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

	Target	2013 (Actual)	2014 (Actual)	2015 (Plan)
Renewal of marine fish culture licence in person in 50 minutes (%)	100	100	100	100
φ The World Health Organization recommends	a minimum of	70 per cent.		
Indicators				
		2013 (Actual)	2014 (Actual)	2015 (Estimate)
Animal and plant regulation				
prevention		7.026	6 886	( 900
stray animals caught animals vaccinated and quarantined	•••••	7 936 60 575	62 917	6 800 63 120
enforcement	•••••	00 575	02 917	05 120
licences/permits		8 790	9 691	9 760
animal and plant health certificates		8 635	12 208	12 050
Technical services				
ex-gratia payment assessment				
area assessed for crop ex-gratia				
payment (hectares) $\Delta$		90	90	90
area assessed for aquaculture fisheries	ex-gratia			
payment $(m^2)\Delta$		23 318	0	1 600
claims assessed for capture fisheries e	x-gratia	0	701	1.0.40
payment∆		0	701	1 940
licensing of livestock farms licences issued		20	22	31
control of pesticides		20	22	51
pesticides registered		6	6	6
licences/permits issued		2 027	2 026	2 030
regulation of credit unions and co-operative	societies	_ •_ /		
accounts examined or audited		238	232	230

 $\Delta$  The figures vary from year to year according to the Government's programme for land clearance and development works.

## Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2015–16

- 14 During 2015–16, the Department will focus its work on:
- promoting the safe and proper use of pesticides, including measures to review the safety of registered pesticides and strengthen education and publicity work;
- following through the legislative amendments to the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) Regulations (Cap. 139B) to strengthen regulation of pet trading;
- strengthening measures for stray animals management, including facilitating the implementation of the trap-neuter-return trial programme for stray dogs; and
- strengthening promotion of animal welfare.

Pro	gramme	2013–14 (Actual) (\$m)	2014–15 (Original) (\$m)	2014–15 (Revised) (\$m)	2015–16 (Estimate) (\$m)
(1) (2)	Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets Nature Conservation and Country	313.0	519.0	304.2	320.8
(2)	Parks Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation	546.7	583.0	591.7	608.9
(3)	and Technical Services	290.2	293.8	298.4	303.8
		1,149.9	1,395.8	1,194.3 (-14.4%)	1,233.5 (+3.3%)
					(or –11.6% on

## ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

(or -11.6% on 2014-15 Original)

### Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

#### Programme (1)

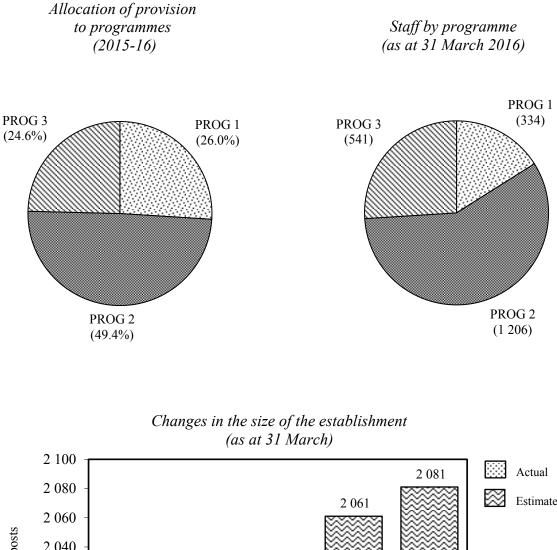
Provision for 2015–16 is \$16.6 million (5.5%) higher than the revised estimate for 2014–15. This is mainly due to increased cash flow requirement for the administration of the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund, partly offset by decreased cash flow requirement for the one-off assistance package to fishermen affected by the trawl ban. There will be a net decrease of one post in 2015–16.

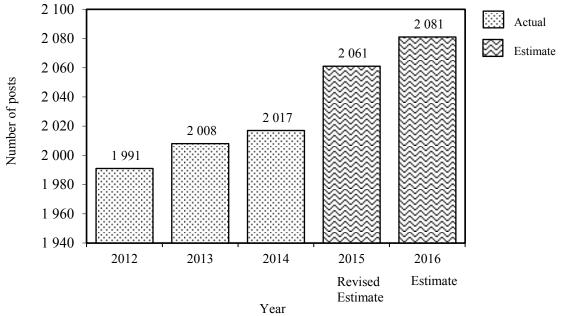
## Programme (2)

Provision for 2015–16 is \$17.2 million (2.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2014–15. This is mainly due to full-year provision for vacancies filled in 2014–15 and increased expenditure for works in country parks. There will be an increase of 11 posts in 2015–16.

## Programme (3)

Provision for 2015–16 is 5.4 million (1.8%) higher than the revised estimate for 2014–15. This is mainly due to full-year provision for vacancies filled in 2014–15 and increased expenditure for plant, vehicles and equipment. There will be an increase of ten posts in 2015–16.





# Head 22—AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

Sub- head (Code)		Actual expenditure 2013–14	Approved estimate 2014–15	Revised estimate 2014–15	Estimate 2015–16
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
	<b>Operating Account</b>				
	Recurrent				
000	Operational expenses	1,030,899	1,087,414	1,110,822	1,113,969
	Total, Recurrent	1,030,899	1,087,414	1,110,822	1,113,969
	Non-Recurrent				
700	General non-recurrent	95,369	281,000	59,246	71,789
	Total, Non-Recurrent	95,369	281,000	59,246	71,789
	Total, Operating Account	1,126,268	1,368,414	1,170,068	1,185,758
	Capital Account				
	Plant, Equipment and Works				
600 603 609	Works Plant, vehicles and equipment Minor irrigation works in the New Territories	2,852 3,500	3,675 3,987	3,675 3,687	11,370 17,052
	(block vote)	810	1,640	1,640	1,000
610	Minor recreational facilities and roadworks in country parks (block vote)	9,104	9,791	9,056	10,048
661	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)	7,333	8,271	6,175	8,271
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works	23,599	27,364	24,233	47,741
	Total, Capital Account	23,599	27,364	24,233	47,741
	Total Expenditure	1,149,867	1,395,778	1,194,301	1,233,499

#### **Details of Expenditure by Subhead**

The estimate of the amount required in 2015–16 for the salaries and expenses of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department is \$1,233,499,000. This represents an increase of \$39,198,000 over the revised estimate for 2014–15 and of \$83,632,000 over the actual expenditure in 2013–14.

#### **Operating** Account

#### Recurrent

**2** Provision of \$1,113,969,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2015 will be 2 061 permanent posts. It is expected that there will be a net increase of 20 posts in 2015–16. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2015–16, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed 618,435,000.

4 An analysis of the financial provision under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is as follows:

	2013–14 (Actual) (\$'000)	2014–15 (Original) (\$'000)	2014–15 (Revised) (\$'000)	2015–16 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries - Allowances - Job-related allowances Personnel Related Expenses	591,953 13,962 7,717	629,776 15,031 8,340	648,268 14,325 8,421	663,552 15,249 8,646
- Mandatory Provident Fund				
contribution	1,870	2,905	2,694	2,921
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution	17,575	20,760	20,712	25,197
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses	389,503	401,293	407,593	389,595
Other Charges	< 1 <b>-</b> 0	< <b>1-</b> 0	< 1 <b>-</b> 0	< 1 <b>-</b> 0
- Minor conservation projects and studies Subventions	6,470	6,470	6,470	6,470
<ul> <li>Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong)</li> <li>Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia</li> </ul>	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
and the Pacific	78	80	80	80
management of Ramsar site	159	759	759	759
- Animal welfare organisations	612	1,000	500	500
	1,030,899	1,087,414	1,110,822	1,113,969

## Capital Account

#### Plant, Equipment and Works

**5** Provision of \$1,000,000 under *Subhead 609 Minor irrigation works in the New Territories (block vote)* is for a programme to provide irrigation works to assist agricultural development in the New Territories up to a limit of \$700,000 for each project. The provision for 2015–16 represents a decrease of \$640,000 (39%) against the revised estimate for 2014–15. This is mainly due to decrease in expenditure requirement for projects to be carried out in 2015–16.

**6** Provision of \$10,048,000 under *Subhead 610 Minor recreational facilities and roadworks in country parks (block vote)* is for minor works such as fire lookouts, shelters and roads and for building materials for recreational facilities such as barbecue pits, information boards, shelters and outdoor furniture, up to a limit of \$700,000 for each project. The provision for 2015–16 represents an increase of \$992,000 (11%) over the revised estimate for 2014–15. This is mainly due to increase in expenditure requirement for upgrading various facilities in country parks in 2015–16.

7 Provision of \$8,271,000 under *Subhead 661 Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)* represents an increase of \$2,096,000 (33.9%) over the revised estimate for 2014–15. The increase is mainly due to increase in requirement for replacement of plant and equipment in 2015–16.

## Commitments

Sub- head (Code)	Item (Code)	Ambit	Approved commitment	Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.2014	Revised estimated expenditure for 2014–15	Balance
			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Opera	ting Acc	count				
700		General non-recurrent				
	536	Setting up a marine sanctuary in the Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau area	21,000	18,599	800	1,601
	540	Artificial reefs project	80,100	72,848	500	6,752
	808	Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund	500,000	_	17,000	483,000
	852	One-off assistance package to trawler vessel owners, local deckhands and fish collector owners affected by the trawl ban and other related				
		measures	1,726,800	1,037,581	38,227	650,992
			2,327,900	1,129,028	56,527	1,142,345
Carrie	1 4					
-	ıl Accou					
600		Works				
	804	Improvement to the mountain bike trail network in Tai Lam Country Park	5,700	2,652	1,500	1,548
	840	Construction of two timber boardwalks at the Hong Kong Wetland Park	3,000	_	2,175	825
	853	Minor irrigation works project at Wo Tin	979	_	_	979
	854	Minor irrigation works project at Pui O	1,102	_	_	1,102
	882	Reconstruction of rainshelters in country parks - Phase One	9,714	_	_	9,714
	883	Reconstruction of forest track in country parks - Phase One	9,350	_	_	9,350
	885	Provision of sitting out area at Sai Wan in Sai Kung East Country Park	9,130	_	_	9,130
			38,975	2,652	3,675	32,648
603		Plant, vehicles and equipment				
	811	Procurement of one patrol vessel	10,000	_		10,000
	828	Procurement of ten boundary light buoys	2,500	_	_	2,500
	835	Replacement of major moving parts for the screening plant at Cheung Sha Wan Wholesale Food Market	2,088		375	1,713
	836	Development of closed recirculating aquaculture system	4,000	_	1,500	2,500

## Commitments—Cont'd.

Sub- head (Code)	Item (Code)	Ambit	Approved commitment	Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.2014	Revised estimated expenditure for 2014–15	Balance
			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Capita	l Accou	nt—Cont'd.				
603		Plant, vehicles and equipment—Cont'd.				
	837	Replacement of control unit and associated accessories for condenser water pumps at Heat Exchanger Room at Phase One of Western Wholesale Food Market	2,320	_	522	1,798
	839	Replacement of automatic self-cleansing seawater strainer No.3 and its accessories for heat exchangers at Cheung Sha Wan Wholesale Food Market	2,088	_	375	1,713
	851	Acquisition of a medium-sized hovercraft	2,700	_	_	2,700
	855	Expansion of Biosafety Level 3 Modular Laboratory	7,000	_	_	7,000
	894	Replacement of three sets of seawater pump for the cooling system of cold storage stalls at Cheung Sha Wan Wholesale Food Market	5,220	3,500	915	805
			37,916	3,500	3,687	30,729
		Total	2,404,791	1,135,180	63,889	1,205,722