

## Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

**Controlling officer:** the Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection will account for expenditure under this Head.

**Estimate 2020–21** ..... **\$7,514.5m**

**Establishment ceiling 2020–21** (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 2 252 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2020 rising by 61 posts to 2 313 posts as at 31 March 2021 ..... **\$1,374.8m**

In addition, there will be an estimated 44 directorate posts as at 31 March 2020 and as at 31 March 2021.

**Commitment balance**..... **\$13,296.7m**

### Controlling Officer's Report

#### Programmes

<p><b>Programme (1) Waste</b>  <b>Programme (2) Air</b>  <b>Programme (3) Noise</b>  <b>Programme (4) Water</b>  <b>Programme (5) Environmental Assessment and Planning</b>  <b>Programme (6) Nature Conservation</b></p>	<p>These programmes contribute to Policy Area 23: Environmental Protection, Conservation, Power and Sustainable Development (Secretary for the Environment).</p>
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#### Detail

##### Programme (1): Waste

	2018–19 (Actual)	2019–20 (Original)	2019–20 (Revised)	2020–21 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	3,146.8	4,107.1	3,665.5 (–10.8%)	<b>4,847.8</b> (+32.3%)
				(or +18.0% on 2019–20 Original)

#### *Aim*

2 The aim is to develop and implement a waste-to-resources management strategy for Hong Kong to reduce, reuse and recycle waste, as well as to safeguard the health and welfare of the community from any adverse environmental effects associated with the improper handling and disposal of waste.

#### *Brief Description*

3 The Department is responsible for preparing plans at strategic and district levels for the provision of facilities for proper treatment and disposal of waste including municipal, construction, livestock, chemical and clinical wastes, sewage and water treatment works sludges and other special wastes. The Department enforces relevant legislation to control the illegal disposal of waste, develops new proposals to meet changing waste management needs and advises on the assessment and remediation of contaminated land. The Department also works with the community to promote and encourage waste reduction and recycling.

4 In *Hong Kong Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources 2013–2022* published in May 2013, the Government set out a comprehensive strategy, with targets, policies and action plans for waste management for the coming ten years to tackle its imminent waste challenge. In February 2014, the Government also unveiled *A Food Waste & Yard Waste Plan for Hong Kong 2014–2022* to map out the comprehensive strategy, targets, policies and action plans for the management of food waste and yard waste in the coming nine years. In this connection, the Department has been implementing a Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign since December 2012 to nurture the culture of food waste reduction at source and food donation to the needy. The Department has also launched a new phase of the campaign to further promote the “Food Wise” culture with a view to reducing food waste at source, facilitating food waste source separation and recycling; and discouraging the use of disposable plastic tableware.

## Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

5 On waste reduction, the Department continues to implement the plastic shopping bag charging scheme and the producer responsibility scheme (PRS) on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), progressively implement the PRS on glass beverage containers and prepare for the introduction of the PRS on plastic beverage containers. The Department has been promoting and encouraging the reduction in the use of packaging materials since mid-2019, and is conducting a consultancy study on the feasibility, scope and mechanism of controlling or banning the use of disposable plastic tableware. On municipal solid waste (MSW) charging, the Department has continued to facilitate the scrutiny of the bill by the Legislative Council introduced in November 2018. Meanwhile, the Department will continue to support voluntary recycling programmes and promote sustainable development of the recycling industry. Among other things, the \$1 billion Recycling Fund, set up by the Department in 2015, has continued to facilitate the upgrading of the operational capabilities and efficiencies of the recycling industry. It has launched various targeted programmes to support the industry to cope with the challenges arising from the Mainland's tightened control for import recyclables which has commenced since January 2018. The Department completed a mid-term review of the Recycling Fund in late 2018. As a result, the Recycling Fund launched a series of enhancement measures in 2019 to strengthen its support for the recycling industry as well as other community stakeholders in practising recycling.

6 The Department has been providing enhanced recycling support for low-value recyclables at the community level by, among other things, progressively introducing a pilot scheme on free collection of all types of waste plastics from non-commercial and non-industrial sources. It has also been carrying out a pilot scheme to provide free collection of food waste generated from commercial and industrial sources. Subject to the outcome of these pilot schemes, the Department will progressively extend the free collection service for waste plastics from non-commercial and non-industrial sources across the territory, and expand the free food waste collection service to cover all sectors including domestic and commercial/industrial sectors, as part of the Government's enhanced recycling measures to complement and support the MSW charging scheme in due course. In parallel, the Department continues with the development of a network of Community Green Stations (CGSs) across the territory to strengthen recycling support and environmental education at the district level. To further promote waste reduction and recycling and to better prepare the community for the MSW charging scheme, the Department is setting up outreaching teams which will gradually reach out to the community to disseminate updated information including that on MSW charging, and provide on-site guidance and support to residents and property management companies in practising proper waste source separation and clean recycling.

7 In 2019, about 5.71 million tonnes of solid waste were disposed of at the three strategic landfills in Hong Kong. Regarding waste infrastructure, the Department is taking forward the South East New Territories Landfill Extension Scheme and the North East New Territories Landfill Extension Scheme approved by the Legislative Council in December 2014. Apart from the T-PARK (the sludge treatment facility commissioned in 2015), the O-PARK1 (the food waste recycling facility commissioned in 2018) and the food waste/sewage sludge co-digestion pilot plant in Tai Po Sewage Treatment Works (STWs), the Department is also taking forward a number of waste-to-energy projects, including the remaining phases of the O-PARKs (including the second phase of which contract was awarded in 2019), food waste/sewage sludge co-digestion facilities in other STWs, and an Integrated Waste Management Facility (a MSW incinerator). Under batch one of the Restored Landfill Revitalisation Funding Scheme (RLRFS), a non-profit-making organisation (NPO) was selected to develop a campsite at the Tseung Kwan O Stage I Landfill. The organisation is carrying out site investigation and detailed design for the project.

8 The key performance measures in respect of the waste programme are:

### *Targets*

	Target	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Actual)	2020 (Plan)
operation hours of strategic landfills.....	13 870	13 982	13 896	<b>13 900</b>
processing marine dumping permits within 18 days (%).....	90	95	94	<b>90</b>
initial response to waste complaints within three days (%).....	95	97	98	<b>95</b>

### *Indicators*

	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Actual)	2020 (Estimate)
strategic landfills			
no. of capital works milestone payments .....	5	6	<b>6</b>
tonnage of waste received annually .....	5 874 884	5 707 467	<b>5 700 000</b>
total solid waste disposed of (%) .....	100	100	<b>100</b>
refuse transfer stations			
tonnage of waste received annually .....	3 392 486	3 357 459	<b>3 330 000</b>
special wastes			
tonnage of waste treated annually at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre .....	16 657	15 769	<b>15 800</b>
tonnage of sewage sludge treated annually at the T-PARK .....	392 221	384 038	<b>384 000</b>

## Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Actual)	2020 (Estimate)
livestock waste			
total quantity produced (thousand tonnes) .....	65	65	65
disposed of by environmentally-acceptable means (%).....	90	90	90
WEEE			
tonnage of WEEE treated annually at the WEEE-PARK <sup>^</sup> .....	10 830	23 980	22 200
O-PARK1			
tonnage of food waste treated annually at the O-PARK1# .....	14 508	33 704	40 150
marine dumping permits issued .....	115	155	145
waste import/export permits.....	32	45	45
chemical waste trip tickets recorded .....	37 600	36 000	36 000
chemical waste collector licences issued .....	17	29	11
chemical waste disposal licences issued .....	15	17	6
prosecutions for			
chemical waste control offences .....	233	112	120
clinical waste control offences .....	4	48	4
livestock waste control offences .....	14	2	7
marine dumping offences.....	12	3	3
waste import/export offences .....	43	61	64
illegal deposit of waste offences .....	184	180	185
complaints handled.....	3 994	3 491	3 500
enquiries handled by the Waste Reduction and Recycling Hotline Service .....	5 155	5 518	5 600

<sup>^</sup> To prepare for the implementation of PRS on WEEE in August 2018, the WEEE-PARK commenced initial operation in late October 2017 and came into full operation in early March 2018.

<sup>#</sup> An indicator introduced following the O-PARK1's commencement to receive food waste since July 2018 for conducting the Commissioning Tests.

### ***Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2020–21***

9 During 2020–21, the Department will:

- continue to implement the PRS on WEEE and to roll out the PRS on glass beverage containers progressively;
- consult the public on the way forward for the PRS on plastic beverage containers, and launch a pilot scheme on the application of reverse vending machines;
- consult the public on the outcome of the review on the plastic shopping bag charging scheme;
- continue to monitor and enhance the operation of the Recycling Fund to provide the recycling industry and other stakeholders with better and more targeted support in practising recycling at different levels;
- continue to implement voluntary PRSs;
- promote and encourage reduction in the use of plastic packaging materials in collaboration with the retail trade;
- continue to take forward the legislative proposal of MSW charging and undertake the preparatory work for its implementation;
- continue with the development of the network of CGSs across the territory;
- continue to pursue the adoption of Global Positioning System on construction waste collection vehicles under suitable public works contracts to enhance management of construction waste;
- continue to take forward the development of O-PARKs and food waste/sewage sludge co-digestion facilities for the treatment of source-separated food waste, as well as the development of an Integrated Waste Management Facility to achieve bulk reduction of MSW;
- develop recycling facilities to handle government yard waste and explore production of biochar from yard waste with a view to turning yard waste into energy and useful products;
- continue to monitor the operation of the EcoPark in Tuen Mun Area 38 and pursue the development of manufacturing industries involving local recyclables by leveraging on the land and other infrastructural support provided by the EcoPark;
- introduce territory-wide waste paper collection and recycling services to collect waste paper for further processing and export for recycling, to ensure a stable outlet for locally generated waste paper;

## Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

- continue to implement the pilot scheme on free collection of all types of waste plastics from non-commercial and non-industrial sources;
- continue to implement the pilot scheme on free collection of food waste from commercial and industrial sources, and gradually expand the scheme to collect food waste from domestic sources with priority given to households with previous experience in source separation of food waste;
- continue to expand outreaching teams with a view to gradually reaching out to the community to provide on-site support and assistance to residents and property management companies in practising proper waste source separation and clean recycling, as well as making preparation for implementing MSW charging;
- provide regular funding support for community recycling centres to expand their coverage to all districts and enhance their service and recycling support at local community level;
- continue to promote reduction of food waste at source and on-site/off-site recycling of unavoidable food waste and to discourage the use of disposable plastic tableware under the Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign;
- continue to install more water dispensers and to implement measures to reduce the use of disposable plastic tableware in government venues and schools, with a view to promoting a “plastic-free” culture;
- continue to promote the “Waste Reduction Guidebook for Large Scale Event Organisers” to improve the environmental performance of community events of different scales through adopting waste reduction and recovery measures;
- continue to raise public awareness of and enhance community participation in clean recycling and proper source separation of waste;
- continue to promote green procurement in the Government and the community;
- continue to implement the administrative control scheme on Waste Cooking Oils;
- continue to plan and implement the various landfill extension projects; and
- continue to implement the RLRFS to expedite the development of beneficial facilities at restored landfills.

### Programme (2): Air

	2018–19 (Actual)	2019–20 (Original)	2019–20 (Revised)	2020–21 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	1,487.6	2,141.1	1,975.7 (-7.7%)	1,902.4 (-3.7%)
				(or -11.1% on 2019–20 Original)

### *Aim*

**10** The aim is to formulate and oversee emission reduction measures to enable the ambient air quality to broadly comply with the Air Quality Objectives (AQOs) by 2020; to enforce the Air Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap. 311) (APCO), the Ozone Layer Protection Ordinance (Cap. 403) (OLPO) and other statutory requirements; to co-ordinate Government’s efforts in combating climate change; and to promote the use of electric vehicles in Hong Kong.

### *Brief Description*

- 11** The work carried out by the Department in seeking to achieve and maintain satisfactory air quality includes:
- development of AQOs, standards and guidelines;
  - enforcement of APCO to control air pollution from factories, polluting processes and products, motor vehicles, vessels, non-road mobile machinery, asbestos and other sources;
  - enforcement of OLPO to control ozone depleting substances and products containing these substances;
  - implementation of the voluntary Indoor Air Quality Certification Scheme for offices and public places;
  - operation of an air quality monitoring network and laboratories to provide the air quality information needed for checking the effectiveness of existing programmes and development of new policies;
  - provision of air quality information and Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) to the public;
  - collaboration with authorities in Guangdong to carry out the Cleaner Production Partnership Programme and implement measures to improve regional air quality; and
  - co-ordination of strategies and measures for combating climate change.

## Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

12 Compared with 1999, the ambient concentrations of respirable suspended particulates (RSP), fine suspended particulates (FSP), nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) dropped by 38 per cent, 42 per cent, 33 per cent and 72 per cent respectively in 2019. Ozone was the only pollutant that showed an increase in concentration by 76 per cent, owing to regional photochemical smog problem and reduction in local nitric oxide (NO) emissions from vehicles resulting in less NO to react with and titrate ozone. At the roadside, the concentrations of RSP, FSP, NO<sub>2</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub> fell by 58 per cent, 54 per cent, 19 per cent and 81 per cent respectively between 1999 and 2019. However, the high level of roadside NO<sub>2</sub> remains a challenge to be tackled. To further improve air quality, a wide range of emission reduction measures are being implemented in respect of motor vehicles and vessels locally while joint efforts are being made with the Guangdong Provincial Government to tackle regional air pollution by attaining emission reduction targets for 2020 in the Pearl River Delta (PRD) Region.

13 With effect from 1 January 2019, vessels within Hong Kong waters are required to use compliant fuel and emission standards of non-road vehicles have been tightened to Euro VI emission standards. The Department completed a three-month public consultation on the findings of the AQOs review in October 2019 and is mapping out the way forward for updating the AQOs. In November 2019, a new technical memorandum was promulgated under the APCO to further tighten the emission caps of power plants from 2024 and onwards. The Department launched an incentive-cum-regulatory scheme on 1 March 2014 for assisting vehicle owners to progressively phase out their pre-Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles and some 78 000 vehicles have been retired under the scheme by the end of 2019. At the end of 2019, a total of 183 trials had been approved under the Pilot Green Transport Fund (PGTF) to test out green innovative transport technologies. To support wider use of electric vehicles, the Government will install over 1 000 additional medium chargers in government car parks by 2022 and is devising a pilot subsidy scheme to incentivise installation of electric vehicle charging-enabling infrastructure in car parks of existing private residential buildings. From end 2019, the emission requirements of franchised buses in the three franchised bus low emission zones have been tightened to Euro V standards. To sustain efforts to improve regional air quality and protect public health, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and Guangdong Provincial Governments are working on the regional air pollution reduction collaboration beyond 2020, including the launch of a study on post-2020 regional air pollutant emission reduction targets and concentration levels.

14 Recognising the need to step up climate actions and to draw up long-term strategies, an inter-departmental committee, namely the Steering Committee on Climate Change, was established under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration to steer and co-ordinate the climate actions of various bureaux and departments. The Government released in January 2017 Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2030+, setting out in detail the key measures to be taken, as well as the target to reduce Hong Kong's carbon intensity by 65 per cent to 70 per cent between 2005 and 2030, equivalent to an absolute reduction of 26 to 36 per cent. Per capita emissions will be reduced to 3.3 to 3.8 tonnes by 2030. Hong Kong has been actively involved in international co-operation and exchanges on climate actions, including the events organised by the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group. From 2017–18, bureaux and departments have started conducting regular carbon audits on major government buildings and will disclose their audit results.

15 The key performance measures in respect of air-related activities are:

### Targets

	Target	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Actual)	2020 (Plan)
processing of chimney/furnace applications within 16 days (%) .....	90	93	95	<b>90</b>
percentage of hourly AQHI below 7 (i.e. low or moderate "health risk" category) (%)				
general .....	98‡	98	97#	<b>98</b>
roadside .....	96‡	97	96	<b>96</b>

‡ Targets when ambient air quality broadly meets AQO limits by 2020.

# The overall meteorological conditions in 2018 were more favourable, resulting in better air quality. With the continuous implementation of air quality improvement measures, it is expected that Hong Kong's general air quality will broadly attain the AQOs by 2020.

### Indicators

	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Actual)	2020 (Estimate)
chimney/furnace applications processed.....	396	454	<b>430</b>
asbestos management plans processed.....	197	195	<b>190</b>
specified processes under licence (%).....	100	100	<b>100</b>
premises and plants inspected.....	15 635	16 008	<b>16 000</b>
complaints handled.....	4 712	4 434	<b>4 500</b>
technical advice offered .....	2 004	1 994	<b>1 930</b>
legal notices issued.....	188	140	<b>145</b>

## Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Actual)	2020 (Estimate)
prosecutions under the APCO and OLPO.....	115	105	<b>105</b>
reduction of scheduled ozone depleting substance			
consumption (tonnage) .....	5 519	5 519	<b>5 532</b>
planning advice issued .....	946	1 020	<b>1 020</b>
smoky vehicle reports processed.....	2 923	1 856	<b>1 900</b>
smoky vehicles tested.....	1 829	1 181	<b>1 200</b>
enquiries/complaints on vehicle matters handled .....	7 744	8 031	<b>8 300</b>
indoor air quality certifications registered .....	1 638	1 735	<b>1 740</b>

### *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2020–21*

**16** During 2020–21, the Department will:

- continue to implement various air quality improvement measures outlined in *A Clean Air Plan for Hong Kong* as well as introduce new initiatives for further improving air quality with a view to enabling ambient air quality to broadly meet the AQOs by 2020;
- decide on the way forward for updating the AQOs and prepare the necessary legislative proceedings to amend the APCO for effecting the new AQOs;
- continue to promote the use of new energy vehicles including electric vehicles, and enhance the charging network for electric vehicles;
- continue to encourage the transport trade to make use of the PGTF to try out green innovative transport technologies, and take forward the outcome of the PGTF review with a view to further facilitating wider use of green innovative transport technologies by the transport sectors;
- continue to collaborate with the Mainland authorities on air quality improvements, including the implementation of coastal emission control areas in Mainland waters and conducting a joint study on post-2020 air pollutant emission reduction targets;
- continue to collaborate with the Guangdong and Macao authorities to include routine volatile organic compounds (VOCs) monitoring in the PRD regional air quality monitoring network;
- prepare to launch an incentive-cum-regulatory scheme to progressively phase out Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles;
- prepare to tighten the emission standards for first registered motor cycles to Euro 4 and first registered light buses with a design weight more than 3.5 tonnes and buses with a design weight not exceeding nine tonnes to Euro VI in phases starting from the second half of 2020;
- prepare to conduct the trial of retrofitting Euro IV and Euro V double-deck diesel franchised buses with enhanced selective catalytic reduction systems to reduce emission of nitrogen oxides;
- prepare to implement a pilot scheme for electric public light buses;
- prepare to launch a pilot subsidy scheme to promote installation of electric vehicle charging-enabling infrastructure in car parks of existing private residential buildings;
- prepare to launch a pilot scheme for electric ferries;
- prepare to tighten the content limits of VOCs for regulated architectural paints;
- explore the feasibility to tighten the sulphur content of locally supplied marine light diesel;
- formulate a joint study with the Guangdong and Macao authorities on “Photochemical Ozone Pollution in the Greater Bay Area and Characterisation of Regional and Super-Regional Transportation of Ozone in the Greater Bay Area” with a view to tackling the photochemical ozone pollution in the Greater Bay Area;
- commence operation of two new general air quality monitoring stations at North District and Southern District;
- extend the Cleaner Production Partnership Programme for five years to promote the adoption of cleaner production technologies and practices by Hong Kong-owned factories in the region;
- continue to co-ordinate the implementation of measures to combat climate change, step up educational and publicity efforts to promote awareness of climate change and low-carbon living style, and co-operate with the Guangdong authorities to address the challenge;
- continue to support bureaux and departments in enhancing carbon management by carrying out carbon audits on major government buildings so as to identify room for carbon reduction;

## Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

- develop Hong Kong’s long-term decarbonisation strategy in line with the goal of the Paris Agreement, taking into account views collected during the public engagement exercise in 2019 as well as the recommendations of the Council for Sustainable Development; and
- establish the Green Tech Fund to encourage local research and development on decarbonisation and green technologies.

### Programme (3): Noise

	2018–19 (Actual)	2019–20 (Original)	2019–20 (Revised)	<b>2020–21 (Estimate)</b>
Financial provision (\$m)	132.6	148.9	146.7 (–1.5%)	<b>157.5</b> (+7.4%)
				(or +5.8% on 2019–20 Original)

### Aim

17 The aim is to prevent, minimise and resolve environmental noise problems through intervention in the planning process, implementation of noise abatement measures and enforcement of the Noise Control Ordinance (Cap. 400) (NCO).

### Brief Description

18 To achieve this aim, the Department carries out the following main tasks:

- provision of professional input in relation to planning and development proposals to pre-empt and mitigate noise problems;
- development of practicable proposals to address existing traffic noise problems;
- promoting the use of quieter construction equipment; and
- enforcement of the NCO.

19 The key performance measures in respect of noise-related activities are:

### Targets

	Target	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Actual)	<b>2020 (Plan)</b>
processing of applications for construction noise permits within 18 days (%) .....	90	96	96	<b>90</b>
processing of applications for noise emission labels for breakers and air compressors within 15 days (%).....	90	93	92	<b>90</b>

### Indicators

	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Actual)	<b>2020 (Estimate)</b>
comments given in planning stage .....	1 456	1 542	<b>1 550</b>
prosecutions under the NCO .....	154	157	<b>160</b>
construction noise permits processed.....	4 108	4 643	<b>4 600</b>
noise emission labels issued for breakers and air compressors .....	1 197	1 242	<b>1 200</b>
noise abatement notices served .....	38	30	<b>30</b>
complaints handled.....	5 017	5 049	<b>5 000</b>

### Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2020–21

20 During 2020–21, the Department will continue to:

- tackle noise impact of existing roads through the retrofitting programme; and
- promote good practices to prevent or minimise road traffic noise problems at the planning stage.

## Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

### Programme (4): Water

	2018–19 (Actual)	2019–20 (Original)	2019–20 (Revised)	2020–21 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	304.2	356.9	333.7 (–6.5%)	<b>361.0</b> (+8.2%)
				(or +1.1% on 2019–20 Original)

#### *Aim*

21 The aim is to ensure that the quality of Hong Kong's marine and fresh waters promotes the conservation and best use of those waters in the public interest, and that plans are formulated and implemented such that Hong Kong's sewerage systems can operate safely and effectively to cope with our current needs and needs of Hong Kong's further development.

#### *Brief Description*

22 The Department seeks to attain and maintain Water Quality Objectives (WQOs) by enforcing relevant legislation; by ensuring the provision of an adequate sewerage infrastructure; by assessing the possible impact of strategic and local developments on water quality and requiring this to be taken into account in development plans; and by proposing revisions to existing legislations aimed at preventing water pollution, if necessary. Water and sediment quality is monitored extensively, and special investigations are conducted to provide the basis for policy development and preventive planning.

23 The Harbour Area Treatment Scheme Stage 2A has been fully commissioned since December 2015. The Department continues to develop and implement water quality improvement measures with a long-term objective of enhancing the Harbour's leisure and recreational value.

24 The sewerage master plans for Central and East Kowloon, West Kowloon, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Chung, Tuen Mun, Tsing Yi, the Outlying Islands, Hong Kong Island, North District and Tolo Harbour areas have been reviewed and proposals for sewerage upgrading works are being pursued in accordance with the identified priority.

25 The key performance measures in respect of the water programme are:

#### *Targets*

	Target	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Actual)	2020 (Plan)
inspection of major discharges in every Water Control Zone at least four times a year (%).....	100	100	100	<b>100</b>
provision of weekly beach water quality grading to the public during bathing season (%).....	100	100	100	<b>100</b>
initial response to water pollution complaints within three days (%).....	95	98	95	<b>95</b>

#### *Indicators*

	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Actual)	2020 (Estimate)
compliance with WQOs for marine waters (%).....	84	88	<b>88</b>
inland water sampling points .....	82	82	<b>82</b>
no. of the sampling points classified as (%)			
excellent .....	57	58	<b>58</b>
good.....	26	27	<b>27</b>
fair.....	9	9	<b>9</b>
bad.....	6	6	<b>6</b>
very bad.....	2	0	<b>0</b>
compliance with WQOs for inland waters (%).....	90	91	<b>91</b>
enforcement of the Water Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap. 358)			
licences granted.....	1 066	1 083	<b>1 060</b>
licences renewed .....	1 241	928	<b>920</b>
prosecutions for water pollution control offences.....	43	31	<b>30</b>
detailed investigations and inspections .....	13 114	13 739	<b>13 000</b>
complaints handled .....	2 731	2 654	<b>2 700</b>



## Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Actual)	2020 (Estimate)
drainage plans vetted (under the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123)).....	73	61	<b>65</b>
responses to planning cases.....	967	1 025	<b>1 060</b>

### *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2020–21*

**26** During 2020–21, the Department will continue to:

- co-operate with the Guangdong authorities on cross-boundary water quality management issues and protection of the marine environment;
- pursue various sewage treatment and sewerage projects; and
- improve the water quality of Victoria Harbour.

### **Programme (5): Environmental Assessment and Planning**

	2018–19 (Actual)	2019–20 (Original)	2019–20 (Revised)	2020–21 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	111.1	126.2	123.2 (–2.4%)	<b>133.1</b> (+8.0%)

(or +5.5% on  
2019–20 Original)

### *Aim*

**27** The aim is to pre-empt environmental problems associated with projects, plans, policies and strategies by reviewing proponents' assessment of their environmental implications and ensuring that effective preventive and mitigatory measures are implemented where potential problems are identified.

### *Brief Description*

**28** The Department seeks to prevent environmental problems through reviewing the environmental findings of projects, planning proposals and development strategies which may have significant environmental implications. It oversees strategic environmental assessment and environmental impact assessment (EIA) studies, and processes Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Cap. 499) (EIAO) applications to ensure that the environmental impacts of designated projects are properly assessed and that measures to control them to acceptable levels are properly implemented.

**29** The key performance measures in respect of environmental assessment and planning are:

### *Indicators*

	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Actual)	2020 (Estimate)
plans reviewed and technical environmental advice given (on outline zoning plans, layout plans, etc.).....	72	74	<b>70</b>
miscellaneous district planning or housing proposals reviewed and technical environmental advice given (on housing proposals, applications under section 16 of the Town Planning Ordinance (Cap. 131)) ...	1 739	1 569	<b>1 550</b>
major planning studies and strategic planning studies .....	78	84	<b>78</b>
applications processed under the EIAO.....	77	51	<b>70</b>
major projects undergoing environmental monitoring and audit.....	103	99	<b>104</b>
EIA with technical advice provided .....	50	52	<b>50</b>
cases where environmental implications paragraphs in funding and policy proposals vetted .....	303	290	<b>290</b>

## Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

### *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2020–21*

30 During 2020–21, the Department will continue to:

- pre-empt environmental problems through processing EIAO applications and enforcement of permit conditions;
- promote the incorporation of environmental considerations into major policies and strategies at the earliest possible stage; and
- promote environmental good practices and early engagement with stakeholders in the planning and design of new developments.

### **Programme (6): Nature Conservation**

	2018–19 (Actual)	2019–20 (Original)	2019–20 (Revised)	<b>2020–21 (Estimate)</b>
Financial provision (\$m)	30.4	79.0	43.7 (–44.7%)	<b>112.7</b> (+157.9%)
				(or +42.7% on 2019–20 Original)

### *Aim*

31 The aim is to regulate, protect and manage natural resources that are important for the conservation of biological diversity of Hong Kong in a sustainable manner, taking into account social and economic considerations, for the benefit and enjoyment of the community and their future generations.

### *Brief Description*

32 The Department’s main responsibilities under this programme are to formulate policies and to co-ordinate and oversee the implementation of programmes on nature and countryside conservation.

33 In accordance with the New Nature Conservation Policy, the Department will continue to support management agreement projects with landowners/tenants and the public-private partnership scheme to enhance conservation efforts in collaboration with the relevant departments and stakeholders. Nature conservation measures will continue to be implemented and, where appropriate, enhanced. Promotion and public education of nature conservation in the community across sectors will be conducted, to be supplemented by publicity initiatives to reinforce the message.

34 The Department established the Countryside Conservation Office (CCO) in July 2018 to co-ordinate conservation and revitalisation projects in the countryside for the long-term sustainable development of remote countryside areas. The CCO will implement minor improvement works in countryside areas, as well as support NPOs to interact and co-operate with villagers in organising diverse and innovative conservation activities and revitalisation projects under the Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme (CCFS) which was launched in October 2019.

35 The CCO has been liaising and co-ordinating with relevant government departments, NPOs and stakeholders to work on some minor works proposals for improving public facilities in remote countryside areas. The Advisory Committee on Countryside Conservation (ACCC), established in July 2019, provides advice to the Government on the work priorities of the CCO, as well as on the policy matters relating to the operation of the CCFS.

### *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2020–21*

36 During 2020–21, the Department will:

- continue to plan, co-ordinate and implement minor improvement works in Lai Chi Wo and Sha Lo Tung as priority areas;
- provide secretariat support to the ACCC to provide advice on the priorities for the conservation and revitalisation works proposals;
- process NPOs’ applications for the CCFS to support conservation and revitalisation projects and monitor approved projects;
- continue to oversee the operation and management of marine parks, and the work on designating new marine parks, including the Southwest Lantau Marine Park and the South Lantau Marine Park;
- continue to oversee the operation and management of country parks, as well as the implementation of measures to enhance the recreational and educational potential of country parks;
- continue to oversee the implementation of the measures to better protect country park enclaves, in particular those found suitable for being included as part of country parks;
- continue to oversee the operation and management of the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark;

## **Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT**

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- oversee the preparatory work for the expansion of the Sham Wan Restricted Area on the Lamma Island with a view to strengthening the protection of endangered green turtles; and
- continue to oversee the implementation of the first Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Hong Kong.

## Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

### ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	2018–19 (Actual) (\$m)	2019–20 (Original) (\$m)	2019–20 (Revised) (\$m)	2020–21 (Estimate) (\$m)
(1) Waste .....	3,146.8	4,107.1	3,665.5	4,847.8
(2) Air .....	1,487.6	2,141.1	1,975.7	1,902.4
(3) Noise .....	132.6	148.9	146.7	157.5
(4) Water.....	304.2	356.9	333.7	361.0
(5) Environmental Assessment and Planning .....	111.1	126.2	123.2	133.1
(6) Nature Conservation .....	30.4	79.0	43.7	112.7
	5,212.7	6,959.2	6,288.5 (-9.6%)	7,514.5 (+19.5%)
				(or +8.0% on 2019–20 Original)

#### Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

##### Programme (1)

Provision for 2020–21 is \$1,182.3 million (32.3%) higher than the revised estimate for 2019–20. This is mainly due to increased provision for waste management initiatives, increased contract payments for the operation of waste management facilities and increased cash flow requirement for non-recurrent projects. In addition, there will be a net increase of 32 posts in 2020–21.

##### Programme (2)

Provision for 2020–21 is \$73.3 million (3.7%) lower than the revised estimate for 2019–20. This is mainly due to decreased cash flow requirement for non-recurrent projects, partly offset by increased provision for operating expenses and new equipment. In addition, there will be a net increase of 18 posts in 2020–21.

##### Programme (3)

Provision for 2020–21 is \$10.8 million (7.4%) higher than the revised estimate for 2019–20. This is mainly due to increased provision for operating expenses. In addition, there will be a net increase of two posts in 2020–21.

##### Programme (4)

Provision for 2020–21 is \$27.3 million (8.2%) higher than the revised estimate for 2019–20. This is mainly due to increased provision for operating expenses. In addition, there will be a net increase of six posts in 2020–21.

##### Programme (5)

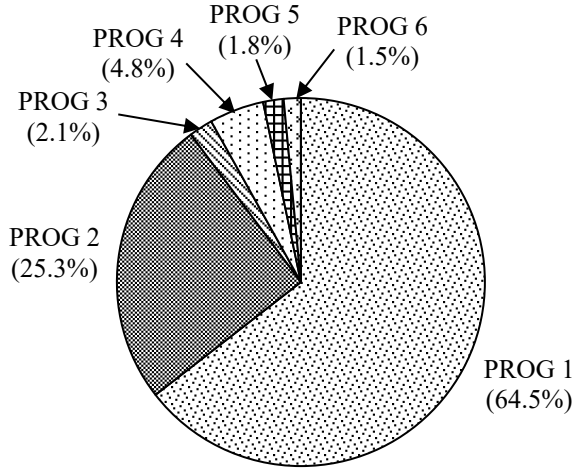
Provision for 2020–21 is \$9.9 million (8.0%) higher than the revised estimate for 2019–20. This is mainly due to increased provision for operating expenses. In addition, there will be a net increase of three posts in 2020–21.

##### Programme (6)

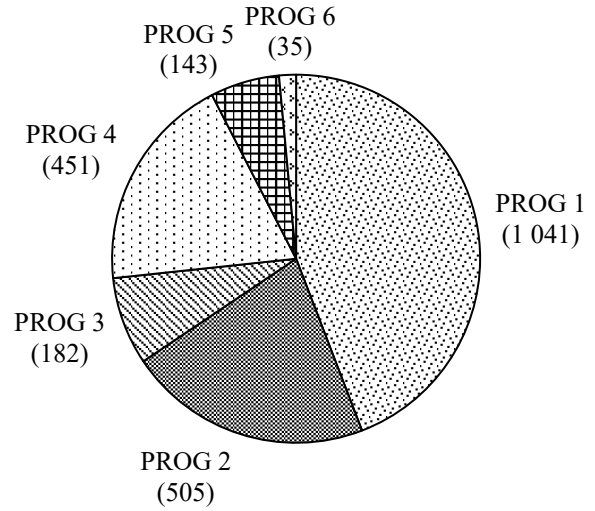
Provision for 2020–21 is \$69.0 million (157.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2019–20. This is mainly due to increased cash flow requirement for a non-recurrent project.

**Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT**

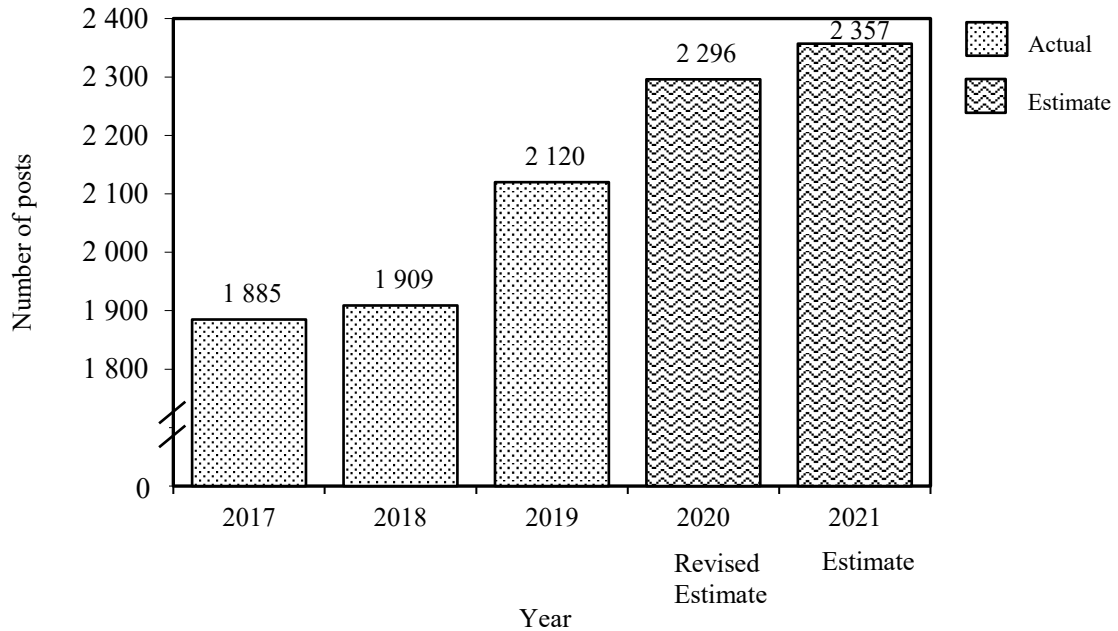
*Allocation of provision to programmes (2020-21)*



*Staff by programme (as at 31 March 2021)*



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



**Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT**

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2018–19	Approved estimate 2019–20	Revised estimate 2019–20	<b>Estimate 2020–21</b>	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	<b>\$'000</b>	
<b>Operating Account</b>					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses .....	1,887,296	2,725,273	2,271,034	<b>3,357,473</b>
297	Fees for operation of waste management facilities .....	2,289,850	2,431,649	2,403,450	<b>2,589,452</b>
	Total, Recurrent.....	<u>4,177,146</u>	<u>5,156,922</u>	<u>4,674,484</u>	<b><u>5,946,925</u></b>
Non-Recurrent					
700	General non-recurrent .....	1,024,515	1,778,393	1,598,203	<b>1,440,977</b>
	Total, Non-Recurrent.....	<u>1,024,515</u>	<u>1,778,393</u>	<u>1,598,203</u>	<b><u>1,440,977</u></b>
	Total, Operating Account .....	<u>5,201,661</u>	<u>6,935,315</u>	<u>6,272,687</u>	<b><u>7,387,902</u></b>
<b>Capital Account</b>					
Plant, Equipment and Works					
605	Minor capital works (block vote).....	1,694	2,670	170	<b>2,500</b>
661	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote).....	9,340	21,176	15,647	<b>124,147</b>
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works.....	<u>11,034</u>	<u>23,846</u>	<u>15,817</u>	<b><u>126,647</u></b>
	Total, Capital Account.....	<u>11,034</u>	<u>23,846</u>	<u>15,817</u>	<b><u>126,647</u></b>
	Total Expenditure .....	<u><u>5,212,695</u></u>	<u><u>6,959,161</u></u>	<u><u>6,288,504</u></u>	<b><u><u>7,514,549</u></u></b>

## Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

### Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2020–21 for the salaries and expenses of the Environmental Protection Department is \$7,514,549,000. This represents an increase of \$1,226,045,000 over the revised estimate for 2019–20 and \$2,301,854,000 over the actual expenditure in 2018–19.

#### Operating Account

##### Recurrent

**2** Provision of \$3,357,473,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Environmental Protection Department. This represents an increase of \$1,086,439,000 (47.8%) over the revised estimate for 2019–20. This is mainly due to increased provision for filling of vacancies and new posts in 2020–21, and increased requirement for departmental expenses in connection with measures on waste reduction, air quality monitoring, and environmental protection and conservation.

**3** The establishment as at 31 March 2020 will be 2 296 posts including seven supernumerary posts. It is expected that there will be a net increase of 61 posts in 2020–21. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2020–21, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$1,374,843,000.

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

	2018–19 (Actual) (\$'000)	2019–20 (Original) (\$'000)	2019–20 (Revised) (\$'000)	<b>2020–21 (Estimate) (\$'000)</b>
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries .....	1,256,704	1,455,410	1,381,334	<b>1,530,912</b>
- Allowances .....	33,282	36,757	36,128	<b>39,236</b>
- Job-related allowances.....	866	980	934	<b>1,200</b>
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution .....	4,894	9,565	6,582	<b>8,335</b>
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution .....	54,833	66,757	65,989	<b>82,743</b>
Departmental Expenses				
- Specialist supplies and equipment.....	22,748	16,652	18,234	<b>19,583</b>
- General departmental expenses .....	513,969	1,139,152	756,833	<b>1,630,464</b>
Other Charges				
- Promotion of green lifestyle .....	—	—	5,000	<b>45,000</b>
	1,887,296	2,725,273	2,271,034	<b>3,357,473</b>

**5** Provision of \$2,589,452,000 under *Subhead 297 Fees for operation of waste management facilities* is for contract payments for the operation of waste management facilities including the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre, refuse transfer stations, landfills, T-PARK, WEEE-PARK, O-PARK1, etc.

#### Capital Account

##### Plant, Equipment and Works

**6** Provision of \$2,500,000 under *Subhead 605 Minor capital works (block vote)* represents funding for renovation of Island West Transfer Station Administration Building. This represents an increase of \$2,330,000 (1 370.6%) over the revised estimate for 2019–20 mainly due to increased cash flow requirement for the renovation.

**7** Provision of \$124,147,000 under *Subhead 661 Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)* represents an increase of \$108,500,000 (693.4%) over the revised estimate for 2019–20. This is mainly due to increased requirement for new equipment.

## Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

### Commitments

Sub-head (Code)	Item (Code)	Ambit	Approved commitment	Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.2019	Revised estimated expenditure for 2019–20	Balance
			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Operating Account</b>						
700		<i>General non-recurrent</i>				
	801	Countryside Conservation Office.....	500,000	—	9,000	491,000
	802	Preparation for a Pilot Scheme on Electric Public Light Bus.....	1,400	—	1,300	100
	803	Trial of retrofitting Euro IV and V double-deck franchised buses with enhanced selective catalytic reduction systems.....	38,180	—	—	38,180
	804	Study on the Control of Disposable Plastic Tableware.....	5,000	—	1,540	3,460
	807	Pilot Scheme on Application of Reverse Vending Machines.....	5,000	—	—	5,000
	808	Study on the total pollution load control regime and online water quality monitoring system.....	9,200	—	800	8,400
	809	Pilot Scheme for Electric Public Light Buses¶.....	80,000¶	—	—	80,000
	810	Ex-gratia payment for phasing out pre-Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles.....	11,444,000	9,163,089	1,352,000	928,911
	811	Pilot Subsidy Scheme for Installation of Electric Vehicle Charging-enabling Infrastructure in Car Parks of Existing Private Residential Buildings¶.....	2,000,000¶	—	—	2,000,000
	812	Pilot Scheme for Electric Ferries¶.....	350,000¶	—	—	350,000
	815	Ex-gratia payment for phasing out Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles¶.....	7,100,000¶	—	—	7,100,000
	816	Preparing and implementing the next phase of dedicated liquefied petroleum gas filling stations.....	5,000	—	—	5,000
	817	Programmes and consultancy study on reducing the use and amount of packaging materials in Hong Kong.....	3,500	—	—	3,500
	818	Extension of the Cleaner Production Partnership Programme¶.....	311,000¶	—	—	311,000
	819	Green Tech Fund¶.....	200,000¶	—	—	200,000
	827	Recycling Fund.....	1,000,000	100,078	186,689	713,233
	840	New Energy Transport FundΔ.....	1,100,000Δ	59,235	16,550	1,024,215
	850	Trial of Electric Buses by Franchised Bus Companies.....	180,000	136,217	15,000	28,783
	915	Review of the Air Quality Objectives for Hong Kong.....	8,000	5,072	2,176	752



**Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT**

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**Commitments—Cont'd.**

Sub-head (Code)	Item (Code)	Ambit	Approved commitment	Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.2019	Revised estimated expenditure for 2019–20	Balance
			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Operating Account—Cont'd.</b>						
700		<i>General non-recurrent—Cont'd.</i>				
	931	Establishment of the Manufacturing, Inventory and Distribution System for Designated Garbage Bags and Designated Labels under the Municipal Solid Waste Charging – Feasibility Study .....	7,000	1,723	110	5,167
		Total .....	<u>24,347,280</u>	<u>9,465,414</u>	<u>1,585,165</u>	<u>13,296,701</u>

¶ This is a new item, funding for which is sought in the context of the Appropriation Bill 2020.  
 Δ With effect from 1 April 2020, this item is retitled from Pilot Green Transport Fund. The approved commitment for the item was \$300 million. An increase in commitment of \$800 million is sought in the context of the Appropriation Bill 2020.