

## Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

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

<b>Estimate 2021–22</b> .....	<b>\$8,135.4m</b>
<b>Establishment ceiling 2021–22</b> (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 2 313 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2021 reducing by eight posts to 2 305 posts as at 31 March 2022.....	<b>\$1,368.1m</b>
In addition, there will be an estimated 44 directorate posts as at 31 March 2021 and as at 31 March 2022.	
<b>Commitment balance</b> .....	<b>\$13,037.4m</b>

### Controlling Officer's Report

#### Programmes

<p><b>Programme (1) Waste</b>  <b>Programme (2) Air and Climate Change</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

	2019–20 (Actual)	2020–21 (Original)	2020–21 (Revised)	2021–22 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	3,530.9	4,847.8	4,250.0 (–12.3%)	<b>4,925.5</b> (+15.9%)
				(or +1.6% on 2020–21 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 the provision and management 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.

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4 In *Hong Kong Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources 2013–2022* published in May 2013, the Government set out a comprehensive strategy 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 strategies for the management of food waste and yard waste. The Department implements a spectrum of initiatives in three areas to realise the vision of “Use Less, Waste Less”. Firstly, the Department undertakes actions to drive behavioural change to reduce waste at source through policies and legislation, including construction waste disposal charging, municipal solid waste (MSW) charging and producer responsibility schemes (PRS). Secondly, targeted territory-wide waste reduction campaigns are launched, including those on food waste reduction and community recycling. Thirdly, the Department builds waste-to-resources infrastructure, including organic waste treatment facilities, waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) treatment and recycling facility and Integrated Waste Management Facilities (IWMF), and develops a community recycling network across the territory, supported by dedicated outreaching teams, to strengthen recycling support and environmental education at the district level. A Recycling Fund was set up in 2015 to support the recycling industry to upgrade its operational capabilities and efficiency for sustainable development. Pilot schemes on free collection and processing of recyclables are implemented to promote public awareness in waste source separation and clean recycling and to support building a circular economy. The Waste Blueprint for Hong Kong 2035, with the vision of “Waste Reduction · Resources Circulation · Zero Landfill”, was promulgated in February 2021 to put forward a new waste management strategy of transforming waste into resources, at the same time promote green recovery and build up a circular economy. To achieve new targets on waste reduction and recycling as well as zero landfilling, actions beyond 2020 are proposed along six policy objectives of waste reduction, waste separation, resources circulation, industry support, innovation and co-operation, education and publicity.

5 In 2020, about 5.39 million tonnes of solid waste were disposed of at the three strategic landfills in Hong Kong. As the three landfills will soon reach their design capacities and service lives, the Department takes forward projects to extend the three landfills. The Department continues to manage restored landfills and promote their development for recreational or other purposes. The Department also manages seven Refuse Transfer Stations in Hong Kong where MSW are compacted and then transported to the landfills for disposal.

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

### *Targets*

	Target	2019 (Actual)	2020 (Actual)	2021 (Plan)
operation hours of strategic landfills.....	13 870	13 896	13 911	<b>13 900</b>
processing marine dumping permits within 18 days (%).....	90	94	98	<b>90</b>
initial response to waste complaints within three days (%).....	95	98	97	<b>95</b>

### *Indicators*

	2019 (Actual)	2020 (Actual)	2021 (Estimate)
strategic landfills			
no. of capital works milestone payments .....	6	6	<b>6</b>
tonnage of waste received annually .....	5 707 467	5 394 656	<b>5 550 000</b>
total solid waste disposed of (%) .....	100	100	<b>100</b>
refuse transfer stations			
tonnage of waste received annually .....	3 357 459	3 214 913	<b>3 360 000</b>
special wastes			
tonnage of waste treated annually at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre.....	15 769	16 377	<b>16 400</b>
tonnage of sewage sludge treated annually at the T·PARK .....	384 038	378 428	<b>378 400</b>
livestock waste			
total quantity produced (thousand tonnes) .....	65	65	<b>65</b>
disposed of by environmentally-acceptable means (%).....	90	90	<b>90</b>
WEEE			
tonnage of WEEE treated annually at the WEEE·PARK.....	23 980	23 383	<b>23 500</b>
O·PARK1			
tonnage of food waste treated annually at the O·PARK1 .....	33 704	34 165	<b>51 450</b>
marine dumping permits issued .....	155	121	<b>125</b>
waste import/export permits issued.....	45	35	<b>35</b>
chemical waste trip tickets recorded .....	36 000	36 000	<b>36 000</b>
chemical waste collector licences issued .....	29	10	<b>12</b>
chemical waste disposal licences issued .....	17	3	<b>19</b>

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	2019 (Actual)	2020 (Actual)	2021 (Estimate)
prosecutions for			
chemical waste control offences .....	112	72	<b>100</b>
clinical waste control offences .....	48	11	<b>10</b>
livestock waste control offences .....	2	6	<b>5</b>
marine dumping offences .....	3	0	<b>3</b>
waste import/export offences .....	61	58	<b>58</b>
illegal deposit of waste offences .....	180	289	<b>280</b>
complaints handled.....	3 491	2 905	<b>3 000</b>
enquiries handled by the Waste Reduction and Recycling Hotline Service .....	5 518	4 938	<b>5 000</b>

### *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021–22*

7 During 2021–22, the Department will:

- continue to roll out the PRS on glass beverage containers progressively;
- consult the public and map out the way forward for the PRS on plastic beverage containers, and operate a pilot scheme to assess the application of reverse vending machines;
- gauge the public’s views on enhancing the Plastic Shopping Bag Charging Scheme;
- continue to liaise with the relevant sectors to jointly explore and implement practical measures to promote the reduction of plastic packaging materials;
- continue to take forward the legislative proposal of MSW charging and undertake the preparatory work for its implementation;
- consult the public on the way forward to reduce the use of disposable plastic tableware;
- continue with the development of a community recycling network 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 implement the territory-wide waste paper collection and recycling services to collect waste paper for further processing and selling to various markets for recycling, to ensure a stable outlet for locally generated waste paper;
- gradually expand 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;
- continue to expand outreaching service to reach 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;
- continue to promote reduction of food waste at source and discourage the use of disposable plastic tableware under the Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign;
- continue to promote green procurement in the Government and the community;
- continue to monitor the operation of the Recycling Fund to provide support to the recycling industry;
- continue to oversee the development of IWMF;
- continue to take forward the development of O-PARKs and food waste/sewage sludge anaerobic co-digestion facilities for the treatment of source-separated food waste;
- continue to 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;
- tender for the development of a modern pulping facility in EcoPark, Tuen Mun to diversify outlets for our local waste paper;
- continue to oversee the operation of the EcoPark in Tuen Mun Area 38 providing affordable land and other infrastructural support to the recycling industry;
- continue to take forward the various landfill extension projects; and
- continue to develop the beneficial facilities at restored landfills.

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### Programme (2): Air and Climate Change

	2019–20 (Actual)	2020–21 (Original)	2020–21 (Revised)	<b>2021–22 (Estimate)</b>
Financial provision (\$m)	1,946.6	1,902.4	1,495.7 (–21.4%)	<b>2,433.0</b> (+62.7%)
				(or +27.9% on 2020–21 Original)

#### *Aim*

8 The aim is to formulate and oversee emission reduction measures to enable the ambient air quality to broadly comply with the prevailing Air Quality Objectives (AQOs); 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*

9 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;
- implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury (the Convention) which aims to protect human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds; and
- co-ordination of strategies and measures for combating climate change.

10 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 48 per cent, 55 per cent, 42 per cent and 72 per cent respectively in 2020. Ozone was the only pollutant that showed an increase in concentration by 53 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 65 per cent, 65 per cent, 29 per cent and 81 per cent respectively between 1999 and 2020. 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.

11 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. Subsequent to the completion of a three-month public consultation on the findings of the AQOs review in October 2019, the Department is initiating legislative proceedings to amend the APCO with a view to updating the AQOs in the 2020–21 legislative session. Separately, the Department is making preparation for the next review. Following the phasing out of about 79 000 pre-Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles (DCVs) upon the completion of an incentive-cum-regulatory scheme in June 2020, the Department launched in October 2020 a similar scheme which aims to progressively phase out some 40 000 Euro IV DCVs by 2027. At the end of 2020, a total of 196 trials had been approved under the New Energy Transport Fund (the NET Fund, previously named the Pilot Green Transport Fund) to try out green innovative transport technologies. To support wider use of electric vehicles, the Government launched a \$2 billion pilot subsidy scheme, namely the EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme, to incentivise installation of electric vehicle charging-enabling infrastructure in car parks of existing private residential buildings in October 2020. In addition, the Government will install over 1 000 additional medium chargers in government car parks by 2022. 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 conduct of a study on post-2020 regional air pollutant emission reduction targets and concentration levels.

12 To fulfil the obligations under the Convention, the Import and Export (General) Regulations (Cap. 60A) has been amended to subject elemental mercury trading to the respective import and export licensing control starting from 1 November 2020.

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13 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 carbon emission reduction target for 2030. The 2020 Policy Address further announced that Hong Kong would strive to achieve carbon neutrality before 2050. To meet this objective, the Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan would be updated in 2021 to set out more proactive strategies and measures to reduce carbon emissions. In this connection, the new Green Tech Fund, which was launched in December 2020, will give new impetus to deep decarbonisation and the development of green technologies. 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. Since 2017–18, bureaux and departments have been conducting regular carbon audits on major government buildings and disclosing their audit results.

14 The key performance measures in respect of the air and climate change programme are:

### Targets

	Target	2019 (Actual)	2020 (Actual)	2021 (Plan)
processing of chimney/furnace applications within 16 days (%) .....	90	95	93	<b>90</b>
percentage of hourly AQHI below 7 (i.e. low or moderate "health risk" category) (%)				
general .....	98‡	97	99	<b>98</b>
roadside .....	96‡	96	99	<b>98</b>

‡ Targets when ambient air quality broadly meets the prevailing AQO limits.

### Indicators

	2019 (Actual)	2020 (Actual)	2021 (Estimate)
chimney/furnace applications processed.....	454	408	<b>400</b>
asbestos management plans processed.....	195	199	<b>200</b>
specified processes under licence (%).....	100	100	<b>100</b>
premises and plants inspected .....	16 008	11 049#	<b>16 000</b>
complaints handled.....	4 434	3 832	<b>4 400</b>
technical advice offered .....	1 994	1 417	<b>1 500</b>
legal notices issued.....	140	117	<b>140</b>
prosecutions under the APCO and OLPO.....	105	71	<b>100</b>
reduction of scheduled ozone depleting substance consumption (tonnage) .....	5 519	5 539	<b>5 500</b>
planning advice issued .....	1 020	1 265	<b>1 300</b>
smoky vehicle reports processed.....	1 856	735	<b>1 500</b>
smoky vehicles tested.....	1 181	453	<b>1 000</b>
enquiries/complaints on vehicle matters handled .....	8 031	4 724	<b>8 000</b>
indoor air quality certifications registered .....	1 735	1 622	<b>1 600</b>

# The decrease in the figure in 2020 is due to COVID-19.

### Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021–22

15 During 2021–22, the Department will:

- formulate the roadmap on the popularisation of electric vehicles to improve air quality and achieve decarbonisation;
- update the Clean Air Plan for Hong Kong to set out strategic long-term plans for continuously improving the air quality for better protection of public health;
- review and update the Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan in support of Hong Kong's transition to carbon neutrality;
- initiate legislative proceedings to amend the APCO with a view to updating new AQOs and make preparation for the next AQOs review;
- review the Eighth Technical Memorandum for Allocation of Emission Allowances in Respect of Specified Licences for further tightening the emission caps on power plants;

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- continue to promote the use of new energy vehicles including electric vehicles, and enhance the charging network for electric vehicles;
- continue to implement the \$2 billion EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme to promote installation of electric vehicle charging-enabling infrastructure in car parks of existing private residential buildings;
- continue to encourage the transport sectors to make use of the NET Fund to try out and widely use green innovative transport technologies;
- 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;
- continue to implement the incentive-cum-regulatory scheme to progressively phase out Euro IV DCVs by the end of 2027;
- continue to collaborate with the Guangdong authorities to promote the adoption of cleaner production technologies and practices by Hong Kong-owned factories in Guangdong Province;
- prepare to conduct the trial of retrofitting Euro IV and Euro V double-deck diesel franchised buses with emission reduction systems to reduce emission of nitrogen oxides;
- prepare to implement a pilot scheme for electric public light buses;
- prepare to launch a pilot scheme for electric ferries;
- prepare a control proposal for tightening the content limits of VOCs in regulated architectural paints;
- explore the feasibility to tighten the sulphur content of locally supplied marine light diesel;
- conduct a joint study with the Guangdong and Macao authorities on “Characterisation of Photochemical Ozone Formation, Regional and Super-Regional Transportation in the Greater Bay Area” with a view to tackling the photochemical ozone pollution in the Greater Bay Area;
- prepare to set up a 3-D air pollution monitoring network using light detection and ranging technology for tracking pollution transport over Hong Kong;
- introduce new legislative control on trading, manufacturing and storage of mercury and mercury-added products to ensure full compliance with all the Convention obligations;
- 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 lifestyle, and co-operate with the Guangdong authorities to address the challenge; and
- 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.

### Programme (3): Noise

	2019–20 (Actual)	2020–21 (Original)	2020–21 (Revised)	2021–22 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	144.0	157.5	153.2 (–2.7%)	155.4 (+1.4%)
				(or –1.3% on 2020–21 Original)

### *Aim*

**16** 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*

**17** 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.

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

### *Targets*

	Target	2019 (Actual)	2020 (Actual)	2021 (Plan)
processing of applications for construction noise permits within 18 days (%) .....	90	96	91	<b>90</b>
processing of applications for noise emission labels for breakers and air compressors within 15 days (%).....	90	92	94	<b>90</b>

### *Indicators*

	2019 (Actual)	2020 (Actual)	2021 (Estimate)
comments given in planning stage .....	1 542	1 641	<b>1 640</b>
prosecutions under the NCO .....	157	89	<b>90</b>
construction noise permits processed.....	4 643	4 314	<b>4 300</b>
noise emission labels issued for breakers and air compressors .....	1 242	826	<b>800</b>
noise abatement notices served .....	30	11	<b>11</b>
complaints handled.....	5 049	5 265	<b>5 300</b>

### *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021–22*

19 During 2021–22, the Department will continue to:

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

### **Programme (4): Water**

	2019–20 (Actual)	2020–21 (Original)	2020–21 (Revised)	2021–22 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	326.5	361.0	349.6 (–3.2%)	<b>362.4</b> (+3.7%)
				(or +0.4% on 2020–21 Original)

### *Aim*

20 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*

21 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.

22 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.

23 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.

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

### *Targets*

	Target	2019 (Actual)	2020 (Actual)	2021 (Plan)
inspection of major discharges in every Water Control Zone at least four times a year (%).....	100	100	79#	100
provision of weekly beach water quality grading to the public during bathing season (%).....	100	100	100	100
initial response to water pollution complaints within three days (%) .....	95	95	96	95

### *Indicators*

	2019 (Actual)	2020 (Actual)	2021 (Estimate)
compliance with WQOs for marine waters (%).....	88	85	85
inland water sampling points .....	82	82	82
no. of the sampling points classified as (%)			
excellent .....	58	56	56
good.....	27	29	29
fair .....	9	9	9
bad.....	6	6	6
very bad.....	0	0	0
compliance with WQOs for inland waters (%).....	91	89	89
enforcement of the Water Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap. 358)			
licences granted.....	1 083	855	900
licences renewed .....	928	634	1 200
prosecutions for water pollution control offences.....	31	20	20
detailed investigations and inspections .....	13 739	10 358#	12 500
complaints handled .....	2 654	3 026	3 000
drainage plans vetted (under the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123)).....	61	22	22
responses to planning cases.....	1 025	1 185	1 270

# The decrease in the figures in 2020 is due to COVID-19.

### *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021–22*

25 During 2021–22, 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**

	2019–20 (Actual)	2020–21 (Original)	2020–21 (Revised)	2021–22 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	121.7	133.1	129.7 (–2.6%)	133.1 (+2.6%)

(or same as  
2020–21 Original)

### *Aim*

26 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.



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### *Brief Description*

27 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.

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

#### *Indicators*

	2019 (Actual)	2020 (Actual)	2021 (Estimate)
plans reviewed and technical environmental advice given (on outline zoning plans, layout plans, etc.).....	74	66	<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)) ...	1 569	1 118	<b>1 350</b>
major planning studies and strategic planning studies .....	84	112	<b>91</b>
applications processed under the EIAO.....	51	74	<b>67</b>
major projects undergoing environmental monitoring and audit.....	99	103	<b>102</b>
EIA with technical advice provided .....	52	51	<b>51</b>
cases where environmental implications paragraphs in funding and policy proposals vetted .....	290	237	<b>250</b>

### *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021–22*

29 During 2021–22, 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**

	2019–20 (Actual)	2020–21 (Original)	2020–21 (Revised)	2021–22 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	45.3	112.7	62.2 (–44.8%)	<b>126.0</b> (+102.6%)
				(or +11.8% on 2020–21 Original)

### *Aim*

30 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*

31 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.

32 In accordance with the Department's nature conservation policy, the Department will continue to support nature conservation 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. Publicity and public education programmes on nature conservation will be conducted in the community.

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33 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 (including improvements of public facilities) in remote countryside areas, as well as support non-profit-making organisations (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. The Advisory Committee on Countryside Conservation (ACCC), established in July 2019, advises the Government on the work priorities of the CCO and policy matters relating to the operation of the CCFS.

### *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021–22*

34 During 2021–22, the Department will:

- continue to plan, co-ordinate and implement minor improvement works in Lai Chi Wo and Sha Lo Tung as priority areas;
- continue to provide secretariat support to the ACCC to consider NPOs' applications under the CCFS, as well as to advise the Government on the priorities for the conservation and revitalisation works proposals;
- work with relevant bureaux/departments to jointly develop a set of licensing requirements and procedural guidelines designed especially for guesthouses and catering business in countryside areas, making reference to the special nature and restrictions of rural settings;
- continue to oversee the operation and management of existing marine parks, as well as the designation of the proposed South Lantau Marine Park and the proposed marine park for the Three-Runway System project of the Hong Kong International Airport (now named as the proposed North Lantau Marine Park);
- continue to oversee the implementation of measures to better protect country park enclaves, as well as measures to enhance the recreational and educational potential of country parks;
- continue to oversee the operation and management of the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark;
- oversee the implementation of the enhanced conservation work for endangered green turtles after the proposed expansion of the Sham Wan Restricted Area on the Lamma Island and extension of the restricted period; and
- continue to oversee the implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Hong Kong.

## Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

### ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	2019–20 (Actual) (\$m)	2020–21 (Original) (\$m)	2020–21 (Revised) (\$m)	2021–22 (Estimate) (\$m)
(1) Waste .....	3,530.9	4,847.8	4,250.0	4,925.5
(2) Air and Climate Change .....	1,946.6	1,902.4	1,495.7	2,433.0
(3) Noise .....	144.0	157.5	153.2	155.4
(4) Water.....	326.5	361.0	349.6	362.4
(5) Environmental Assessment and Planning .....	121.7	133.1	129.7	133.1
(6) Nature Conservation .....	45.3	112.7	62.2	126.0
	6,115.0	7,514.5	6,440.4 (–14.3%)	8,135.4 (+26.3%)
				(or +8.3% on 2020–21 Original)

#### Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

##### Programme (1)

Provision for 2021–22 is \$675.5 million (15.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2020–21. This is mainly due to increased provision for waste management initiatives and increased contract payments for the operation of waste management facilities, partly offset by decreased cash flow requirement for non-recurrent projects. In addition, there will be a net decrease of four posts in 2021–22.

##### Programme (2)

Provision for 2021–22 is \$937.3 million (62.7%) higher than the revised estimate for 2020–21. This is mainly due to increased cash flow requirement for non-recurrent projects. In addition, there will be a net decrease of one post in 2021–22.

##### Programme (3)

Provision for 2021–22 is \$2.2 million (1.4%) higher than the revised estimate for 2020–21. This is mainly due to increased provision for operating expenses.

##### Programme (4)

Provision for 2021–22 is \$12.8 million (3.7%) higher than the revised estimate for 2020–21. This is mainly due to increased provision for operating expenses.

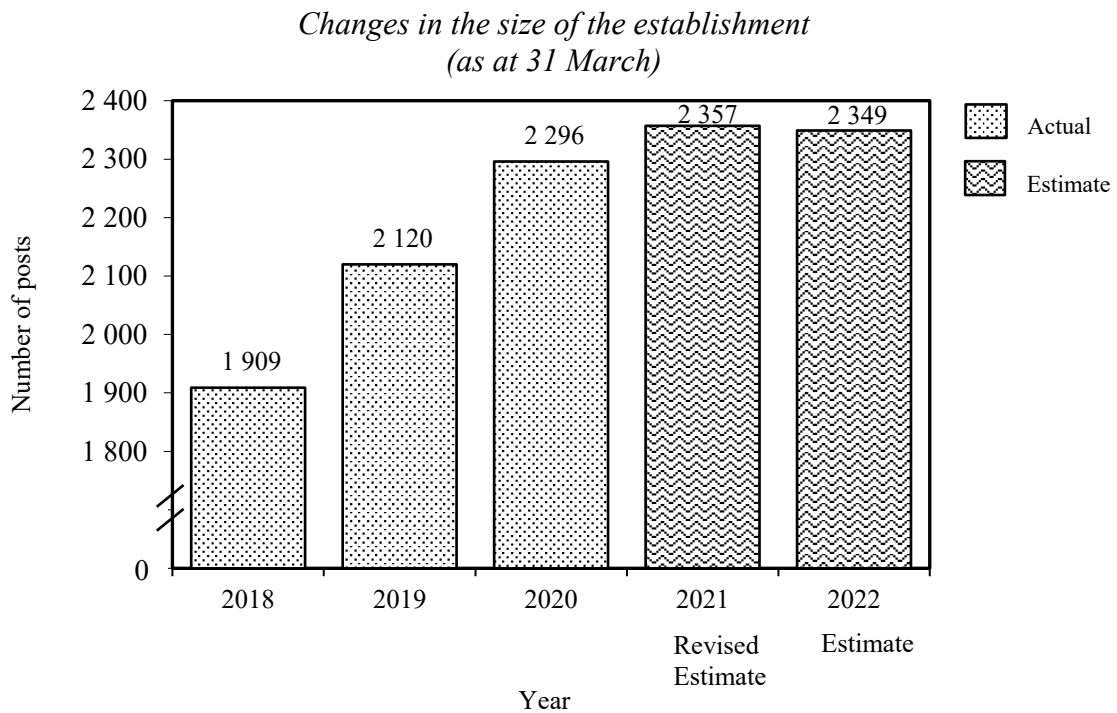
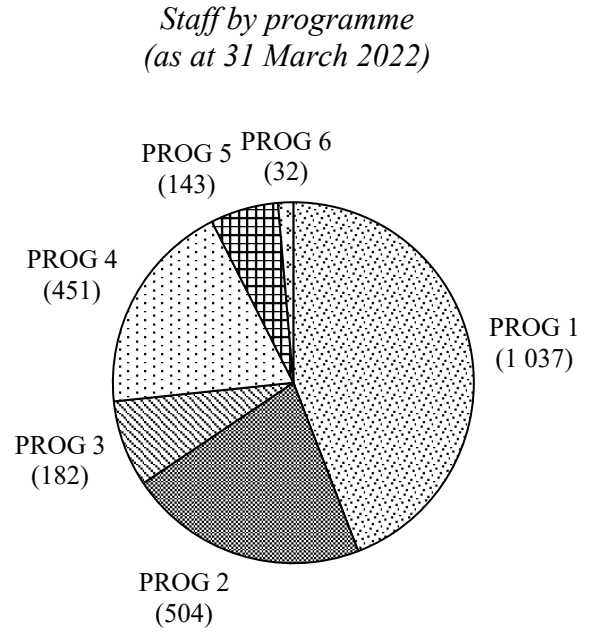
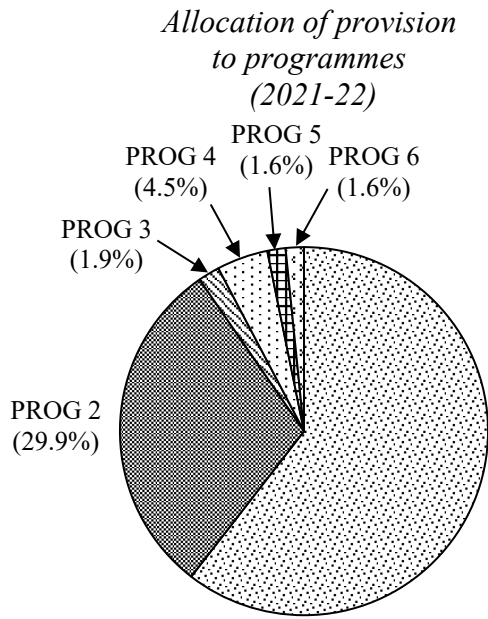
##### Programme (5)

Provision for 2021–22 is \$3.4 million (2.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2020–21. This is mainly due to increased provision for operating expenses.

##### Programme (6)

Provision for 2021–22 is \$63.8 million (102.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2020–21. This is mainly due to increased cash flow requirement for a non-recurrent project. In addition, there will be a decrease of three posts in 2021–22.

**Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT**



**Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT**

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2019–20	Approved estimate 2020–21	Revised estimate 2020–21	Estimate 2021–22	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
<b>Operating Account</b>					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses .....	2,189,227	3,357,473	2,796,352	<b>3,446,800</b>
297	Fees for operation of waste management facilities .....	2,316,645	2,589,452	2,364,411	<b>2,742,543</b>
	Total, Recurrent .....	<u>4,505,872</u>	<u>5,946,925</u>	<u>5,160,763</u>	<u><b>6,189,343</b></u>
Non-Recurrent					
700	General non-recurrent .....	1,593,416	1,440,977	1,240,527	<b>1,862,250</b>
	Total, Non-Recurrent .....	<u>1,593,416</u>	<u>1,440,977</u>	<u>1,240,527</u>	<u><b>1,862,250</b></u>
	Total, Operating Account .....	<u>6,099,288</u>	<u>7,387,902</u>	<u>6,401,290</u>	<u><b>8,051,593</b></u>
<b>Capital Account</b>					
Plant, Equipment and Works					
605	Minor capital works (block vote) .....	170	2,500	125	<b>2,800</b>
661	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote) .....	15,516	124,147	38,991	<b>81,025</b>
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works .....	<u>15,686</u>	<u>126,647</u>	<u>39,116</u>	<u><b>83,825</b></u>
	Total, Capital Account .....	<u>15,686</u>	<u>126,647</u>	<u>39,116</u>	<u><b>83,825</b></u>
	Total Expenditure .....	<u><u>6,114,974</u></u>	<u><u>7,514,549</u></u>	<u><u>6,440,406</u></u>	<u><u><b>8,135,418</b></u></u>

## Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

### Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2021–22 for the salaries and expenses of the Environmental Protection Department is \$8,135,418,000. This represents an increase of \$1,695,012,000 over the revised estimate for 2020–21 and \$2,020,444,000 over the actual expenditure in 2019–20.

#### Operating Account

##### Recurrent

**2** Provision of \$3,446,800,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Environmental Protection Department. This represents an increase of \$650,448,000 (23.3%) over the revised estimate for 2020–21. This is mainly due to increased provision for filling of vacancies in 2021–22, 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 2021 will be 2 357 posts including seven supernumerary posts. It is expected that there will be a net decrease of eight posts in 2021–22. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2021–22, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$1,368,080,000.

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

	2019–20 (Actual) (\$'000)	2020–21 (Original) (\$'000)	2020–21 (Revised) (\$'000)	<b>2021–22 (Estimate) (\$'000)</b>
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries .....	1,381,947	1,530,912	1,436,770	<b>1,509,366</b>
- Allowances .....	35,503	39,236	34,682	<b>40,552</b>
- Job-related allowances.....	912	1,200	878	<b>1,180</b>
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution .....	6,265	8,335	6,961	<b>6,653</b>
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution .....	66,941	82,743	77,562	<b>97,121</b>
Departmental Expenses				
- Specialist supplies and equipment.....	29,880	19,583	21,443	<b>21,979</b>
- General departmental expenses .....	667,761	1,630,464	1,118,074	<b>1,764,949</b>
Other Charges				
- Promotion of green lifestyle .....	18	45,000	99,982	<b>5,000</b>
	2,189,227	3,357,473	2,796,352	<b>3,446,800</b>

**5** Provision of \$2,742,543,000 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. This represents an increase of \$378,132,000 (16%) over the revised estimate for 2020–21. This is mainly due to increased contract payments for the operation of waste management facilities.

#### Capital Account

##### Plant, Equipment and Works

**6** Provision of \$2,800,000 under *Subhead 605 Minor capital works (block vote)* represents funding for renovation of Island West Transfer Station Administration Building. This represents an increase of \$2,675,000 (2 140%) over the revised estimate for 2020–21 mainly due to increased cash flow requirement for the renovation.

**7** Provision of \$81,025,000 under *Subhead 661 Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)* represents an increase of \$42,034,000 (107.8%) over the revised estimate for 2020–21. 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 31.3.2020	Revised estimated expenditure for 2020–21	Balance
			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b><i>Operating Account</i></b>						
700	<i>General non-recurrent</i>					
801	Countryside Conservation Office.....		500,000	11,104	25,500	463,396
802	Preparation for a Pilot Scheme on Electric Public Light Bus.....		1,400	650	650	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	700	2,760
807	Pilot Scheme on Application of Reverse Vending Machines.....		5,000	—	12	4,988
808	Study on the total pollution load control regime and online water quality monitoring system.....		9,200	692	550	7,958
810	Ex-gratia payment for phasing out pre-Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles.....		11,444,000	10,514,993	123,000	806,007
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	—	1,925	348,075
815	Ex-gratia payment for phasing out Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles.....		7,100,000	—	663,000	6,437,000
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	—	23,286	287,714
819	Green Tech Fund.....		200,000	—	—	200,000
827	Recycling FundΔ.....		2,049,930Δ	286,767	384,235	1,378,928
840	New Energy Transport Fund.....		1,100,000	67,187	10,400	1,022,413
850	Trial of Electric Buses by Franchised Bus Companies.....		180,000	153,309	2,000	24,691

**Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT**

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**Commitments—Cont'd.**

Sub-head (Code)	Item (Code)	Ambit	Approved commitment	Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.2020	Revised estimated expenditure for 2020–21	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	1,833	269	4,898
	953	Pilot Scheme for Retrofitting In-use Skips .....	6,800	—	—	6,800
		Total .....	<u>25,311,010</u>	<u>11,038,075</u>	<u>1,235,527</u>	<u>13,037,408</u>

Δ The approved commitment for the item was \$1 billion. An increase in commitment of \$1,049,930,000 is sought in the context of the Appropriation Bill 2021.