

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 2022–23 **\$9,151.9m**

Establishment ceiling 2022–23 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 2 305 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2022 reducing by 13 posts to 2 292 posts as at 31 March 2023 **\$1,358.2m**

In addition, there will be an estimated 44 directorate posts as at 31 March 2022 reducing by three posts to 41 posts as at 31 March 2023.

Commitment balance..... **\$13,551.3m**

Controlling Officer's Report

Programmes

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Programme (1) Waste Programme (2) Air and Climate Change Programme (3) Noise Programme (4) Water Programme (5) Environmental Assessment and Planning Programme (6) Nature Conservation</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

| | 2020–21 (Actual) | 2021–22 (Original) | 2021–22 (Revised) | 2022–23 (Estimate) |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Financial provision (\$m) | 4,305.0 | 4,925.5 | 4,616.0 (–6.3%) | 5,197.4 (+12.6%) |
| | | | | (or +5.5% on 2021–22 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.

4 The Government promulgated in February 2021 the “Waste Blueprint for Hong Kong 2035” to advocate the vision of “Waste Reduction · Resources Circulation · Zero Landfill” and put forward a comprehensive waste management strategy of transforming waste into energy/resources while 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 are proposed along six policy objectives of waste reduction, waste separation, resources circulation, industry support, innovation and co-operation, education and publicity.

5 On waste reduction, the Department implements the Producer Responsibility Scheme (PRS) in full on plastic shopping bags and regulated electrical equipment and is progressively implementing the Scheme on glass beverage containers. It is planning to introduce PRS for plastic beverage containers. As the main driving force behind waste reduction, the Department is also preparing to implement municipal solid waste (MSW) charging as the Waste Disposal (Charging for Municipal Solid Waste) Amendment Bill 2018 was passed by the Legislative Council in August 2021. To reduce waste plastics, the Department aims to regulate disposable plastic tableware by phases, and explores the need of controlling the use of other single-use plastics.

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6 On waste separation, the Department has strengthened and expanded the territory-wide community recycling network comprising Recycling Stations, Recycling Stores and mobile Recycling Spots. The waste collection and recycling services for food waste, waste plastics and waste paper are being expanded progressively. On resources circulation, waste-to-energy/resources facilities are developed to reduce reliance on landfills for direct disposal of MSW. In addition to the commissioned waste management facilities (such as T-PARK, O-PARK1, WEEE-PARK), the Y-PARK commenced operation in 2021 to promote recycling of yard waste. The Integrated Waste Management Facilities (IWMF), I-PARK, which adopts advanced incineration technology to treat MSW, is expected to commence operation in 2025 while the O-PARK2 will start operation in 2023 to increase the overall food waste treatment capability.

7 On industry support, an additional \$1 billion was injected to the Recycling Fund in April 2021. Land in the 20-hectare EcoPark and other short-term sites are also leased to recycling operators at affordable price. On education and publicity, the Department joins hands with the Environmental Campaign Committee to support educational and promotional campaigns on waste reduction and recycling. A Green Outreach service has been set up to reach out to the community to enhance community education and on-site recycling support. On innovation, smart technology applications have been adopted in various waste collection and recycling programmes.

8 In 2021, about 5.67 million tonnes of solid waste were disposed of at the three strategic landfills in Hong Kong. The extension of the South East New Territories Landfill was opened in November 2021. As the remaining two landfills will soon reach their design capacities and service lives, the Department takes forward projects to extend these two 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.

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

Targets

| | Target | 2020 (Actual) | 2021 (Actual) | 2022 (Plan) |
|--|--------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| operation hours of strategic landfills..... | 13 870 | 13 911 | 13 887 | 13 520 |
| processing marine dumping permits within 18 days (%)..... | 90 | 98 | 100 | 90 |
| initial response to waste complaints within three days (%)..... | 95 | 97 | 99 | 95 |

Indicators

| | 2020 (Actual) | 2021 (Actual) | 2022 (Estimate) |
|--|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| strategic landfills | | | |
| no. of capital works milestone payments..... | 6 | 7 | 7 |
| tonnage of waste received annually | 5 394 656 | 5 669 376 | 5 940 000 |
| total solid waste disposed of (%) | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| refuse transfer stations | | | |
| tonnage of waste received annually | 3 214 913 | 3 332 427 | 3 520 000 |
| special wastes | | | |
| tonnage of waste treated annually at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre..... | 16 377 | 15 214 | 15 200 |
| tonnage of sewage sludge treated annually at the T-PARK | 378 428 | 409 962 | 410 000 |
| 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..... | 23 383 | 23 971 | 24 000 |
| O-PARK1 | | | |
| tonnage of food waste treated annually at the O-PARK1 | 34 165 | 45 026 | 59 653 |
| marine dumping permits issued | 121 | 132 | 130 |
| waste import/export permits issued..... | 35 | 33 | 35 |
| chemical waste trip tickets recorded | 36 000 | 35 200 | 36 000 |
| chemical waste collector licences issued | 10 | 5 | 10 |
| chemical waste disposal licences issued | 3 | 18 | 20 |

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| | 2020 (Actual) | 2021 (Actual) | 2022 (Estimate) |
|---|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| prosecutions for | | | |
| chemical waste control offences | 72 | 57 | 60 |
| clinical waste control offences | 11 | 0 | 3 |
| livestock waste control offences | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| marine dumping offences | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| waste import/export offences | 58 | 31 | 30 |
| illegal deposit of waste offences | 289 | 485 | 480 |
| complaints handled | 2 905 | 2 889 | 3 000 |
| enquiries handled by the Waste Reduction and Recycling Hotline Service | 4 938 | 11 381 | 11 000 |

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2022–23

10 During 2022–23, the Department will:

- undertake the preparatory work for the implementation of MSW charging;
- continue to develop a community recycling network across the territory;
- map out the way forward and prepare legislative proposal for the PRS on plastic beverage containers, and expand the pilot scheme on reverse vending machines to assist in recovery of suitable beverage containers;
- map out the way forward and initiate the legislative process for regulation of disposable plastic tableware in phases;
- map out suitable enhancement of the Plastic Shopping Bag Charging Scheme with reference to the public views collected;
- continue to roll out the PRS on glass beverage containers progressively;
- continue to liaise with the relevant sectors to jointly explore and implement practical measures to promote the reduction of plastic packaging materials;
- 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 to nine districts;
- continue to implement the pilot scheme on free collection of food waste for public premises and commercial and industrial premises, and gradually expand the scheme to collect food waste from domestic sources;
- continue reaching out to the community by the Green Outreach to provide on-site support and assistance to residents and property management companies in practising proper source separation of waste and clean recycling, as well as preparing for the implementation of MSW charging;
- continue to promote reduction of food waste at source 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 I-PARK1 and develop new waste to energy facilities;
- 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 including a pilot biochar plant with a view to turning yard waste into energy and useful products;
- continue to take forward 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 two landfill extension projects;
- continue to develop the beneficial facilities at restored landfills; and
- 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.

Programme (2): Air and Climate Change

| | 2020–21 (Actual) | 2021–22 (Original) | 2021–22 (Revised) | 2022–23 (Estimate) |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Financial provision (\$m) | 1,506.5 | 2,433.0 | 1,972.5 (–18.9%) | 3,063.1 (+55.3%) |
| | | | | (or +25.9% on 2021–22 Original) |

Aim

11 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 the Government's efforts in combatting climate change; and to promote the use of electric vehicles in Hong Kong.

Brief Description

12 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 Minamata 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.

13 Compared with 1999, the ambient concentrations of respirable suspended particulates (RSP), fine suspended particulates (FSP), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and sulphur dioxide (SO₂) dropped by 48 per cent, 55 per cent, 37 per cent and 72 per cent respectively in 2021. Ozone was the only pollutant that showed an increase in concentration by 62 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, NO₂ and SO₂ fell by 64 per cent, 63 per cent, 29 per cent and 81 per cent respectively between 1999 and 2021. However, the high level of roadside NO₂ 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.

14 In June 2021, the Government announced the Clean Air Plan for Hong Kong 2035 which set out the vision of “Healthy Living • Low-carbon Transformation • World Class”, and the challenges, strategies and targets to enhance the air quality of Hong Kong to 2035. The new AQOs which took effect on 1 January 2022 tightened the 24-hour objective for SO₂, and the annual and 24-hour objectives for FSP. The Department has also embarked on a new round of review to explore the scope for further tightening the AQOs, with a view to completing it in 2023. 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. In June 2021, a new technical memorandum was promulgated under the APCO to further tighten the emission caps for power plants from 2026 and onwards. 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. The Department is also collaborating with the Guangdong Provincial and Macao Special Administrative Region Governments to conduct a joint study on “Characterisation of Photochemical Ozone Formation, Regional and Super-Regional Transportation in the Greater Bay Area” with a view to providing scientific supports in formulating measures for tackling regional ozone pollution problem.

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15 At the end of 2021, the New Energy Transport Fund (the NET Fund) has approved around 230 trials to try out green innovative transport technologies. To support wider use of electric vehicles, the Government launched 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, and received more than 550 applications covering over 115 000 parking spaces by end 2021. In addition, the Government will complete installation of over 1 000 additional medium chargers in government car parks by 2022.

16 To fulfil the obligations under the Minamata Convention, the Government has introduced the Mercury Control Ordinance (Cap. 640) to regulate the export, import, keeping and use of mercury, mercury mixtures and mercury compounds; control the export, import, manufacture and supply of certain mercury-added products; and control certain manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used. The Mercury Control Ordinance came into effect on 1 December 2021.

17 The Chief Executive announced in the 2020 Policy Address that Hong Kong would strive to achieve carbon neutrality before 2050. To meet this objective, the Chief Executive announced in the 2021 Policy Address the interim decarbonisation target to reduce Hong Kong's carbon emissions by 50 per cent before 2035 as compared to the 2005 level. In October 2021, the Government promulgated the Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2050 which outlined four major decarbonisation strategies, namely "net-zero electricity generation", "energy saving and green buildings", "green transport" and "waste reduction" and interim targets that would contribute to the achievement of carbon neutrality for Hong Kong before 2050.

18 The Green Tech Fund was launched in December 2020 to provide better and more focused funding support to research and development projects which can help Hong Kong decarbonise and enhance environmental protection. As of the end of December 2021, 14 projects have been approved to enhance the development and application of decarbonisation technologies which are suitable for practical application in Hong Kong and can help promote net-zero electricity generation, energy saving and green buildings, green transport and waste reduction, etc. 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. To achieve zero vehicular emissions and facilitate the attainment of carbon neutrality before 2050, the Government announced the first Hong Kong Roadmap on Popularisation of Electric Vehicles in March 2021, setting out long-term policy objectives and plans on the use of electric vehicles and their associated supporting facilities.

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

Targets

| | Target | 2020 (Actual) | 2021 (Actual) | 2022 (Plan) |
|---|--------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| processing of chimney/furnace applications within 16 days (%) | 90 | 93 | 97 | 90 |
| percentage of hourly AQHI below 7 (i.e. low or moderate "health risk" category) (%) | | | | |
| general | 98‡ | 99 | 98 | 98 |
| roadside | 96‡ | 99 | 99 | 98 |

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

Indicators

| | 2020 (Actual) | 2021 (Actual) | 2022 (Estimate) |
|---|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| chimney/furnace applications processed | 408 | 441 | 450 |
| asbestos management plans processed | 199 | 183 | 190 |
| specified processes under licence (%) | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| premises and plants inspected | 11 049 | 14 165 | 15 000 |
| complaints handled | 3 832 | 4 831 | 4 700 |
| technical advice offered | 1 417 | 1 843 | 1 800 |
| legal notices issued | 117 | 130 | 130 |
| prosecutions under the APCO and OLPO | 71 | 52 | 50 |
| reduction of scheduled ozone depleting substance | | | |
| consumption (tonnage) | 5 539 | 5 539 | 5 540 |
| planning advice issued | 1 265 | 1 057 | 1 060 |
| smoky vehicle reports processed | 735 | 780 | 780 |
| smoky vehicles tested | 453 | 364 | 380 |
| enquiries/complaints on vehicle matters handled | 4 724 | 5 125 | 5 100 |
| indoor air quality certifications registered | 1 622 | 1 973 | 1 900 |

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2022–23

20 During 2022–23, the Department will:

- follow up on the initiatives as set out in the Hong Kong Roadmap on Popularisation of Electric Vehicles to improve air quality and achieve decarbonisation;
- take forward measures set forth in the Clean Air Plan for Hong Kong 2035 to continuously improve the air quality for better protection of public health;
- implement the Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2050 in support of Hong Kong's transition to carbon neutrality, and step up educational and publicity to promote awareness of climate change and low-carbon lifestyle;
- continue the review of the AQOs;
- continue to promote the use of new energy vehicles including electric vehicles, and enhance the charging network for electric vehicles;
- continue to implement the EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme to promote installation of electric vehicle charging-enabling infrastructure in car parks of existing private residential buildings and estates;
- 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 diesel commercial vehicles 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;
- continue to prepare the trial of retrofitting Euro V double-deck diesel franchised buses with emission reduction systems to reduce emission of nitrogen oxides;
- continue to prepare a pilot trial scheme for electric public light buses;
- continue to prepare a pilot trial scheme for electric ferries;
- continue to prepare a trial of electric taxis to test the operation and business mode;
- prepare a trial of hydrogen fuel cell electric buses and heavy vehicles;
- proceed with the legislative amendments to tighten the VOC content limits of regulated architectural paints;
- consult the trade on the control proposal to progressively phase down the manufacturing and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons in order to fulfil Hong Kong's international obligations under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer;
- explore to tighten the sulphur content of locally supplied marine light diesel;
- continue 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;
- prepare to launch a pilot smart air quality monitoring project, which integrates the sensor monitoring with Internet of Things, artificial intelligence, existing air quality monitoring stations and numerical models to provide the public with more detailed air quality information; 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.

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Programme (3): Noise

| | 2020–21 (Actual) | 2021–22 (Original) | 2021–22 (Revised) | 2022–23 (Estimate) |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Financial provision (\$m) | 155.1 | 155.4 | 161.3 (+3.8%) | 166.9 (+3.5%) |
| | | | | (or +7.4% on 2021–22 Original) |

Aim

21 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

22 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.

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

Targets

| | Target | 2020 (Actual) | 2021 (Actual) | 2022 (Plan) |
|---|--------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| processing of applications for construction noise permits within 18 days (%) | 90 | 91 | 95 | 90 |
| processing of applications for noise emission labels for breakers and air compressors within 15 days (%)..... | 90 | 94 | 92 | 90 |

Indicators

| | 2020 (Actual) | 2021 (Actual) | 2022 (Estimate) |
|---|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| comments given in planning stage | 1 641 | 1 774 | 1 774 |
| prosecutions under the NCO | 89 | 65 | 65 |
| construction noise permits processed..... | 4 314 | 4 593 | 4 600 |
| noise emission labels issued for breakers and air compressors | 826 | 1 279 | 1 300 |
| noise abatement notices served | 11 | 21 | 20 |
| complaints handled..... | 5 265 | 5 617 | 5 600 |

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2022–23

24 During 2022–23, 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.

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Programme (4): Water

| | 2020–21 (Actual) | 2021–22 (Original) | 2021–22 (Revised) | 2022–23 (Estimate) |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Financial provision (\$m) | 362.5 | 362.4 | 382.6 (+5.6%) | 432.2 (+13.0%) |
| | | | | (or +19.3% on 2021–22 Original) |

Aim

25 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

26 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.

27 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.

28 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.

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

Targets

| | Target | 2020 (Actual) | 2021 (Actual) | 2022 (Plan) |
|--|--------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| inspection of major discharges in every Water Control Zone at least four times a year (%)..... | 100 | 79 | 100 | 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 | 96 | 99 | 95 |

Indicators

| | 2020 (Actual) | 2021 (Actual) | 2022 (Estimate) |
|--|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| compliance with WQOs for marine waters (%)..... | 85 | 88 | 88 |
| inland water sampling points | 82 | 82 | 82 |
| no. of the sampling points classified as (%) | | | |
| excellent | 56 | 52 | 54 |
| good..... | 29 | 31 | 31 |
| fair..... | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| bad..... | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| very bad..... | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| compliance with WQOs for inland waters (%)..... | 89 | 87 | 87 |
| enforcement of the Water Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap. 358) | | | |
| licences granted..... | 855 | 1 074 | 1 000 |
| licences renewed | 634 | 1 455 | 1 400 |
| prosecutions for water pollution control offences..... | 20 | 14 | 15 |
| detailed investigations and inspections | 10 358 | 15 632 | 15 000 |
| complaints handled | 3 026 | 3 616 | 3 600 |

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| | 2020 (Actual) | 2021 (Actual) | 2022 (Estimate) |
|---|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| drainage plans vetted (under the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123))..... | 22 | 46 | 45 |
| responses to planning cases..... | 1 185 | 1 249 | 1 310 |

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2022–23

30 During 2022–23, 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

| | 2020–21 (Actual) | 2021–22 (Original) | 2021–22 (Revised) | 2022–23 (Estimate) |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Financial provision (\$m) | 131.6 | 133.1 | 132.1 (–0.8%) | 135.2 (+2.3%) |
| | | | | (or +1.6% on 2021–22 Original) |

Aim

31 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

32 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.

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

Indicators

| | 2020 (Actual) | 2021 (Actual) | 2022 (Estimate) |
|--|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| plans reviewed and technical environmental advice given (on outline zoning plans, layout plans, etc.)..... | 66 | 72 | 75 |
| 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)) ... | 1 118 | 1 344 | 1 350 |
| major planning studies and strategic planning studies | 112 | 136 | 111 |
| applications processed under the EIAO..... | 74 | 85 | 70 |
| major projects undergoing environmental monitoring and audit..... | 103 | 107 | 103 |
| EIA with technical advice provided | 51 | 53 | 52 |
| cases where environmental implications paragraphs in funding and policy proposals vetted | 237 | 265 | 270 |

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2022–23

34 During 2022–23, the Department will continue to:

- pre-empt environmental problems through processing EIAO applications and enforcement of permit conditions;

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- 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

| | 2020–21 (Actual) | 2021–22 (Original) | 2021–22 (Revised) | 2022–23 (Estimate) |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Financial provision (\$m) | 62.9 | 126.0 | 82.8 (–34.3%) | 157.1 (+89.7%) |
| | | | | (or +24.7% on 2021–22 Original) |

Aim

35 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

36 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.

37 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.

38 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 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 2022–23

39 During 2022–23, 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 funding applications under the CCFS, as well as to advise the Government on the priorities for the conservation and revitalisation works proposals;
- continue to 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;
- oversee the strategic feasibility study for the establishment of the wetland conservation park system proposed in the Northern Metropolis Development Strategy;
- continue to oversee the management strategy of existing marine parks, as well as the designation of the proposed South Lantau Marine Park and the proposed North Lantau Marine Park;
- continue to oversee the management strategy of existing country park, including measures to enhance the recreational and educational potential of country parks;
- continue to oversee the management strategy of the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark;
- continue to oversee the strategies for enhanced protection of endangered species and management of wild animals; and
- continue to oversee the strategy for promotion of biodiversity.

Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

| | 2020–21 (Actual) (\$m) | 2021–22 (Original) (\$m) | 2021–22 (Revised) (\$m) | 2022–23 (Estimate) (\$m) |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Programme | | | | |
| (1) Waste | 4,305.0 | 4,925.5 | 4,616.0 | 5,197.4 |
| (2) Air and Climate Change | 1,506.5 | 2,433.0 | 1,972.5 | 3,063.1 |
| (3) Noise | 155.1 | 155.4 | 161.3 | 166.9 |
| (4) Water..... | 362.5 | 362.4 | 382.6 | 432.2 |
| (5) Environmental Assessment and Planning | 131.6 | 133.1 | 132.1 | 135.2 |
| (6) Nature Conservation | 62.9 | 126.0 | 82.8 | 157.1 |
| | 6,523.6 | 8,135.4 | 7,347.3 (–9.7%) | 9,151.9 (+24.6%) |
| | | | | (or +12.5% on 2021–22 Original) |

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

Provision for 2022–23 is \$581.4 million (12.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2021–22. 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 decrease of 13 posts in 2022–23.

Programme (2)

Provision for 2022–23 is \$1,090.6 million (55.3%) higher than the revised estimate for 2021–22. This is mainly due to increased cash flow requirement for non-recurrent projects. In addition, there will be a net decrease of three posts in 2022–23.

Programme (3)

Provision for 2022–23 is \$5.6 million (3.5%) higher than the revised estimate for 2021–22. This is mainly due to increased provision for operating expenses.

Programme (4)

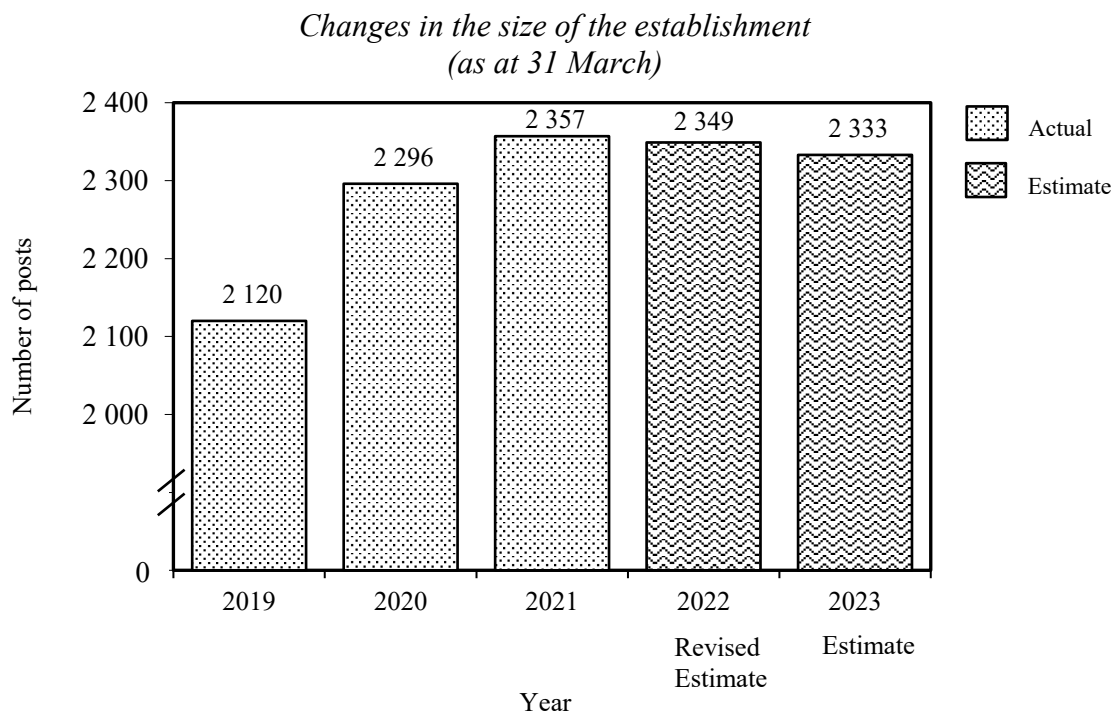
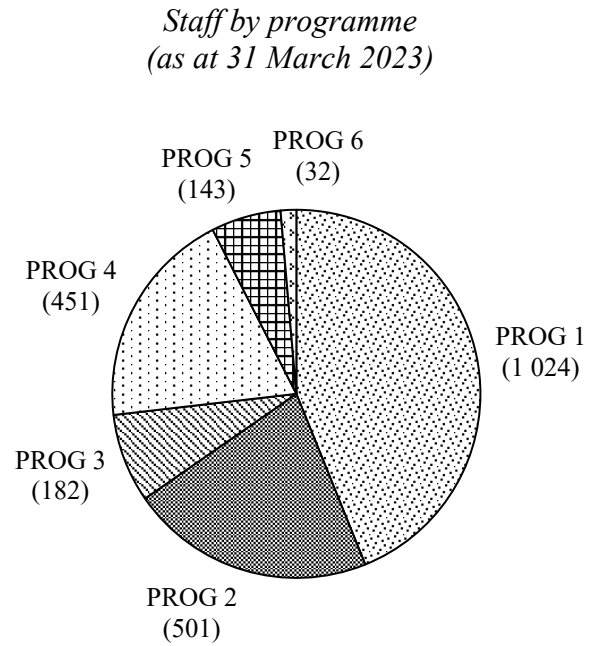
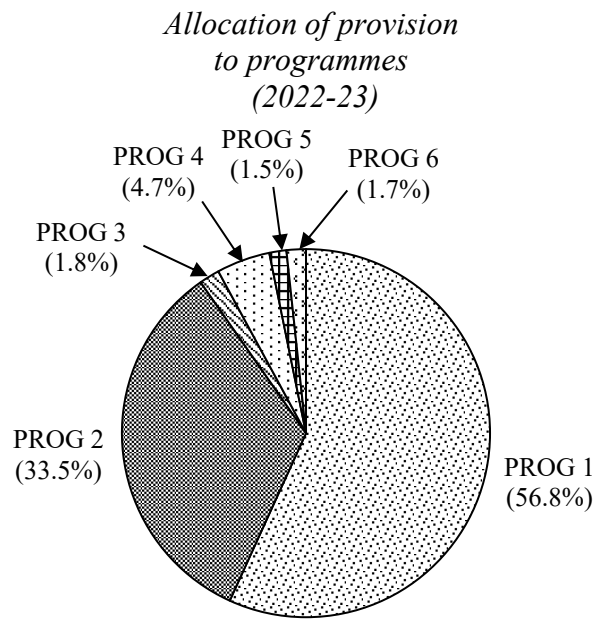
Provision for 2022–23 is \$49.6 million (13.0%) higher than the revised estimate for 2021–22. This is mainly due to increased provision for operating expenses.

Programme (5)

Provision for 2022–23 is \$3.1 million (2.3%) higher than the revised estimate for 2021–22. This is mainly due to increased provision for operating expenses.

Programme (6)

Provision for 2022–23 is \$74.3 million (89.7%) higher than the revised estimate for 2021–22. This is mainly due to increased provision for operating expenses and increased cash flow requirement for a non-recurrent project.



Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

| Sub-head (Code) | | Actual expenditure 2020–21 | Approved estimate 2021–22 | Revised estimate 2021–22 | Estimate 2022–23 |
|--------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| | | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Operating Account | | | | | |
| | Recurrent | | | | |
| 000 | Operational expenses | 2,893,475 | 3,446,800 | 3,206,319 | 3,640,445 |
| 297 | Fees for operation of waste management facilities | 2,360,745 | 2,742,543 | 2,693,370 | 2,911,762 |
| | Total, Recurrent | 5,254,220 | 6,189,343 | 5,899,689 | 6,552,207 |
| | Non-Recurrent | | | | |
| 700 | General non-recurrent | 1,227,977 | 1,862,250 | 1,402,046 | 2,500,899 |
| | Total, Non-Recurrent | 1,227,977 | 1,862,250 | 1,402,046 | 2,500,899 |
| | Total, Operating Account | 6,482,197 | 8,051,593 | 7,301,735 | 9,053,106 |
| Capital Account | | | | | |
| | Plant, Equipment and Works | | | | |
| 603 | Plant, vehicles and equipment | — | — | — | 500 |
| 605 | Minor capital works (block vote) | — | 2,800 | 3,800 | 3,099 |
| 661 | Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote) | 41,420 | 81,025 | 41,716 | 95,243 |
| | Total, Plant, Equipment and Works | 41,420 | 83,825 | 45,516 | 98,842 |
| | Total, Capital Account | 41,420 | 83,825 | 45,516 | 98,842 |
| | Total Expenditure | 6,523,617 | 8,135,418 | 7,347,251 | 9,151,948 |

Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2022–23 for the salaries and expenses of the Environmental Protection Department is \$9,151,948,000. This represents an increase of \$1,804,697,000 over the revised estimate for 2021–22 and \$2,628,331,000 over the actual expenditure in 2020–21.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$3,640,445,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Environmental Protection Department. This represents an increase of \$434,126,000 (13.5%) over the revised estimate for 2021–22. This is mainly due to increased provision for filling of vacancies in 2022–23, and increased requirement for departmental expenses in connection with measures on waste reduction, and environmental protection and conservation.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2022 will be 2 349 posts including seven supernumerary posts. It is expected that there will be a net decrease of 16 posts in 2022–23. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2022–23, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$1,358,226,000.

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

| | 2020–21 (Actual) (\$'000) | 2021–22 (Original) (\$'000) | 2021–22 (Revised) (\$'000) | 2022–23 (Estimate) (\$'000) |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Personal Emoluments | | | | |
| - Salaries | 1,435,180 | 1,509,366 | 1,449,833 | 1,522,374 |
| - Allowances | 33,587 | 40,552 | 41,357 | 38,563 |
| - Job-related allowances..... | 921 | 1,180 | 1,408 | 1,527 |
| Personnel Related Expenses | | | | |
| - Mandatory Provident Fund contribution | 6,967 | 6,653 | 7,100 | 5,531 |
| - Civil Service Provident Fund contribution | 78,251 | 97,121 | 88,079 | 108,562 |
| Departmental Expenses | | | | |
| - Specialist supplies and equipment..... | 44,388 | 21,979 | 28,247 | 30,000 |
| - General departmental expenses | 1,194,199 | 1,764,949 | 1,588,295 | 1,925,888 |
| Other Charges | | | | |
| - Promotion of green lifestyle | 99,982 | 5,000 | 2,000 | 8,000 |
| | <u>2,893,475</u> | <u>3,446,800</u> | <u>3,206,319</u> | <u>3,640,445</u> |

5 Provision of \$2,911,762,000 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, Y·PARK, etc.

Capital Account

Plant, Equipment and Works

6 Provision of \$3,099,000 under *Subhead 605 Minor capital works (block vote)* represents a decrease of \$701,000 (18.4%) against the revised estimate for 2021–22 mainly due to decreased cash flow requirement for renovation.

7 Provision of \$95,243,000 under *Subhead 661 Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)* represents an increase of \$53,527,000 (128.3%) over the revised estimate for 2021–22. This is mainly due to increased requirement for new equipment.

Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

Commitments

| Sub-head (Code) | Item (Code) | Ambit | Approved commitment \$'000 | Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.2021 \$'000 | Revised estimated expenditure for 2021–22 \$'000 | Balance \$'000 |
|--------------------------|----------------|---|----------------------------------|--|--|-------------------|
| Operating Account | | | | | | |
| 700 | | <i>General non-recurrent</i> | | | | |
| | 801 | Countryside Conservation Office..... | 500,000 | 36,768 | 40,000 | 423,232 |
| | 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 | 1,960 | 840 | 2,200 |
| | 807 | Pilot Scheme on Application of Reverse Vending Machines | 5,000 | — | 1,476 | 3,524 |
| | 808 | Study on the total pollution load control regime and online water quality monitoring system | 9,200 | 1,240 | 727 | 7,233 |
| | 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 | 10,637,932 | 5,300 | 800,768 |
| | 811 | EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme§..... | 3,500,000§ | — | — | 3,500,000 |
| | 812 | Pilot Scheme for Electric Ferries | 350,000 | 1,925 | 1,540 | 346,535 |
| | 815 | Ex-gratia payment for phasing out Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles.... | 7,100,000 | 649,612 | 1,218,644 | 5,231,744 |
| | 817 | Programmes and consultancy study on reducing the use and amount of packaging materials in Hong Kong | 3,500 | — | 500 | 3,000 |
| | 818 | Extension of the Cleaner Production Partnership Programme | 311,000 | 23,286 | 46,124 | 241,590 |
| | 819 | Green Tech FundΔ | 400,000Δ | — | 16,307 | 383,693 |
| | 827 | Recycling Fund | 2,049,930 | 671,003 | 47,173 | 1,331,754 |
| | 840 | New Energy Transport Fund | 1,100,000 | 78,674 | 12,800 | 1,008,526 |
| | 850 | Trial of Electric Buses by Franchised Bus Companies | 180,000 | 155,196 | 2,985 | 21,819 |
| | 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 | 2,255 | 536 | 4,209 |
| | | | 27,082,810 | 12,259,851 | 1,394,952 | 13,428,007 |

Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

Commitments—Cont'd.

| Sub-head (Code) | Item (Code) | <i>Ambit</i> | Approved commitment | Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.2021 | Revised estimated expenditure for 2021–22 | Balance |
|------------------------|----------------|---|------------------------|--|--|------------|
| | | | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Capital Account | | | | | | |
| 603 | | <i>Plant, vehicles and equipment</i> | | | | |
| | 820 | Procurement of one marine water quality monitoring vessel for replacement of “Dr Catherine Lam”¶..... | 123,258¶ | — | — | 123,258 |
| | | | 123,258 | — | — | 123,258 |
| | | Total | 27,206,068 | 12,259,851 | 1,394,952 | 13,551,265 |

§ With effect from 1 April 2022, this item is retitled from Pilot Subsidy Scheme for Installation of Electric Vehicle Charging-enabling Infrastructure in Car Parks of Existing Private Residential Buildings. The approved commitment for the item was \$2 billion. An increase in commitment of \$1,500 million is sought in the context of the Appropriation Bill 2022.

Δ The approved commitment for the item was \$200 million. An increase in commitment of \$200 million is sought in the context of the Appropriation Bill 2022.

¶ This is a new item, funding for which is sought in the context of the Appropriation Bill 2022.