

## Head 137 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: ENVIRONMENT BUREAU

**Controlling officer:** the Permanent Secretary for the Environment will account for expenditure under this Head.

**Estimate 2022–23** ..... **\$1,859.8m**

**Establishment ceiling 2022–23** (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 49 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2022 and as at 31 March 2023 ..... **\$37.4m**

In addition, there will be an estimated seven directorate posts as at 31 March 2022 and as at 31 March 2023.

**Commitment balance**..... **\$3,675.0m**

### Controlling Officer's Report

#### Programmes

- Programme (1) Director of Bureau's Office** This programme contributes to Policy Area 27: Intra-Governmental Services (Secretary for the Environment).
- Programme (2) Power** These programmes contribute to Policy Area 23: Environmental Protection, Conservation, Power and Sustainable Development (Secretary for the Environment).
- Programme (3) Sustainable Development**

#### Detail

##### Programme (1): Director of Bureau's Office

	2020–21 (Actual)	2021–22 (Original)	2021–22 (Revised)	2022–23 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	17.9	20.1	19.2 (–4.5%)	20.1 (+4.7%)
				(or same as 2021–22 Original)

#### Aim

- 2 The aim is to ensure the smooth operation of the Office of the Secretary for the Environment.

#### Brief Description

3 The Office of the Secretary for the Environment is responsible for providing support to the Secretary for the Environment in undertaking political work. This includes the support provided by the Under Secretary and the Political Assistant. The Office is also responsible for providing administrative support to the Secretary for the Environment in carrying out his duties. The work includes the planning, co-ordination and implementation of all arrangements for the Secretary's public, media and community functions.

##### Programme (2): Power

	2020–21 (Actual)	2021–22 (Original)	2021–22 (Revised)	2022–23 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	5,710.0	1,787.6	1,717.4 (–3.9%)	1,810.4 (+5.4%)
				(or +1.3% on 2021–22 Original)

#### Aim

4 The aims are to ensure safe, reliable and efficient energy supply at reasonable prices while minimising the environmental impact caused by the production and use of energy through the established monitoring arrangements for the operation of the two power companies and the town gas supply company; to enhance electrical and gas safety through the introduction and enforcement of safety standards; to promote competition and transparency in the local fuel market; to promote the adoption of renewable energy; and to raise public awareness of and achieve energy efficiency and conservation through education, promotion, and implementation of various programmes.

### ***Brief Description***

5 The Bureau's main responsibility under this programme is to formulate policies and programmes in relation to energy supply, electrical and gas safety, renewable energy as well as energy efficiency and conservation.

6 In 2021–22, the Bureau:

- oversaw the implementation of the various programmes and schemes in relation to the promotion of energy efficiency and conservation and the development of renewable energy under the Scheme of Control Agreements (SCAs);
- granted and oversaw the distribution of electricity charges relief, which commenced from 1 January 2019, to eligible residential electricity accounts to alleviate the increase in electricity charges during the transitional period in moving to a lower carbon future;
- oversaw the reliability of electricity and gas supply which was maintained by the companies concerned;
- oversaw the enhanced efforts in enforcing statutory gas safety requirements in relation to liquefied petroleum gas vehicle fuel systems as well as the facilities and workshops engaged in the maintenance and repair of such systems;
- continued to oversee the construction and operation of the District Cooling System (DCS) projects in the Kai Tak Development, take forward the implementation of DCS projects in the Kwu Tung North New Development Area and Tung Chung New Town Extension (East), and oversee feasibility studies on implementing DCS projects in other New Development Areas;
- continued to implement and monitor compliance with the Charter on External Lighting to encourage owners of and responsible persons for external lighting installations of decorative, promotional or advertising purposes affecting the outdoor environment to switch off such lighting installations during the preset time;
- provided support to the Working Group on External Lighting in reviewing measures to manage external lighting;
- continued to oversee the implementation and review of the Building Energy Code and Energy Audit Code under the Buildings Energy Efficiency Ordinance (Cap. 610);
- continued to promote environmental protection and energy conservation in government buildings through a target-based performance framework;
- continued to implement the accelerated tax deduction for capital expenditure on eligible environmental protection installations;
- continued to encourage the wider application of renewable energy at government buildings and facilities and promote the development of renewable energy in the private sector;
- reviewed the scope of the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme (MEELS), with a view to including additional types of products under Phase IV;
- followed up the “Energy Saving Plan for Hong Kong’s Built Environment 2015~2025+”;
- pursued the Energy Saving for All 2021 Campaign including the Energy Saving Charter 2021 and 4T Charter 2021 to promote public awareness of energy efficiency and conservation measures; and
- worked with relevant bureaux and departments to formulate plans and take various measures to achieve the Green Energy Target by 2024–25.

### ***Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2022–23***

7 During 2022–23, the Bureau will continue to:

- oversee the implementation of the various programmes and schemes under the SCAs, including the promotion of energy efficiency and conservation and the development of renewable energy;
- promote decarbonisation in electricity generation and energy efficiency and conservation in buildings as per the direction set out in the Hong Kong’s Climate Action Plan 2050;
- oversee the distribution of electricity charges relief to eligible residential electricity accounts to alleviate the increase in electricity charges during the transitional period in moving to a lower carbon future;
- conduct energy and carbon audits as well as retro-commissioning, implement energy saving projects and install more renewable energy systems at suitable government premises to achieve the Green Energy Target by 2024–25;
- encourage the wider application of renewable energy projects in government buildings and facilities and promote the development of renewable energy in the private sector;
- promote energy efficiency and conservation in buildings, including overseeing the implementation and review of the Building Energy Code and Energy Audit Code under the Buildings Energy Efficiency Ordinance to further enhance building energy efficiency and strengthening the promotion of retro-commissioning of existing private buildings as the continuous driving force for more energy-efficient buildings;

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- oversee the construction and operation of the DCS projects in the Kai Tak Development, take forward the implementation of DCS projects in the Kwu Tung North New Development Area and Tung Chung New Town Extension (East), and oversee feasibility studies on implementing DCS projects in other New Development Areas;
- promote public awareness of energy efficiency and conservation measures;
- take forward Phase IV of MEELS to cover additional types of products; and
- promote guidelines and best practices for external lighting.

### Programme (3): Sustainable Development

	2020–21 (Actual)	2021–22 (Original)	2021–22 (Revised)	2022–23 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	27.9	63.9	26.1 (–59.2%)	29.3 (+12.3%)
				(or –54.1% on 2021–22 Original)

### Aim

- 8 The aim is to promote sustainable development (SD) in Hong Kong.

### Brief Description

9 Under this programme, the main responsibilities of the Sustainable Development Division (SDD) of this Bureau are to:

- provide secretariat support to the Council for Sustainable Development (SDC) established to promote public awareness and understanding of the principles of SD;
- assist the SDC in conducting public engagement on matters relating to the SD of Hong Kong;
- implement the SDC's education and publicity programmes;
- ensure the incorporation of sustainability considerations into the Government's decision-making process through the sustainability assessment (SA) system; and
- promote understanding and application of the SD principles as well as the SA system among bureaux and departments.

### Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2022–23

10 During 2022–23, the SDD will:

- continue to service the SDC in its public engagement on SD issues;
- implement the SDC's education and publicity programmes, including the School Outreach Programme and the School Award Programme;
- monitor the implementation of the SA system; and
- provide training programmes for bureaux and departments on the SD principles and the SA system.

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### ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

	2020–21 (Actual) (\$m)	2021–22 (Original) (\$m)	2021–22 (Revised) (\$m)	2022–23 (Estimate) (\$m)
<b>Programme</b>				
(1) Director of Bureau's Office .....	17.9	20.1	19.2	<b>20.1</b>
(2) Power .....	5,710.0	1,787.6	1,717.4	<b>1,810.4</b>
(3) Sustainable Development .....	27.9	63.9	26.1	<b>29.3</b>
	5,755.8	1,871.6	1,762.7 (–5.8%)	<b>1,859.8 (+5.5%)</b>
				<b>(or –0.6% on 2021–22 Original)</b>

#### Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

##### Programme (1)

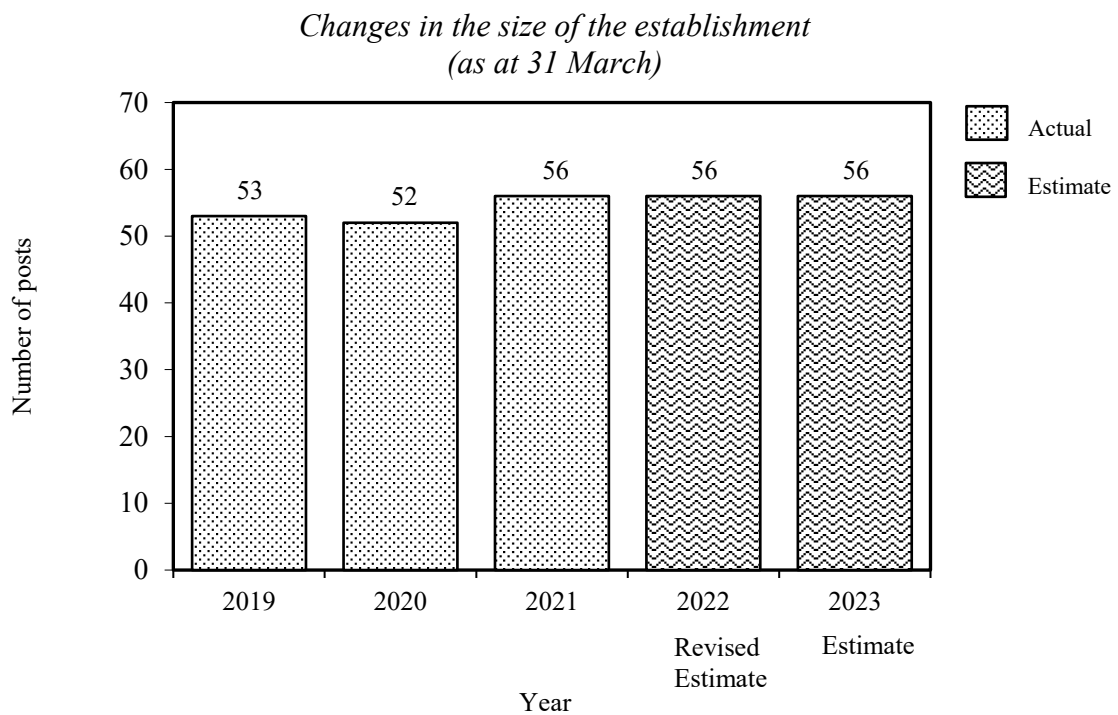
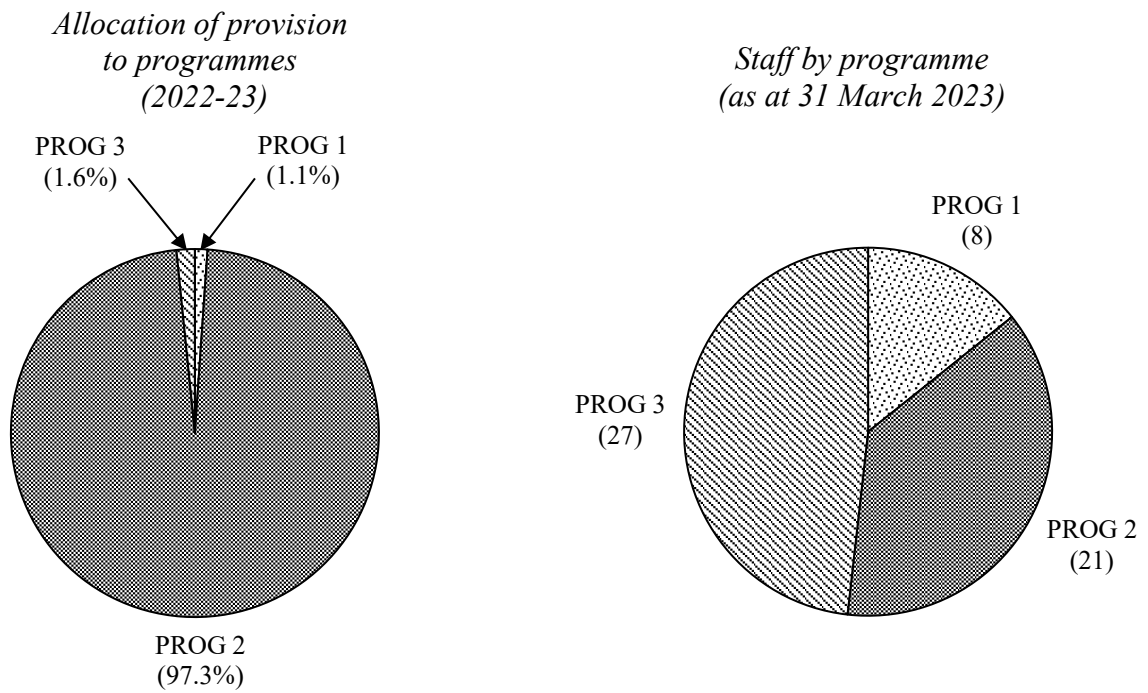
Provision for 2022–23 is \$0.9 million (4.7%) higher than the revised estimate for 2021–22. This is mainly due to the increased provision for operating expenses.

##### Programme (2)

Provision for 2022–23 is \$93.0 million (5.4%) higher than the revised estimate for 2021–22. This is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for the Electricity Charges Relief Scheme.

##### Programme (3)

Provision for 2022–23 is \$3.2 million (12.3%) higher than the revised estimate for 2021–22. This is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for the Sustainable Development Fund.



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Sub-head (Code)		Actual expenditure 2020–21	Approved estimate 2021–22	Revised estimate 2021–22	Estimate 2022–23
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Operating Account</b>					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses .....	83,758	87,973	81,702	<b>86,407</b>
	Total, Recurrent.....	83,758	87,973	81,702	<b>86,407</b>
Non-Recurrent					
700	General non-recurrent .....	5,672,005	1,783,600	1,680,961	<b>1,773,400</b>
	Total, Non-Recurrent.....	5,672,005	1,783,600	1,680,961	<b>1,773,400</b>
	Total, Operating Account .....	5,755,763	1,871,573	1,762,663	<b>1,859,807</b>
Total Expenditure .....					
		5,755,763	1,871,573	1,762,663	<b>1,859,807</b>

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### Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2022–23 for the salaries and expenses of the Environment Bureau is \$1,859,807,000. This represents an increase of \$97,144,000 over the revised estimate for 2021–22 and a decrease of \$3,895,956,000 against the actual expenditure in 2020–21.

#### *Operating Account*

#### Recurrent

2 Provision of \$86,407,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Environment Bureau.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2022 will be 56 posts including one supernumerary post. No change in establishment is expected 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 \$37,413,000.

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 .....	48,983	52,977	47,374	48,092
- Allowances .....	1,978	2,074	2,188	2,205
- Job-related allowances.....	2	2	52	52
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution .....	98	85	119	61
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution .....	3,121	3,764	2,901	3,320
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses .....	29,576	29,071	29,068	32,677
	83,758	87,973	81,702	86,407

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### Commitments

Sub-head (Code)	Item (Code)	Ambit	Approved commitment	Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.2021	Revised estimated expenditure for 2021–22	Balance
			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b><i>Operating Account</i></b>						
700		<i>General non-recurrent</i>				
	052	Sustainable Development Fund.....	100,000	66,132	916	32,952
	801	Electricity Charges Relief Scheme.....	8,700,000	3,377,932	1,680,000	3,642,068
		Total .....	<u>8,800,000</u>	<u>3,444,064</u>	<u>1,680,916</u>	<u>3,675,020</u>