

Head 22 — AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

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

Estimate 2026–27 **\$2,240.7m**

Establishment ceiling 2026–27 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 2 308 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2026 reducing by 55 posts to 2 253 posts as at 31 March 2027..... **\$994.5m**

In addition, there will be an estimated eight directorate posts as at 31 March 2026 and 31 March 2027.

Commitment balance..... **\$2,060.6m**

Controlling Officer's Report

Programmes

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

Detail

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

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	2026–27 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	491.1	618.4	561.4 (–9.2%)	617.1 (+9.9%)
				(or –0.2% on 2025–26 Original)

Aim

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

Brief Description

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

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

Targets

	Target	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	2026 (Plan)
<i>Agriculture</i>				
accredited vegetable farms (total no.).....	295#	305	300	—
(total hectares).....	2 435#	2 439	2 437	—
<i>Fisheries</i>				
accredited fish farms (total no.).....	185#	175	177	—
agricultural and fisheries production units registered under the new unified brand (total agricultural production units no.).....	385#	—	—	385
(total fisheries production units no.) ...	185#	—	—	185

The Department will establish a new unified brand for local agricultural and fisheries products in mid-2026. The Accredited Farm Scheme (AFS) and the Accredited Fish Farm Scheme (AFFS) will be phased out following the establishment of the new unified brand. Local vegetable farms and fish farms registered under the AFS and AFFS respectively will be transferred to the new unified local brand within 2026. The new unified brand will also cover organic farms and livestock farms.

Indicators

	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	2026 (Estimate)
<i>Agriculture</i>			
composite productivity index (100 in 1985).....	145	137	137
production			
vegetables (tonnes).....	15 300	15 400	15 400
(\$m).....	196.0	194.0	194.0
livestock (tonnes).....	18 500	16 300	16 300
(\$m).....	536.0	501.0	501.0
throughput at Vegetable Marketing Organization market			
(tonnes).....	45 741	37 209	35 300
(\$m).....	372.4	291.2	277.0
new loans			
(no.).....	52	44	44
(\$m).....	6.5	5.8	5.8
new grants			
(no.).....	63	49	50
(\$m).....	18.4	38.1	51.0
<i>Fisheries</i>			
production			
capture (tonnes).....	92 253	90 459	90 500
(\$m).....	2,404.0	2,266.0	2,300.0
culture (tonnes).....	2 089	2 314	2 620
(\$m).....	119.4	129.6	148.0
throughput at Fish Marketing Organization markets			
(tonnes).....	38 211	36 426	36 400
(\$m).....	3,114.0	2,979.6	2,980.0
new loans			
(no.).....	152	132	140
(\$m).....	69.1	54.0	88.0
new grants			
(no.).....	694	203	245
(\$m).....	13.3	39.4	99.0
<i>Government fresh food wholesale markets</i>			
annual throughput (tonnes).....	383 000	348 000	348 000
rental market stall space occupied (%).....	98.0	97.5	98.0

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	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	2026 (Estimate)
area of wholesale markets managed (m ²).....	287 984	287 984	287 984
requests for assistance handled (no.).....	13 419	16 219	14 500
inspections conducted daily (no.).....	215	183	183
recovery of rentable revenue in Cheung Sha Wan Wholesale Food Market and Western Wholesale Food Market (%)	99	99	99

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026–27

5 During 2026–27, the Department will continue to take forward the Blueprint for the Sustainable Development of Agriculture and Fisheries to promote the upgrading and transformation, modernisation and sustainable development of the agriculture and fisheries industries, which includes:

- assisting fishermen in switching to sustainable fisheries operations and fish farmers in developing sustainable aquaculture through technical support services and credit facilities, including assisting Hong Kong fishermen to develop deep-sea mariculture in the new fish culture zones; developing modernised pond fish culture; promoting leisure fisheries; and providing food processing and food and beverage facilities adjacent to the Aberdeen Wholesale Fish Market;
- supporting the modernisation and sustainable development of local agriculture, such as operation of Agricultural Park Phase 1, preparatory work for Agricultural Park Phase 2 First Stage development, rehabilitation of quality farmland, and promotion of urban farming and leisure farming;
- administering the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund and Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund to help farmers/fishermen adopt a sustainable and high value-added operation mode and to subsidise relevant programmes and research so as to enhance the overall competitiveness of the industries;
- facilitating livestock farmers to develop and adopt modernised and environmentally friendly operation in multi-storey buildings; and
- enhancing the promotion and marketing of local agricultural and fisheries products by diversifying sale and marketing channels as well as establishing a new unified brand to facilitate centralised promotional efforts and enhance the brand value, so as to raise public awareness of and demand for local premium products and strengthen their overall competitiveness.

Programme (2): Nature Conservation and Country Parks

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	2026–27 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	1,028.3	1,078.4	1,074.4 (–0.4%)	1,068.4 (–0.6%)
				(or –0.9% on 2025–26 Original)

Aim

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

Brief Description

7 The Department’s work in pursuit of its aim involves:

- the management and protection of country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserve under the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208) and the Marine Parks Ordinance (Cap. 476) for the purpose of nature conservation, recreation, sustainable eco-tourism and education;
- the conservation of biodiversity through the formulation and implementation of the Hong Kong Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan;
- the identification of sites of high scientific value for listing as Sites of Special Scientific Interest;
- the provision of nature conservation advice on development proposals, planning studies and environmental impact assessments;
- the monitoring and auditing of ecological mitigation measures for development projects approved under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Cap. 499);
- the conservation and management of wild animals;

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- the licensing control of international trade in endangered species and curbing of illegal trade in endangered species in Hong Kong;
 - the conservation and management of the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site and Sha Lo Tung;
 - the planning and implementation of the Wetland Conservation Parks System;
 - the management of the Hong Kong Wetland Park and Long Valley Nature Park;
 - the management of the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark, for the conservation and promotion of its geological and cultural heritages; and
 - the promotion of public awareness of nature conservation and enforcement of nature conservation legislation.
- 8 The key performance measures in respect of nature conservation and country parks are:

Targets

	Target	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	2026 (Plan)
country parks and special areas managed (hectares).....	44 842	44 842	44 842	44 842
marine parks and marine reserve managed (hectares).....	8 517	8 517	8 517	8 517
no. of Sites of Special Scientific Interest listed.....	67	67	67	67
issue of certificates in respect of endangered species (working days).....	2	2	2	2

Indicators

	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	2026 (Estimate)
seedlings produced.....	239 800	229 000	230 000
seedlings planted.....	232 000	221 300	220 000
ecological impact assessment applications and studies handled.....	163	159	160
participants in educational activities.....	250 000	268 000	270 000
visitors to country parks (million).....	11	11	11
hill fires attended to.....	22	14	19
endangered species licences/certificates.....	13 609	12 474	12 500
endangered species inspections.....	22 901	22 571	22 600
endangered species prosecutions.....	54	56	55

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026–27

- 9 During 2026–27, the Department will focus on:
- implementing the updated Hong Kong Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan;
 - taking forward the phased development of the Sam Po Shue Wetland Conservation Park and feasibility study on the development of the Coastal Protection Park at Tsim Bei Tsui/Lau Fau Shan/Pak Nai;
 - implementing the “Four Peaks” tourism project and measures to enhance the educational, recreational and sustainable eco-tourism functions of country parks;
 - strengthening the control of trade in endangered species and combatting their illegal trade and smuggling;
 - strengthening co-operation with the Mainland on conservation of cross-boundary habitats and species;
 - reviewing effectiveness of measures for enhanced management and protection of wild animals, including the enforcement, education and publicity of the feeding ban on wild animals and feral pigeons, and preparation for the legislative amendments to enhance protection of marine animals; and
 - promoting awareness of nature conservation and safe and compatible use of country parks and marine parks.

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

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	2026–27 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	563.5	582.9	574.6 (–1.4%)	555.2 (–3.4%)
				(or –4.8% on 2025–26 Original)

Aim

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

Brief Description

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

- the provision of quarantine services;
- the inspection of animals and plants imported into Hong Kong;
- the prevention and control of rabies and other zoonotic diseases;
- the testing of animal diseases, including zoonotic diseases, and chemical residues in food animals;
- the inspection of farms where food animals are kept;
- the inspection of premises and establishments where animals are kept for exhibition or trading purposes;
- the inspection of marine fish culture farms;
- the control of destructive fishing practices;
- the regulation of fishing activities with the use or aid of vessels; and
- the instigation of prosecution against offenders under relevant legislation.

12 The technical services provided by the Department include:

- managing agricultural weirs;
- licensing livestock farms;
- licensing marine fish culture farms;
- registering local fishing vessels;
- facilitating export trade in plants, animals and their products;
- safeguarding public health through the control of pesticides and drug use in livestock farms;
- assessing ex-gratia payments to primary producers arising from development projects affecting agriculture and fisheries; and
- regulating credit unions and co-operative societies.

13 The key performance measures in respect of animal, plant and fisheries regulation and technical services are:

Targets

	Target	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	2026 (Plan)
<i>Animal and plant regulation</i>				
<i>prevention</i>				
reported cases of rabies	0	0	0	0
dogs vaccinated in strategic Rabies Control Areas (%)φ	80	80	80	80

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	Target	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	2026 (Plan)
<i>enforcement</i>				
issue of animal health certificates (working days)	2	2	2	2
issue of licences/permits (working days).....	3	3	3	3
issue of sanitary certificates for products of animal origin (working days)	3	3	3	3
<i>Technical services</i>				
management of agricultural weirs				
weirs to be cleansed	205	205	205	205
plant health certification				
issue of phytosanitary certificates (working days)	2	2	2	2
control of pesticides				
issue of pesticide permits (working days).....	2	2	2	2
<i>Renewal of marine fish culture licence</i>				
in person in 50 minutes (%).....	100	100	100	100

φ The World Health Organization recommends a minimum of 70 per cent.

Indicators

	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	2026 (Estimate)
<i>Animal and plant regulation</i>			
<i>prevention</i>			
stray animals caught.....	1 788	2 031	1 850
animals vaccinated and quarantined	53 031	50 567	50 200
<i>enforcement</i>			
licences/permits.....	8 843	8 299	8 270
animal and plant health certificates.....	16 164	16 226	16 300
<i>Technical services</i>			
<i>ex-gratia payment assessment</i>			
area assessed for crop ex-gratia payment (hectares)Δ.....	88	149	203
area assessed for aquaculture fisheries ex-gratia payment (m ²)Δ.....	0	33 754	1 044 480‡
claims assessed for capture fisheries ex-gratia paymentΔ.....	962	0	3
<i>licensing of livestock farms</i>			
licences issued.....	25	25	21
<i>control of pesticides</i>			
pesticides registered	4	5	5
licences/permits issued.....	2 197	2 157	2 160
<i>regulation of credit unions and co-operative societies</i>			
accounts examined or audited.....	198	196	195

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

‡ The estimated pond fish culturing area will be assessed in 2026 for projects in the Northern Metropolis, including San Tin Technopole and Sam Po Shue Wetland Conservation Park.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026–27

14 During 2026–27, the Department will focus on:

- strengthening measures for stray animal management;
- strengthening promotion of animal adoption and responsible pet ownership, as well as preparing for legislative proposals and other measures to promote duty of care on persons responsible for animals, to enhance animal welfare and further protect animals from unnecessary suffering; and
- enhancing surveillance on antimicrobial resistance and diseases in food animals in local farms.

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ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	2024–25 (Actual) (\$m)	2025–26 (Original) (\$m)	2025–26 (Revised) (\$m)	2026–27 (Estimate) (\$m)
(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Fresh Food Wholesale Markets	491.1	618.4	561.4	617.1
(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks	1,028.3	1,078.4	1,074.4	1,068.4
(3) Animal, Plant and Fisheries Regulation and Technical Services	563.5	582.9	574.6	555.2
	2,082.9	2,279.7	2,210.4 (-3.0%)	2,240.7 (+1.4%)
				(or -1.7% on 2025–26 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

Provision for 2026–27 is \$55.7 million (9.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund, Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund and capital expenditure. There will be a net decrease of eight posts in 2026–27.

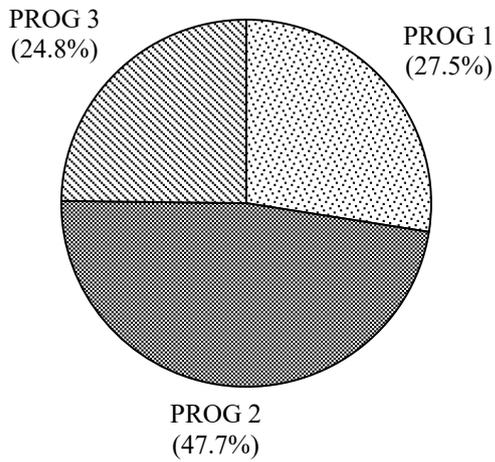
Programme (2)

Provision for 2026–27 is \$6.0 million (0.6%) lower than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is mainly due to the decreased cash flow requirement for capital expenditure, partly offset by the increased provision for operating expenses. There will be a net decrease of 36 posts in 2026–27.

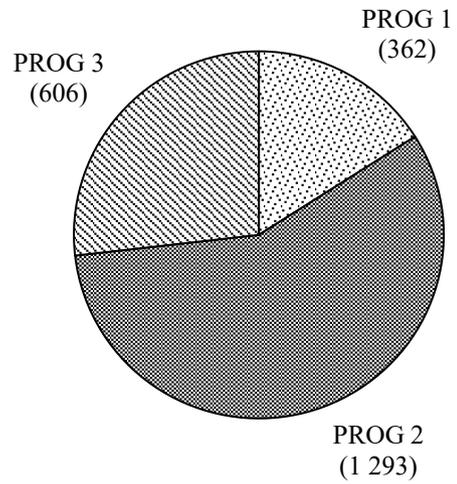
Programme (3)

Provision for 2026–27 is \$19.4 million (3.4%) lower than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is mainly due to the decreased cash flow requirement for capital expenditure. There will be a net decrease of 11 posts in 2026–27.

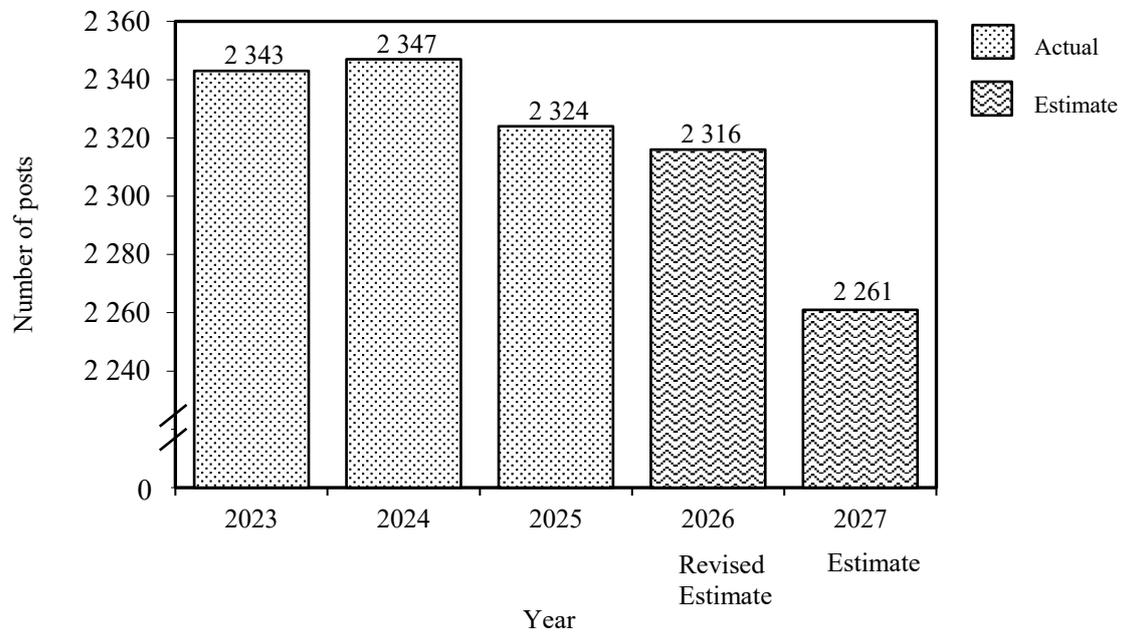
Allocation of provision to programmes (2026-27)



Staff by programme (as at 31 March 2027)



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



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Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2024–25	Approved estimate 2025–26	Revised estimate 2025–26	Estimate 2026–27	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Operating Account					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses	1,906,489	1,955,269	1,940,961	1,951,256
	Total, Recurrent.....	<u>1,906,489</u>	<u>1,955,269</u>	<u>1,940,961</u>	<u>1,951,256</u>
Non-Recurrent					
700	General non-recurrent	71,039	180,690	122,370	169,138
	Total, Non-Recurrent.....	<u>71,039</u>	<u>180,690</u>	<u>122,370</u>	<u>169,138</u>
	Total, Operating Account	<u>1,977,528</u>	<u>2,135,959</u>	<u>2,063,331</u>	<u>2,120,394</u>
Capital Account					
Plant, Equipment and Works					
603	Plant, vehicles and equipment.....	1,600	58,478	63,866	29,640
609	Minor irrigation works in the New Territories (block vote).....	3,820	5,448	3,514	5,563
610	Minor recreational facilities and roadworks in country parks (block vote).....	23,338	30,300	27,680	36,106
661	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote).....	76,598	49,539	51,978	48,988
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works.....	<u>105,356</u>	<u>143,765</u>	<u>147,038</u>	<u>120,297</u>
	Total, Capital Account.....	<u>105,356</u>	<u>143,765</u>	<u>147,038</u>	<u>120,297</u>
	Total Expenditure	<u><u>2,082,884</u></u>	<u><u>2,279,724</u></u>	<u><u>2,210,369</u></u>	<u><u>2,240,691</u></u>

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2026–27 for the salaries and expenses of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department is \$2,240,691,000. This represents an increase of \$30,322,000 over the revised estimate for 2025–26 and \$157,807,000 over the actual expenditure in 2024–25.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$1,951,256,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2026 will be 2 316 posts. It is expected that there will be a net decrease of 55 posts in 2026–27. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2026–27, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$994,509,000.

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

	2024–25 (Actual) (\$'000)	2025–26 (Original) (\$'000)	2025–26 (Revised) (\$'000)	2026–27 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries	980,276	1,006,283	1,004,125	1,030,726
- Allowances	23,219	23,894	21,257	21,260
- Job-related allowances.....	9,929	13,216	10,502	10,520
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution	4,584	4,073	5,453	5,614
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution	99,695	113,246	108,839	122,905
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses	778,001	783,182	779,411	749,122
Other Charges				
- Minor conservation projects and studies....	6,101	6,536	6,535	6,270
Subventions				
- Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Hong Kong).....	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
- Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia and the Pacific	78	80	80	80
- Rehabilitation of wild animals	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
- Conservation and management of Ramsar site	759	759	759	759
- Animal welfare organisations.....	1,347	1,500	1,500	1,500
	1,906,489	1,955,269	1,940,961	1,951,256

Capital Account

Plant, Equipment and Works

5 Provision of \$5,563,000 under *Subhead 609 Minor irrigation works in the New Territories (block vote)* is for a programme to provide irrigation works to assist agricultural development in the New Territories up to a limit of \$10 million for each project. The provision for 2026–27 represents an increase of \$2,049,000 (58.3%) over the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for new irrigation works and rehabilitation projects to be carried out in 2026–27.

6 Provision of \$36,106,000 under *Subhead 610 Minor recreational facilities and roadworks in country parks (block vote)* is for minor works such as construction of fire lookouts, shelters, water filling stations and roads and for building materials for recreational facilities such as barbecue pits, information boards, shelters and outdoor furniture, up to a limit of \$10 million for each project. The provision for 2026–27 represents an increase of \$8,426,000 (30.4%) over the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for new facilities and roadworks projects to be carried out in 2026–27.

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Commitments

Sub-head (Code)	Item (Code)	Ambit	Approved commitment	Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.2025	Revised estimated expenditure for 2025–26	Balance
			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<i>Operating Account</i>						
700		<i>General non-recurrent</i>				
	536	Setting up a marine sanctuary in the Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau area.....	21,000	19,938	434	628
	540	Artificial reefs project	80,100	75,391	—	4,709
	801	Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund	1,000,000	159,981	38,700	801,319
	803	Financial commitment for culling of pigs due to African Swine Fever	333,000	156,292	33,000	143,708
	808	Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund	1,000,000	187,494	47,020	765,486
	852	One-off assistance package to trawler vessel owners, local deckhands and fish collector owners affected by the trawl ban and other related measures	1,726,800	1,431,529	3,216	292,055
			4,160,900	2,030,625	122,370	2,007,905
<i>Capital Account</i>						
603		<i>Plant, vehicles and equipment</i>				
	806	Establishment of deep sea cages at new fish culture zones	74,000	1,600	19,700	52,700
			74,000	1,600	19,700	52,700
		Total	4,234,900	2,032,225	142,070	2,060,605