

Head 159 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: DEVELOPMENT BUREAU (WORKS BRANCH)

Controlling officer: the Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) will account for expenditure under this Head.

Estimate 2026–27 **\$1,546.0m**

Establishment ceiling 2026–27 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 428 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2026 reducing by seven posts to 421 posts as at 31 March 2027..... **\$360.9m**

In addition, there will be an estimated 30 directorate posts as at 31 March 2026 and 31 March 2027.

Commitment balance **\$2,572.6m**

Controlling Officer's Report

Programmes

Programme (1) Water Supply	This programme contributes to Policy Area 24: Water Supply, Drainage and Slope Safety (Secretary for Development).
Programme (2) Heritage Conservation Programme (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Programme (4) Energizing Kowloon East Programme (5) Project Strategy and Governance	These programmes contribute to Policy Area 22: Buildings, Lands, Planning, Heritage Conservation, Greening and Landscape (Secretary for Development).
Programme (6) Intra-Governmental Services	This programme contributes to Policy Area 22: Buildings, Lands, Planning, Heritage Conservation, Greening and Landscape (Secretary for Development) and Policy Area 27: Intra-Governmental Services (Secretary for Development).

Detail

Programme (1): Water Supply

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	2026–27 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	21.4	18.0	18.0 (—)	17.8 (–1.1%)
				(or –1.1% on 2025–26 Original)

Aim

2 The aim is to ensure the provision of a reliable, adequate and quality supply of water and to maintain an efficient water supply service.

Brief Description

3 The Works Branch's main responsibility under this programme is to formulate water supply policies and co-ordinate their implementation. In 2025, the Branch:

- oversaw the provision of round-the-clock water supply to the territory throughout the year;
- oversaw the performance of the Water Supplies Department (WSD) on drinking water safety including the control of quality of water supplied to customers in accordance with the Hong Kong Drinking Water Standards;
- monitored the implementation of total water management strategy;
- oversaw the implementation of major water supply projects, including the upgrading of existing and installation of new strainers at strategic Government water mains, risk-based improvement programme of water mains as well as upgrading and extension of the Water Intelligent Network, Ngau Tam Mei Water Treatment Works Extension-Main Works-Package One and improvement of water supply to Northern New Territories;

Head 159 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: DEVELOPMENT BUREAU (WORKS BRANCH)

- oversaw the operation of the Dongjiang water supply and worked with WSD to host a diverse series of commemorative events for the 60th anniversary of Dongjiang water supply to Hong Kong with major highlights including the Commemoration Ceremony co-organised by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the Guangdong Province, the Launching Ceremony of Dancing Water Drops Exhibition, the International Water Pioneers Summit and the Study Tour on National Water Infrastructure, Culture and Technology;
- continued the preparation of legislative amendments to the Waterworks Ordinance (Cap. 102) (WVO) and the Waterworks Regulations (Cap. 102A) (WWR) relating to the regulation of plumbing works, control of plumbing materials, safeguarding drinking water safety at consumers' taps, mandatory water efficiency labelling scheme and supply of recycled water, as well as the review of other parts of WVO and WWR;
- oversaw the enforcement of WVO and WWR relating to strengthening the power of the Water Authority against the overcharging for water and stepping up of prosecution and inspections against overcharging for water at sub-divided units;
- oversaw the implementation of initiatives proposed by the Digital Water Office of WSD;
- continued to take forward the Action Plan for Enhancing Drinking Water Safety in Hong Kong together with WSD, including overseeing the implementation of the Water Safety Plan Subsidy Scheme (WSPSS); and
- continued to support the Drinking Water Safety Advisory Committee which provides advice to the Development Bureau on various drinking water safety issues.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026–27

4 During 2026–27, the Branch will:

- continue to oversee a reliable and safe supply of potable water;
- oversee the performance of WSD on drinking water safety;
- steer the update and review on the total water management strategy;
- work with WSD in taking forward a series of events via public education and school-based education with a view to continuously promoting the history of supply of Dongjiang water to Hong Kong;
- oversee the implementation of initiatives under the Action Plan for Enhancing Drinking Water Safety in Hong Kong, including WSPSS; and
- continue to oversee the implementation of major water supply projects.

Programme (2): Heritage Conservation

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	2026–27 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	310.3	362.5	350.0 (–3.4%)	347.9 (–0.6%)
				(or –4.0% on 2025–26 Original)

Aim

5 The aim is to protect, conserve and revitalise as appropriate historical and heritage buildings and sites through relevant and sustainable approaches for the benefit and enjoyment of the present and future generations.

Brief Description

6 The Works Branch's main responsibility under this programme is to support the Secretary for Development in discharging her statutory role as the Antiquities Authority and to formulate and implement heritage conservation measures with public participation. In 2025, the Branch:

- continued to provide funding support under the Built Heritage Conservation Fund for implementing the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme (Revitalisation Scheme), the Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme on Built Heritage, and the funding schemes for thematic research and public engagement projects, and to provide secretariat support to the Advisory Committee on Built Heritage Conservation which offers advice to the Government on the operation of the Fund;
- continued to take forward the projects under Batches I to VII of the Revitalisation Scheme, which involves revitalisation of government-owned historic buildings by non-profit-making organisations (NPOs);
- launched the second round of Batch II of the Funding Scheme for Public Engagement Projects;

Head 159 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: DEVELOPMENT BUREAU (WORKS BRANCH)

- launched Batch II of the Funding Scheme for Thematic Research;
 - continued to implement the Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme on Built Heritage to provide financial assistance on the maintenance of privately-owned graded historic buildings as well as government-owned declared monuments and graded historic buildings leased to NPOs;
 - continued to oversee the implementation of the Heritage Impact Assessment mechanism for capital works projects to ensure that their impact on heritage sites would be avoided or minimised and mitigation measures would be devised if impact was unavoidable;
 - offered assistance and explored economic incentives as appropriate to facilitate conservation of privately-owned graded historic buildings;
 - continued to take forward the remaining parts of the Central Police Station Compound revitalisation project in partnership with the Hong Kong Jockey Club;
 - continued to manage the operation and leasing of Cattle Depot Artist Village;
 - together with the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau, continued to work closely with the selected NPO to promote the former Police Married Quarters on Hollywood Road as a creative industries landmark;
 - continued with the declaration procedures of two additional historic buildings as monuments under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53) (A&MO);
 - completed the grading exercise for 1 444 historic buildings and continued processing public suggestions of other buildings that could be considered for grading by seeking the Antiquities Advisory Board’s confirmation of the proposed grading taking account of the advice of the Historic Buildings Assessment Panel as well as the views received from the private owners concerned and the public;
 - continued with the preliminary research on buildings built between 1950 and 1959 with a view to selecting buildings suitable for grading assessment under the prevailing mechanism;
 - continued to implement the Framework Agreement on the Exchange and Collaboration on Cultural Heritage with the National Cultural Heritage Administration and the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Exchange and Collaboration on Archaeological and Built Heritage Amongst the Greater Bay Area (GBA) signed with the Department of Culture and Tourism of Guangdong Province and the Cultural Affairs Bureau of Macao Special Administrative Region Government in November 2022, the MoU on the Exchange and Collaboration on Archaeology and Built Heritage signed with Shanghai Municipal Administration of Culture and Tourism (Shanghai Municipal Administration of Cultural Heritage); and the Framework Agreement to Deepen Exchanges and Cooperation in the Field of Stratigraphy, Palaeontology and Prehistoric Sites with the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in 2024, with a view to jointly studying palaeontology and prehistoric sites, promoting the conservation of and heritage education and publicity on palaeontology, archaeological sites/findings;
 - organised the “Heritage Fiesta cum Roving Exhibition”, “Springtime Heritage Adventure” campaign, a display on dinosaur and other fossils at Dinosaur Parlour, and other exhibitions on the themes of “Virtual Reality: The ‘Ten Courts of Hell’ of Tiger Balm Garden”, “Tang Vogue Beyond the Horizons: A Golden Era of Multicultural Integration and Openness”, and “Plaster Moulding in Three Carvings, Two Mouldings and One Painting: Decoration in Lingnan Traditional Architecture”, as well as other promotional activities, such as launching the second GBA heritage trail, GBA Dongjiang Column Heritage Trail, and continued to manage the HK Heritage LIVE Instagram account to promote regional collaboration and enhance the public interest in and knowledge of heritage conservation; and
 - continued to prepare the dinosaur fossils extracted from Port Island and conduct public education activities to promote the understanding of paleontology and dinosaur fossils.
- 7 The key performance measures in respect of heritage conservation are:

Indicators

	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	2026 (Estimate)
cumulative total no. of projects included under the Revitalisation Scheme.....	24	24	24
cumulative total no. of buildings/structures/sites declared as monuments.....	136	136	140
restoration, repair and maintenance projects for historic buildings/structures/sites completed.....	35	35	35
attendance at public education, publicity and promotional activities/programmes.....	884 435	1 143 404	1 143 520

Head 159 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: DEVELOPMENT BUREAU (WORKS BRANCH)

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026–27

8 During 2026–27, the Branch will:

- continue to oversee the operation of the Built Heritage Conservation Fund;
- continue to take forward the projects under Batches I to VII of the Revitalisation Scheme;
- continue to implement the Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme on Built Heritage to provide financial assistance on the maintenance of privately-owned graded historic buildings as well as government-owned declared monuments and graded historic buildings leased to NPOs;
- continue to implement the second round of Batch II of the Funding Scheme for Public Engagement Projects;
- continue to implement Batch II of the Funding Scheme for Thematic Research;
- continue to oversee the implementation of the Heritage Impact Assessment mechanism to protect sites and buildings of historical or archaeological significance;
- continue to liaise with private owners of graded historic buildings to offer assistance and explore economic incentives as appropriate to facilitate their preservation;
- continue to take forward the remaining parts of the Central Police Station Compound revitalisation project in partnership with the Hong Kong Jockey Club;
- continue to manage the operation and leasing of Cattle Depot Artist Village;
- together with the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau, continue to work closely with the selected NPO to promote the revitalised former Police Married Quarters on Hollywood Road as a creative industries landmark;
- continue to identify suitable historic buildings or archaeological sites for consideration to be declared as monuments under A&MO;
- continue to oversee the grading exercise for buildings suggested for grading by the public;
- continue with the preliminary research on buildings built between 1950 and 1959 with a view to selecting buildings suitable for grading assessment under the prevailing mechanism;
- continue to organise promotional activities to enhance public interest in and knowledge of heritage conservation;
- continue to deepen collaboration and exchange between Hong Kong and the Mainland, in particular within GBA, on archaeology, conservation and revitalisation of historic buildings, as well as relevant promotion, public education and community engagement efforts; and
- commence scientific research on the dinosaur fossils excavated in Hong Kong upon completion of the preparation of such fossils, and continue to organise public education activities to deepen understanding of dinosaur fossils and paleontology of Hong Kong.

Programme (3): Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	2026–27 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	108.7	122.8	113.1 (–7.9%)	113.5 (+0.4%)
				(or –7.6% on 2025–26 Original)

Aim

9 The aim is to oversee and co-ordinate government efforts on landscape and tree management through an integrated approach.

Brief Description

10 Landscape and trees are integral parts of our outdoor environment. They contribute to our quality of life by moderating temperature, improving air quality and enhancing the visual appeal and biodiversity of our densely built-up city. The Greening, Landscape and Tree Management (GLTM) Section was established under the Works Branch in March 2010 to take up the overall policy responsibility for formulating and co-ordinating landscape and tree management strategies and initiatives in Hong Kong.

Head 159 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: DEVELOPMENT BUREAU (WORKS BRANCH)

11 The GLTM Section is underpinned by the Greening and Landscape Office (GLO) and the Tree Management Office (TMO). The two offices work in close co-operation to promote a holistic approach, advocating adequate space allocation for new planting, proper selection of planting species, quality landscape design and planting practices in the upstream and proper vegetation maintenance in the downstream, with protection of public safety as a priority consideration. GLO is responsible for co-ordination of the Government's greening and landscape planning and design efforts, while TMO for advocating the adoption of a professional approach to tree management among tree management departments and in the community at large. In 2025, the Branch:

- continued to promote the principles of “Right Plant, Right Place” and vegetation diversity with a view to developing a healthier and more resilient urban forest and minimising tree risks;
- continued to implement a holistic urban forestry management regime and develop proper urban arboricultural practices;
- implemented the enhancement measures for roadside tree planting and maintenance;
- implemented various recommendations from The Ombudsman on the handling of tree-related complaints in government land;
- completed the study on the suitability and sustainability of existing roadside trees for the development of a management tool for planning of improvement measures and started pilot runs in selected areas;
- continued to administer the Urban Forestry Support Fund supporting the Study Sponsorship Scheme, Trainee Programme, and public education and promotion activities under the “People • Trees • Harmony” campaign; and
- continued to manage the Registration Scheme for Tree Management Personnel.

12 The key performance measures in respect of greening, landscape and tree management are:

Indicators

	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	2026 (Estimate)
planting by the Government#			
trees (thousands).....	260.7	278.0	240.0
shrubs (thousands).....	3 220.9	5 055.7	4 350.0
herbaceous plants (thousands).....	1 542.4	2 215.9	1 460.0
total (thousands).....	5 024.0	7 549.5	6 050.0
expenditure on greening works by the Government (\$m).....	216.2	328.9	296.0
no. of participants in training organised by the GLTM Section	6 286	7 894	6 300
no. of participants in public education and community involvement activities organised by the GLTM Section ...	44 159	50 269	45 000

The above planting data includes the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA)'s planting data. As a financially autonomous public body, HA funds its public housing programmes with its own resources.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026–27

13 During 2026–27, the Branch will:

- continue to oversee the operation of the Urban Forestry Support Fund;
- continue to manage the Registration Scheme for Tree Management Personnel;
- continue to organise public education and promotion activities under the “People • Trees • Harmony” campaign; and
- continue to implement pilot runs of the management tools developed for assessing the suitability and sustainability of existing roadside trees.

Head 159 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: DEVELOPMENT BUREAU (WORKS BRANCH)

Programme (4): Energizing Kowloon East

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	2026–27 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	41.9	41.9	37.8 (–9.8%)	35.1 (–7.1%)
				(or –16.2% on 2025–26 Original)

Aim

14 The aim is to advocate the overall planning and design directions, facilitate public and private developments, implement necessary public works projects, and take such initiatives that are conducive to expediting and strengthening the transformation of Kowloon East to support Hong Kong’s economic development.

Brief Description

15 The 2011–12 Policy Address announced the transformation of Kowloon East (comprising the Kai Tak Development and the Kwun Tong and Kowloon Bay Business Areas) into an attractive core business district (CBD) in order to meet the demand for quality office space outside the traditional CBD. Specifically, this involves land use reviews, urban design, co-ordinating the Government’s efforts and resources in improving connectivity and the associated infrastructure as well as the environment, facilitating proposals from the public and private sectors that help the transformation of Kowloon East, enhancing vibrancy of the district under a place-making approach, building a strong and positive brand for Kowloon East.

16 In June 2012, the multi-disciplinary Energizing Kowloon East Office was inaugurated to steer and monitor the transformation of Kowloon East into the second CBD of Hong Kong. The Energizing Kowloon East Initiative was extended to the San Po Kong Business Area in October 2017.

17 In 2025, the Branch:

- continued to implement the Conceptual Master Plan (CMP) and liaise with various stakeholders and the wider community to address their needs;
- continued to enhance walkability and connectivity in Kowloon East by taking forward the remaining pedestrian and traffic environment improvement proposals recommended under the feasibility studies on Kowloon Bay, Kwun Tong and San Po Kong Business Areas;
- completed a comprehensive pedestrian environment improvement review in Kowloon East, including examination of further external pedestrian linkages to the nearby residential areas;
- continued to take forward the recommendations of the future commercial use of the Lai Yip Street site;
- continued to take forward the recommendations of the two planning and engineering studies on Kwun Tong and Kowloon Bay Action Areas;
- continued to take forward the overall planning of the Choi Hung Road Playground and Sports Centre site to enhance the existing facilities and incorporate a public vehicle park and other social welfare and community uses;
- oversaw the operation of the facilities underneath Kwun Tong Bypass for arts, culture and creative uses;
- explored opportunities to support the arts, culture and creative industries, as well as water sports and recreation and to promote vibrancy of the waterfront with a view to turning Kowloon East into a distinctive CBD;
- incorporated the industrial culture elements of Kowloon East into urban design with a view to creating distinctive public spaces including open space and streetscape enhancement projects;
- continued to co-ordinate the Government’s efforts and resources for improvement of the environment, including the completion of transformation of the King Yip Street nullah into Tsui Ping River, provision of district open space cum underground public vehicle park at Sze Mei Street as well as reprovisioning of the refuse collection point at Wang Chin Street;
- continued to facilitate different sectors in using Kowloon East as a test bed to examine the feasibility of innovative ideas in real-life situations;
- maintained active dialogues with various stakeholders and the wider community to enhance vibrancy through facilitation of place-making events and activities;
- continued to provide one-stop advisory and co-ordination services for public and private developments to facilitate the transformation in Kowloon East; and
- engaged various stakeholders and the wider community to promote Kowloon East as the second CBD of Hong Kong and to enhance information exchange and interactions amongst enterprises in Kowloon East through setting up a business facilitating platform.

Head 159 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: DEVELOPMENT BUREAU (WORKS BRANCH)

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026–27

18 During 2026–27, the Branch will continue to:

- advocate and refine CMP taking into account the latest circumstances and development proposals to forge ahead the policy initiatives of Energizing Kowloon East in strengthening the transformation of the district into the second CBD of Hong Kong;
- take forward the recommendations of the planning and engineering studies on the Kwun Tong and Kowloon Bay Action Areas and the future commercial use of the Lai Yip Street site;
- enhance walkability and pedestrian connectivity in Kowloon East and the nearby residential areas through taking forward the improvement measures recommended under the pedestrian environment improvement review and feasibility studies in Kowloon East;
- co-ordinate the Government’s efforts and resources for improvement of the environment, including provision of district open space cum underground public vehicle park at Sze Mei Street, reprovisioning of refuse collection point at Wang Chin Street and redevelopment of the Choi Hung Road Playground and Sports Centre to enhance the existing facilities and incorporate a public vehicle park and other social welfare and community uses;
- facilitate different sectors in using Kowloon East as a test bed to examine the feasibility of innovative ideas in real-life situations;
- provide one-stop advisory and co-ordination services for public and private developments to facilitate the transformation of Kowloon East;
- strengthen the branding for Kowloon East as a CBD with local characteristics and history through adopting a place-making and facilitating approach;
- promote and explore opportunities to incorporate the industrial culture elements of Kowloon East into urban design and public arts with a view to creating distinctive public spaces including open space and streetscape enhancement projects;
- promote diverse water recreational uses to enhance vibrancy of the waterfront by recommending water body co-use proposals for the Kwun Tong Typhoon Shelter and Kai Tak Approach Channel;
- explore opportunities to support the arts, culture and creative industries in Kowloon East, and to oversee the operation of the facilities underneath Kwun Tong Bypass for arts, culture and creative uses;
- maintain active dialogues with various stakeholders and the wider community to enhance vibrancy through facilitation of place-making events and activities; and
- formulate promotion materials and maintain active liaison with Invest Hong Kong and Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises to foster the branding and wider recognition of Kowloon East as the second CBD of Hong Kong, and facilitate information exchange and interactions amongst enterprises in Kowloon East.

Programme (5): Project Strategy and Governance

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	2026–27 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	140.3	95.1	98.0 (+3.0%)	163.6 (+66.9%)
				(or +72.0% on 2025–26 Original)

Aim

19 The aim is to adopt co-ordinated approaches, create synergies and steer concerted efforts in taking forward the initiatives for strengthening cost management and uplifting the performance of capital works projects along the following directions – (a) strengthening the existing gateway process for cost management; (b) enhancing project delivery capability; (c) leading strategic developments to enhance cost-effectiveness; and (d) enhancing collaboration with international counterparts and local industry stakeholders.

Head 159 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: DEVELOPMENT BUREAU (WORKS BRANCH)

Brief Description

20 The Government has been investing in capital works projects to enhance people's living environment and to sustain Hong Kong's long-term competitiveness. To uplift the delivery capability and enhance overall cost-effectiveness in capital works projects, the Project Strategy and Governance Office (PSGO) was established in April 2019 for implementing strategies and reinforcing capabilities in cost surveillance and project governance. PSGO adopts a holistic approach to strengthen cost management and improve the performance of capital works projects.

21 In 2025, the Branch:

- promoted the wider adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) technology and construction robots in public works projects, including formulating relevant policies for requiring new public works projects to adopt highly-effective construction robots;
- took forward the development of the Advanced Construction Industry Building in Tsing Yi to provide space to set up advanced manufacturing facilities;
- organised the Project Cost Management Forum to continuously strengthen and deepen cost management culture in the construction industry and share the latest cost management measures, with a view to enhancing the industry's cost management performance and ensuring proper use of public funds;
- continued to monitor the delivery of capital works projects to ensure timely completion and within budget;
- continued to achieve better cost management and control throughout the delivery of capital works projects by formulating and implementing a series of strategic cost reduction measures in project delivery, mode of procurement, utilisation of innovative technologies, streamlining approval process, and review of standards, as well as promoting and cultivating cost-consciousness and cost management in the construction industry;
- continued to uplift project performance and delivery capability of capital works projects through delivery of Major Projects Leadership Programme (MPLP) and Project Delivery Capability Programme (PDCP) under the Centre of Excellence for Major Project Leaders (CoE) with an aim to enhancing its role as an international expert knowledge hub on project delivery;
- continued to provide cross-bureau and high level technical support in respect of project delivery, including project cost estimation, budget control and procurement issues of capital works projects;
- continued to lead and drive the digitalisation of public works and the construction industry to enhance works process and uplift efficiency and productivity;
- continued to steer and support the wider use of Modular Integrated Construction (MiC), Multi-trade Integrated Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (MiMEP) and other high productivity construction methods, including formulating and promulgating a series of measures to strengthen the supply chain of MiC modules;
- continued to steer and support applied research and development (R&D) in capital works projects;
- continued to collaborate with the Building Technology Research Institute (BTRi) in driving applied R&D, reviewing and uplifting standards as well as providing accreditation, certification and testing;
- continued to foster closer collaboration with local stakeholders and international counterparts to enhance project governance capability;
- continued to take lead in promoting sustainable built environment in Hong Kong; and
- continued to oversee and monitor the adoption of prefabricated rebar products in the construction industry.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026–27

22 During 2026–27, the Branch will:

- conduct central procurement on a trial basis in the first half of 2026, piloting in the procurement of commonly used materials in order to save costs;
- implement the Project Cost Management Platform in phases from 2026 to fully digitalise the project cost management process;
- host the second International Infrastructure and Projects Leaders Summit in 2026 to showcase Hong Kong's outstanding achievements and innovative technologies in the infrastructure field;
- continue to monitor the delivery of capital works projects to ensure timely completion within budget;
- continue to achieve better cost management and control throughout the delivery of capital works projects by formulating and implementing a series of strategic cost reduction measures in project delivery, mode of procurement, utilisation of innovative technologies, streamlining approval process, and review of standards, as well as promoting and cultivating cost-consciousness and cost management in the construction industry;

Head 159 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: DEVELOPMENT BUREAU (WORKS BRANCH)

- continue to uplift project performance and delivery capability of capital works projects through delivery of MPLP and PDCP under CoE with an aim to enhancing its role as an international expert knowledge hub on project delivery;
- continue to provide cross-bureau and high level technical support in respect of project delivery, including project cost estimation, budget control and procurement issues of capital works projects;
- continue to lead and drive the digitalisation of public works and the construction industry to enhance work processes and uplift efficiency and productivity;
- continue to drive the wider adoption of AI technology and construction robots in public works projects;
- continue to steer and support the wider use of MiC, MiMEP and other high productivity construction methods, including formulating and promulgating a series of measures to strengthen the supply chain of MiMEP modules;
- continue to steer and support applied R&D in capital works projects;
- continue to collaborate with BTRi in reviewing the construction standards and requirements of government projects in order to enhance cost-effectiveness, and driving applied R&D as well as providing accreditation, certification and testing;
- continue to foster closer collaboration with local stakeholders and international counterparts to enhance project governance capability;
- continue to take lead in promoting sustainable built environment in Hong Kong;
- continue to oversee and monitor the adoption of prefabricated rebar products in the construction industry; and
- continue to take forward the development of the Advanced Construction Industry Building in Tsing Yi to provide space to set up advanced manufacturing facilities.

Programme (6): Intra-Governmental Services

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	2026–27 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	566.7	809.5	718.8 (–11.2%)	868.1 (+20.8%)
				(or +7.2% on 2025–26 Original)

Aim

23 The aim is to plan, manage and implement public sector infrastructure development and works programmes in a safe, timely and cost-effective manner whilst maintaining high quality standards, and to promote the safety of lifts and escalators.

Brief Description

24 The Branch's main responsibilities under this programme are to formulate works policies; to monitor implementation of public sector infrastructure development and works programmes; to roll out industry reform initiatives; to provide legal services for these matters; and to formulate policies on safety of lifts and escalators. In 2025, the Branch:

- oversaw the implementation of infrastructure projects of Kai Tak Development;
- oversaw the construction of the elevated landscaped pedestrian deck near the Kwun Tong MTR Station and steered the design and implementation of the 13-kilometre long GreenWay network in the Kai Tak Development for shared use by pedestrians and cyclists;
- oversaw the implementation of the improvement works at Mui Wo and Tai O;
- oversaw the implementation of improvement and expansion of mountain bike trail networks in South Lantau and the cycle track network in the New Territories;
- steered the study related to South Lantau Eco-recreation Corridor;
- steered the study related to the road network enhancement to South Lantau;
- steered the studies related to the Kau Yi Chau Artificial Islands and the associated network of strategic transport infrastructure;
- steered the study for Road P1 (Tai Ho – Sunny Bay Section);
- oversaw the construction for the relocation of Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works to caverns and the design of its remaining works;

Head 159 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: DEVELOPMENT BUREAU (WORKS BRANCH)

- oversaw the construction of the relocation of Diamond Hill Fresh Water and Salt Water Service Reservoirs and Public Works Central Laboratory to caverns;
- steered the implementation of the initiatives to facilitate cavern development and took forward the implementation model of underground quarry-cum-cavern development at Lam Tei, Tsing Yi North and Sham Shui Kok;
- steered the implementation of the Pier Improvement Programme;
- oversaw the provision of infrastructure support to various increasing land supply initiatives and proposals;
- worked closely with the Construction Industry Council (CIC) to develop and implement various improvement initiatives, including upskilling local construction manpower, attracting new entrants, promoting innovation and technology, monitoring the construction manpower situation and facilitating workers registration;
- took multi-pronged measures to address the manpower need, including enhancing training for professionals, technicians and workers, providing subsidies for training workers to enhance their skills and develop multi-skilling, driving wider adoption of innovative technologies and implementing the Labour Importation Scheme for the Construction Sector;
- supported CIC to continue using its three existing campuses and various training grounds to train construction practitioners to meet the industry needs;
- worked with the industry to launch the industry-wide promotion campaign for enhancing public understanding of the top-notch infrastructure of Hong Kong and the professionalism, contribution and prospects of the industry with a view to attracting new blood, including the launch of a construction-related STEAM education platform for primary and secondary schools to use;
- supported CIC to increase its annual training quota for skilled construction workers to at least about 12 000 places in each of the academic years from 2023/24 to 2027/28 and provided necessary training to serving and new construction personnel, including promoting “multi-skilled” and upskilling development of workers, and at the same time continue to collaborate with relevant institutions in stepping up the training of local technicians and professionals;
- extended funding support to tertiary institutions in the 2025/26 to 2026/27 academic year, for providing on-the-job training subsidies to trainees of part-time degree programmes;
- steered and monitored the implementation of and introduced enhancements to the Construction Innovation and Technology Fund (CITF), including providing funding support and promoting the wider adoption of innovative technologies within the industry, as well as providing more relevant training;
- promulgated the GBA Standards on the skill level of two pilot trades for skilled workers and one pilot position for technicians in the construction sector, and implemented the “One Examination, Multiple Certification” arrangement with the Guangdong Province and Macao Special Administrative Region, to enhance the training quality of the construction industry in GBA and nurture talents;
- oversaw the implementation of the Graduate Training Scheme (GTS) in collaboration with departments under the Development Bureau to provide the on-the-job training recognised by relevant professional institutions to university students;
- continued to promote collaborative partnership in the implementation of public works projects, including the adoption of the New Engineering Contract (NEC) form, to enhance management efficiency and cost-effectiveness;
- continued to promote Hong Kong construction and related professional services and liaised with the relevant Mainland authorities to pursue further market access in the Mainland, with focus on extending the existing scope of the professional services and striving for further liberalisation measures, including direct provision of services in the Free Trade Zones and GBA;
- regularised the evaluation mechanism of the Mainland “Professional Title” qualifications for Hong Kong professionals and extended it to the architecture and quantity surveying professions;
- oversaw the implementation of the Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Programme to deal with landslide risks associated with man-made slopes and natural terrains;
- continued to introduce and monitor measures, including monitoring the adoption of Smart Site Safety System (SSSS) in public works contracts, implementation and promotion of SSSS Labelling Scheme and subsidising adoption of SSSS on private worksites through CITF, and organise promotional activities to enhance safety and environmental performance at public works construction sites;
- monitored the implementation of the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance (Cap. 618) (LEO) to enhance regulatory control of lift and escalator safety;
- oversaw the implementation of the Lift Modernisation Subsidy Scheme (LIMSS) to enhance the safety of aged lifts through provision of financial incentive to building owners in need;

Head 159 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: DEVELOPMENT BUREAU (WORKS BRANCH)

- oversaw the implementation of the Construction Industry Security of Payment Ordinance (Cap. 652) and arranged publicity campaign and education programmes to promote its implementation in the construction industry;
- monitored drainage upgrading and rehabilitation works as well as the execution of Adaptation, Resilience and Management Strategic Approach to reduce flooding risk;
- steered the implementation of the concept of “Rivers in the City” through river revitalisation projects and introduction of water bodies rejuvenation facilities;
- continued to review the public works procurement system and oversee the implementation of the enhancement measures;
- worked closely with CIC for building the capability of subcontractors;
- provided secretariat and support services to the Lantau Development Advisory Committee (LanDAC);
- oversaw the implementation of the conservation and development initiatives and projects set out in the Sustainable Lantau Blueprint;
- steered the operation of the Lantau Conservation Fund (LCF) to promote conservation together with the community and pursue local improvement works for Lantau;
- monitored the implementation of the works policies in enhancing the selection, appointment and management of engineering and associated consultants under the purview of the Architectural and Associated Consultants Selection Board (AACSB) and the Engineering and Associated Consultants Selection Board (EACSB);
- monitored the implementation of the works policy to promote design buildability for public works projects; and
- oversaw and monitored the implementation of the works policy to adopt Building Information Modelling (BIM) technology for major government capital works projects and promoted the use of this technology in private construction projects.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026–27

25 During 2026–27, the Branch will:

- continue to oversee the implementation of infrastructure projects of Kai Tak Development;
- continue to oversee the implementation of the improvement works at Mui Wo and Tai O;
- continue to oversee the implementation of improvement and expansion of mountain bike trail networks in South Lantau;
- steer the formulation of implementation strategy and oversee the execution of projects for taking forward the South Lantau Eco-recreation Corridor;
- oversee the implementation of road improvement works in South Lantau;
- continue to oversee the construction of the relocation of Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works to caverns;
- continue to oversee the construction of the relocation of Diamond Hill Fresh Water and Salt Water Service Reservoirs and Public Works Central Laboratory to caverns;
- continue to take forward the implementation model of underground quarry-cum-cavern development at Lam Tei, Tsing Yi North and Sham Shui Kok;
- continue to oversee the implementation of the Pier Improvement Programme;
- continue to steer the design and implementation of the 13-kilometre long GreenWay network in the Kai Tak Development for shared use by pedestrians and cyclists;
- continue to oversee the provision of infrastructure support to various initiatives and proposals to increase land supply;
- continue to work closely with CIC to drive various improvement initiatives that aim to raise the standards of the construction industry, including enhancing manpower training as well as promoting innovation and technology application;
- continue to support CIC to monitor the construction manpower situation and training demands, including update of the Manpower Forecast for Hong Kong Construction Industry;
- continue to support CIC to manage, plan and develop various training activities and facilities at its campuses and training grounds to meet the manpower needs of the industry;
- continue to provide support for CIC to provide at least about 12 000 places for training skilled construction workers in each of the academic years from 2023/24 to 2027/28 and to provide necessary training to serving and new construction personnel, including promoting “multi-skilled” and upskilling of workers, and at the same time continue to collaborate with relevant institutions in stepping up the training of local technicians and professionals;

Head 159 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: DEVELOPMENT BUREAU (WORKS BRANCH)

- continue to support tertiary institutions and CIC to implement pilot schemes for providing on-the-job training subsidies to trainees of part-time degree courses;
- continue to administer the Labour Importation Scheme for the Construction Sector;
- continue, in conjunction with CIC, to liaise with counterparts in the Mainland for fostering/exploring training collaboration, promulgating GBA Standards on the skill level of skilled workers and technicians in the construction sector, and implementing the “One Examination, Multiple Certification” arrangement with the Guangdong Province and Macao Special Administrative Region, to enhance the training quality of the construction industry in GBA and nurture talents;
- continue to oversee the administration of CITF by CIC and the implementation of enhancement measures arising from the review on CITF for promoting wider adoption of technologies and greater provision of more relevant training;
- continue to promote collaborative partnership in the implementation of public works projects, including the adoption of the NEC form;
- continue to promote Hong Kong construction and related professional services and to liaise with the relevant Mainland authorities to pursue further market access in the Mainland, with focus on extending the existing scope of the professional services and striving for further liberalisation measures, including direct provision of services in the Free Trade Zones and GBA;
- continue to support the implementation of the Mainland’s evaluation mechanism for “Professional Title” in the Hong Kong construction and engineering sectors;
- continue to introduce and monitor measures, including monitoring the adoption of SSSS in public works contracts, implementation and promotion of SSSS Labelling Scheme and subsidising its adoption of SSSS on private worksites through CITF, and organising promotional activities to enhance safety and environmental performance at public works construction sites;
- continue to implement the industry-wide promotion campaign, introduce more construction-related STEAM education contents and activities in the construction-related STEAM education platform, and support CIC to foster voluntary work in the industry through the Construction Industry Volunteers Team, with a view to enhancing public perception of the industry and attracting new blood;
- continue to oversee the implementation of GTS in collaboration with departments under the Development Bureau and provide more employment opportunities for university graduates in the Government to receive the on-the-job training recognised by relevant professional institutions;
- continue to monitor the implementation of LEO;
- continue to oversee the implementation of LIMSS;
- continue to oversee the implementation of the Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Programme;
- continue to monitor drainage upgrading and rehabilitation works to reduce flooding risk;
- continue to steer the implementation of the concept of “Rivers in the City” through river revitalisation projects and introduction of water bodies rejuvenation facilities;
- continue to oversee the implementation of the Construction Industry Security of Payment Ordinance (Cap. 652);
- continue to monitor the implementation of the enhancement measures for the public works procurement system;
- continue to support CIC for building the capability of subcontractors;
- continue to provide secretariat and support services to LanDAC;
- continue to oversee the implementation of the conservation and development initiatives and projects set out in the Sustainable Lantau Blueprint;
- continue to steer the operation of LCF to promote conservation together with the community and pursue local improvement works for Lantau;
- continue to implement the works policies in enhancing the selection, appointment and management of engineering and associated consultants under the purview of AACSB and EACSB; and
- continue to oversee and monitor the adoption of BIM technology in major government capital works projects and promote the use of this technology in private construction projects.

**Head 159 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: DEVELOPMENT BUREAU
(WORKS BRANCH)**

ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	2024–25 (Actual) (\$m)	2025–26 (Original) (\$m)	2025–26 (Revised) (\$m)	2026–27 (Estimate) (\$m)
(1) Water Supply.....	21.4	18.0	18.0	17.8
(2) Heritage Conservation.....	310.3	362.5	350.0	347.9
(3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management.....	108.7	122.8	113.1	113.5
(4) Energizing Kowloon East	41.9	41.9	37.8	35.1
(5) Project Strategy and Governance	140.3	95.1	98.0	163.6
(6) Intra-Governmental Services	566.7	809.5	718.8	868.1
	1,189.3	1,449.8	1,335.7 (-7.9%)	1,546.0 (+15.7%)
				(or +6.6% on 2025–26 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

Provision for 2026–27 is \$0.2 million (1.1%) lower than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is mainly due to the decreased provision for operating expenses.

Programme (2)

Provision for 2026–27 is \$2.1 million (0.6%) lower than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is mainly due to the decreased provisions for organising exhibitions and other operating expenses, partly offset by the increased cash flow requirements for capital account items and a non-recurrent item, as well as the increased provision for filling of vacancies. There will be a net decrease of four posts in 2026–27.

Programme (3)

Provision for 2026–27 is \$0.4 million (0.4%) higher than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is mainly due to the increased provision for operating expenses.

Programme (4)

Provision for 2026–27 is \$2.7 million (7.1%) lower than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is mainly due to the decreased provision for operating expenses and a net decrease of two posts in 2026–27.

Programme (5)

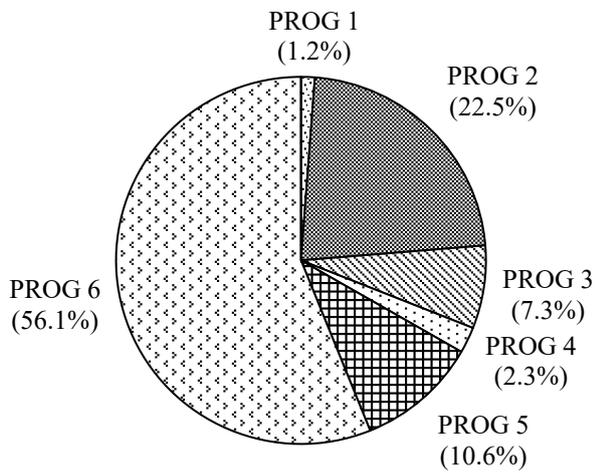
Provision for 2026–27 is \$65.6 million (66.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is mainly due to the increased provision for operating expenses and the increased cash flow requirement for formulating and implementing strategic cost reduction measures.

Programme (6)

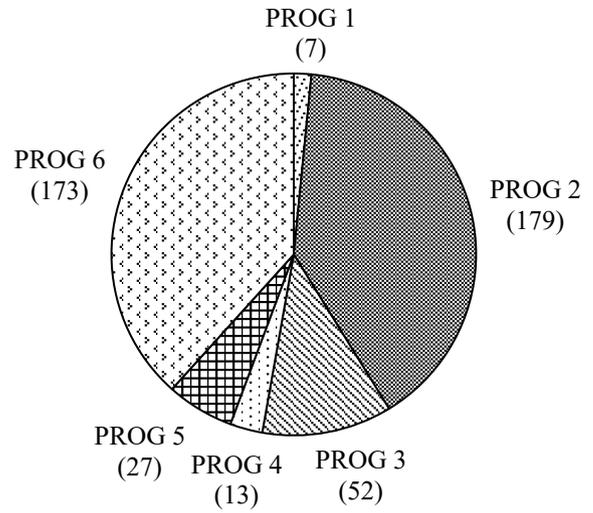
Provision for 2026–27 is \$149.3 million (20.8%) higher than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for the recurrent consequences arising from new minor works projects funded under Capital Works Reserve Fund Block Allocations, increased cash flow requirement for non-recurrent items, as well as the increased provisions for filling of vacancies and other operating expenses in 2026–27. There will be a net decrease of one post in 2026–27.

**Head 159 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: DEVELOPMENT BUREAU
(WORKS BRANCH)**

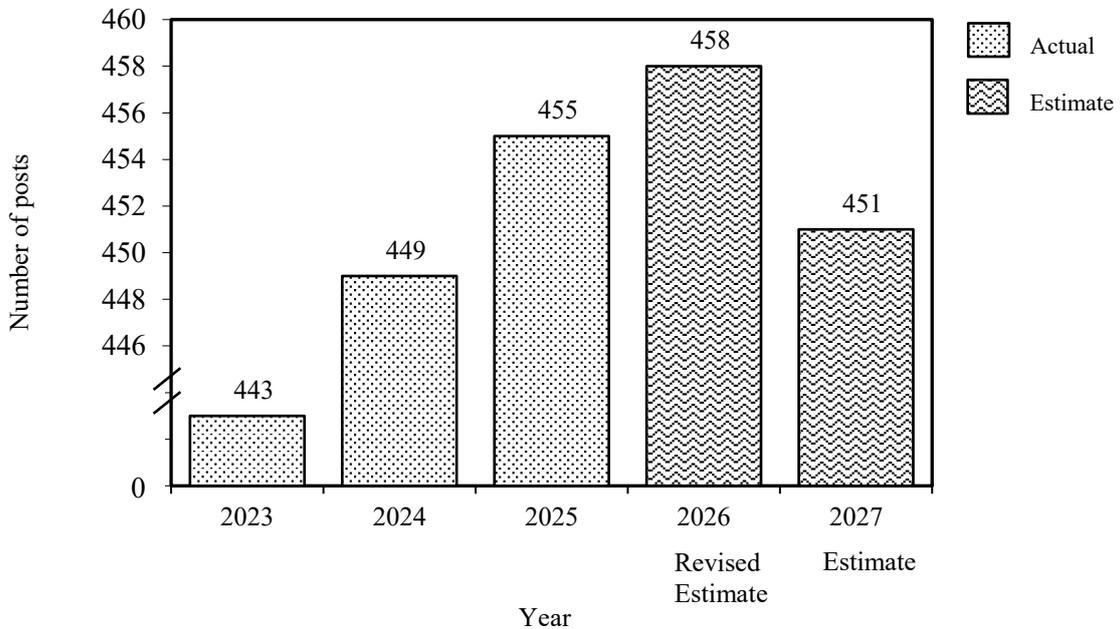
*Allocation of provision
to programmes
(2026-27)*



*Staff by programme
(as at 31 March 2027)*



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



**Head 159 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: DEVELOPMENT BUREAU
(WORKS BRANCH)**

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	979,311	1,050,104	1,046,978	1,158,310
	Total, Recurrent.....	979,311	1,050,104	1,046,978	1,158,310
Non-Recurrent					
700	General non-recurrent	192,950	382,251	272,576	366,337
	Total, Non-Recurrent.....	192,950	382,251	272,576	366,337
	Total, Operating Account	1,172,261	1,432,355	1,319,554	1,524,647
Capital Account					
Plant, Equipment and Works					
600	Works.....	4,948	4,320	4,320	3,960
653	Restoration of historic buildings (block vote)	10,394	10,200	8,900	12,000
661	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote).....	876	2,106	2,100	4,574
694	Archaeological excavations (block vote).....	792	794	794	795
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works.....	17,010	17,420	16,114	21,329
	Total, Capital Account.....	17,010	17,420	16,114	21,329
	Total Expenditure	1,189,271	1,449,775	1,335,668	1,545,976

Head 159 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: DEVELOPMENT BUREAU (WORKS BRANCH)

Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2026–27 for the salaries and expenses of the Works Branch is \$1,545,976,000. This represents an increase of \$210,308,000 over the revised estimate for 2025–26 and \$356,705,000 over the actual expenditure in 2024–25.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$1,158,310,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Works Branch. The increase of \$111,332,000 (10.6%) over the revised estimate for 2025–26 is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for the recurrent consequences arising from new minor works projects funded under Capital Works Reserve Fund Block Allocations in 2026–27.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2026 will be 458 posts. It is expected that there will be a net decrease of seven 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 \$360,885,000.

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.....	424,447	434,154	428,512	433,558
- Allowances.....	7,450	8,042	8,757	8,757
- Job-related allowances.....	28	37	27	28
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution.....	692	633	670	598
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution.....	41,029	44,443	43,998	47,559
Departmental Expenses				
- Temporary staff.....	121,323	137,130	133,602	149,497
- General departmental expenses	376,485	396,650	407,237	506,038
Other Charges				
- Maintenance of government slopes by Housing Department.....	1,270	1,400	1,700	1,400
- Artefacts and museum exhibitions.....	6,587	27,615	22,475	10,875
	979,311	1,050,104	1,046,978	1,158,310

Capital Account

Plant, Equipment and Works

5 Provision of \$12 million under *Subhead 653 Restoration of historic buildings (block vote)* is to meet public demand for restoration works on buildings, sites or structures of historical interest. Funds for the restoration of monuments may be committed when an item of historical interest has been declared a monument under section 3(1) of the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53) or is deemed to merit declaration as a monument in special circumstances. An item may be in either private or public ownership (excluding buildings in government use or those leased to non-profit-making organisations which are separately covered by the Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme on Built Heritage). The maximum expenditure for each project of privately-owned monuments is \$10 million and that for public monuments is \$2 million. The increase of \$3,100,000 (34.8%) over the revised estimate for 2025–26 is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for restoration works.

6 Provision of \$4,574,000 under *Subhead 661 Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)* represents an increase of \$2,474,000 (117.8%) over the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for procurement/replacement of plant and equipment.

7 Provision of \$795,000 under *Subhead 694 Archaeological excavations (block vote)* is for conducting excavation projects necessitated by various kinds of small-scale developments. The maximum expenditure for each project is \$1 million.

**Head 159 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: DEVELOPMENT BUREAU
(WORKS BRANCH)**

Commitments

Sub-head (Code)	Item (Code)	Ambit	Approved commitment \$'000	Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.2025 \$'000	Revised estimated expenditure for 2025–26 \$'000	Balance \$'000
<i>Operating Account</i>						
700		<i>General non-recurrent</i>				
	802	Construction Innovation and Technology FundΩ.....	3,200,000Ω	2,200,000	—	1,000,000
	803	Strengthening Cost Management and Uplifting Performance of Public Works ProjectsΦ.....	250,500Φ	115,204	13,000	122,296
	809	Urban Forestry Support Fund.....	200,000	64,469	25,445	110,086
	810	Enhancements for Training of Construction Workers.....	200,000	161,127	20,000	18,873
	811	Further Enhancement to Manpower Supply of the Construction Industry.....	1,000,000	119,092	120,000	760,908
	812	Promoting the Application of Innovative Technology in the Construction Industry.....	75,000	33,190	20,000	21,810
	814	Pilot Scheme for On-the-job Training Subsidy for Construction-related Part-time Degree Programmes.....	147,300	21,923	27,000	98,377
	815	Pilot Scheme for On-the-job Training Subsidy for Construction Safety Officers.....	7,000	400	1,000	5,600
	870	Conservation and Revitalisation of Historic BuildingsΨ.....	700,000Ψ	241,507	46,131	412,362
			<u>5,779,800</u>	<u>2,956,912</u>	<u>272,576</u>	<u>2,550,312</u>
<i>Capital Account</i>						
600		<i>Works</i>				
	049	Restoration of Tat Tak Communal Hall.....	9,800	9,359	—	441
	462	Restoration of Yan Tun Kong Study Hall.....	6,980	6,702	40	238
	802	Structural repairs to the Enclosing Walls and Corner Watch Towers of Kun Lung Wai, Lung Yeuk Tau, Fanling, New Territories.....	9,850	7,265	1,117	1,468
	803	Structural repairs to Man Lun Fung Ancestral Hall, San Tin, Yuen Long, New Territories.....	9,000	2,798	479	5,723
	808	Restoration of Man Mo Temple Compound on Hollywood Road, Sheung Wan.....	9,955	2,726	29	7,200
	813	Restoration of the former residence of Ip Ting-sz, Sha Tau Kok.....	7,670	5,283	60	2,327

**Head 159 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: DEVELOPMENT BUREAU
(WORKS BRANCH)**

Commitments—Cont'd.

Sub-head (Code)	Item (Code)	Ambit	Approved commitment \$'000	Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.2025 \$'000	Revised estimated expenditure for 2025–26 \$'000	Balance \$'000
Capital Account—Cont'd.						
600	<i>Works—Cont'd.</i>					
	879	Structural repairs to Lo Wai, Lung Yeuk Tau, Fanling, New Territories	9,970	5,955	897	3,118
	883	Structural repairs to Liu Man Shek Tong Ancestral Hall, Sheung Shui, New Territories	9,870	9,514	328	28
	887	Major repairs and restoration to Tung Wah Museum, Waterloo Road, Kowloon	4,895	4,606	44	245
	893	Restoration of Fat Tat Tong in Ha Wo Hang, Sha Tau Kok, New Territories.....	7,953	5,280	1,283	1,390
	898	External restoration and redecorations to the Helena May, Garden Road, Central.....	6,200	6,046	—	154
			92,143	65,534	4,277	22,332
	Total		5,871,943	3,022,446	276,853	2,572,644

- Ω The approved commitment for the item was \$2,200 million. An increase in commitment of \$1 billion is sought in the context of the Appropriation Bill 2026.
- Φ The approved commitment for the item was \$150,500,000. An increase in commitment of \$100 million is sought in the context of the Appropriation Bill 2026.
- Ψ The approved commitment for the item was \$400 million. An increase in commitment of \$300 million is sought in the context of the Appropriation Bill 2026.