

**Head 154 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT:
ENVIRONMENT AND FOOD BUREAU**

Controlling officer: the Secretary for the Environment and Food will account for expenditure under this Head.

Estimate 2002–03	\$58.7m
Establishment ceiling 2002–03 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 69 non-directorate posts at 31 March 2002 reducing by two posts to 67 posts at 31 March 2003	\$31.5m
In addition there will be an estimated 11 directorate posts at 31 March 2002 and at 31 March 2003.	
Capital Account commitment balance	\$0.8m

Controlling Officer's Report

Programmes

Programme (1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety	This programme contributes to Policy Area 2: Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety (Secretary for the Environment and Food).
Programme (2) Environmental Hygiene	This programme contributes to Policy Area 32: Environmental Hygiene (Secretary for the Environment and Food).
Programme (3) Environmental Protection and Conservation	This programme contributes to Policy Area 23: Environmental Protection and Conservation (Secretary for the Environment and Food).

Detail

Programme (1): Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

	2000–01 (Actual)	2001–02 (Approved)	2001–02 (Revised)	2002–03 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	15.2	16.9 (+11.2%)	13.8 (–18.3%)	14.1 (+2.2%)

Aim

2 The aim is to formulate and oversee implementation of policies to ensure that the food available for human consumption is safe; to respond to food incidents promptly and effectively; to facilitate the development of the agricultural and fisheries industries; to prevent the introduction and spread of zoonotic diseases and diseases in animals and plants; and to ensure adequate provision and efficient operation of government wholesale marketing facilities for fresh food produce.

Brief Description

3 The bureau's main responsibility under this programme is to formulate and to keep under review policies relating to food supply and food safety. It made significant progress in this area of work.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2002–03

4 During 2002–03, the bureau will:

- take forward the labelling of genetically modified food taking into account feedback received in the public consultation exercise and subsequent further study;
- continue to oversee the formulation of implementation plans to conserve fisheries resources in Hong Kong waters;
- formulate proposals to extend import control to animal products and feeds to prevent animal diseases; and
- oversee measures to be implemented to upgrade veterinary public health.

Programme (2): Environmental Hygiene

	2000–01 (Actual)	2001–02 (Approved)	2001–02 (Revised)	2002–03 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	14.1	14.0 (–0.7%)	14.8 (+5.7%)	13.4 (–9.5%)

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Aim

5 The aim is to ensure a high standard of environmental hygiene in all parts of the territory; to minimise the risks and threats caused to public health by pest and other nuisances; to monitor the operation of slaughtering facilities; and to promote public awareness of, and involvement in, the upkeep of personal and environmental hygiene standards.

Brief Description

6 The bureau's main responsibility under this programme is to formulate and co-ordinate policies and programmes relating to the above activities. It made good progress in achieving the targets set for 2001.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2002–03

7 During 2002–03, the bureau will:

- strengthen action to further improve environmental hygiene;
- consider measures to improve the operation and management of public markets;
- continue to raise the hygiene standards of food premises and streamline licensing procedures for non-restaurant food premises; and
- strengthen public education on food, and environmental and personal hygiene.

Programme (3): Environmental Protection and Conservation

	2000–01 (Actual)	2001–02 (Approved)	2001–02 (Revised)	2002–03 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	21.6	29.7 (+37.5%)	31.3 (+5.4%)	31.2 (–0.3%)

Aim

8 The aim is to improve our urban, rural and marine environment, conserve our natural heritage and optimise the use of resources and goods so as to reduce pollution and waste; and to promote health and the enjoyment of our living environment.

Brief Description

9 The bureau's main responsibility under this programme is to formulate policies and to co-ordinate and oversee the implementation of programmes on environmental protection and conservation. It made good progress in various areas in 2001.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2002–03

10 During 2002–03, the bureau will:

- continue to co-ordinate inter-departmental efforts to achieve the targets of reducing total emissions of respirable particulates from vehicles by 80% and nitrogen oxide by 30% by the end of 2005;
- oversee the implementation of action programmes on prevention and recovery of waste;
- continue to examine the type of large-scale waste treatment facilities that should be adopted in Hong Kong;
- oversee action programmes on the prevention, reuse and recycling of construction and demolition materials;
- strengthen control on the collection and disposal of clinical waste;
- complete the review on nature conservation policy and consult the public on the future directions;
- strengthen existing conservation programmes through designating more areas as country parks, special areas and marine parks;
- co-ordinate energy efficiency programmes, including use of renewable energy in buildings and wider adoption of Water-cooled Air Conditioning Systems;
- co-ordinate inter-bureau/departmental efforts to improve the environmental impact assessment process for government works projects;
- continue to work towards proposing a landfill charging scheme to provide economic incentive to reduce waste;
- co-ordinate action to address the noise impact of existing roads;
- monitor trials and studies to ascertain the feasibility of the options recommended by the International Review Panel for further stages of Harbour Area Treatment Scheme;

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- oversee the progress of projects to provide or upgrade sewage collection and treatment facilities;
- co-ordinate co-operation and exchanges with the Guangdong authorities in reducing cross-boundary air pollution and enhancing forestry conservation, protection of Chinese White Dolphins, water quality assessment and environmental assessment;
- co-ordinate inter-departmental greening efforts and oversee the implementation of greening programmes;
- continue to explore new initiatives to improve urban greening; and
- review and strengthen the existing planning standards and guidelines to maximise greening opportunities.

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ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	2000-01 (Actual) (\$m)	2001-02 (Approved) (\$m)	2001-02 (Revised) (\$m)	2002-03 (Estimate) (\$m)
(1) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety	15.2	16.9	13.8	14.1
(2) Environmental Hygiene	14.1	14.0	14.8	13.4
(3) Environmental Protection and Conservation	21.6	29.7	31.3	31.2
	50.9	60.6 (+19.1%)	59.9 (-1.2%)	58.7 (-2.0%)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

Provision for 2002-03 is \$0.3 million (2.2%) higher than the revised estimate for 2001-02. This is mainly due to salary increments for staff.

Programme (2)

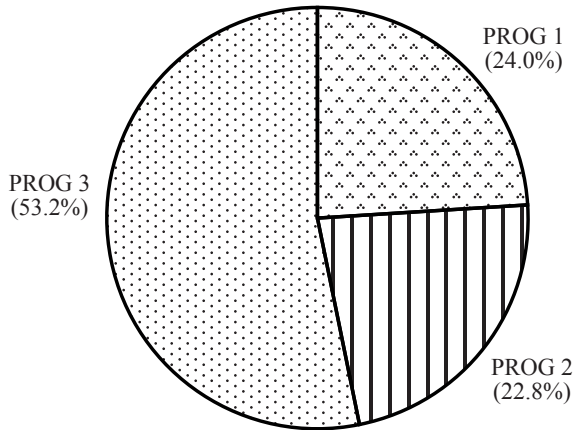
Provision for 2002-03 is \$1.4 million (9.5%) lower than the revised estimate for 2001-02. This is mainly due to the net deletion of two posts for redeployment of staff to the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department for strengthening the Clean Hong Kong Programme, partly offset by salary increments for staff.

Programme (3)

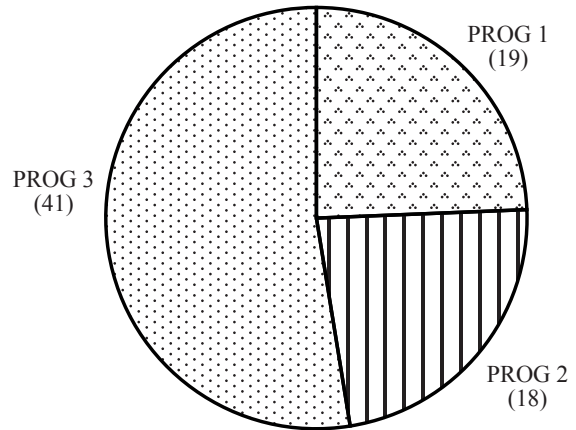
Provision for 2002-03 is \$0.1 million (0.3%) lower than the revised estimate for 2001-02. This is mainly due to the reduced requirement for capital expenditure upon completion of most of the items under the Green Research and Testing Programme, partly offset by salary increments for staff, full-year provision for one post created in 2001-02 and filling of vacancies.

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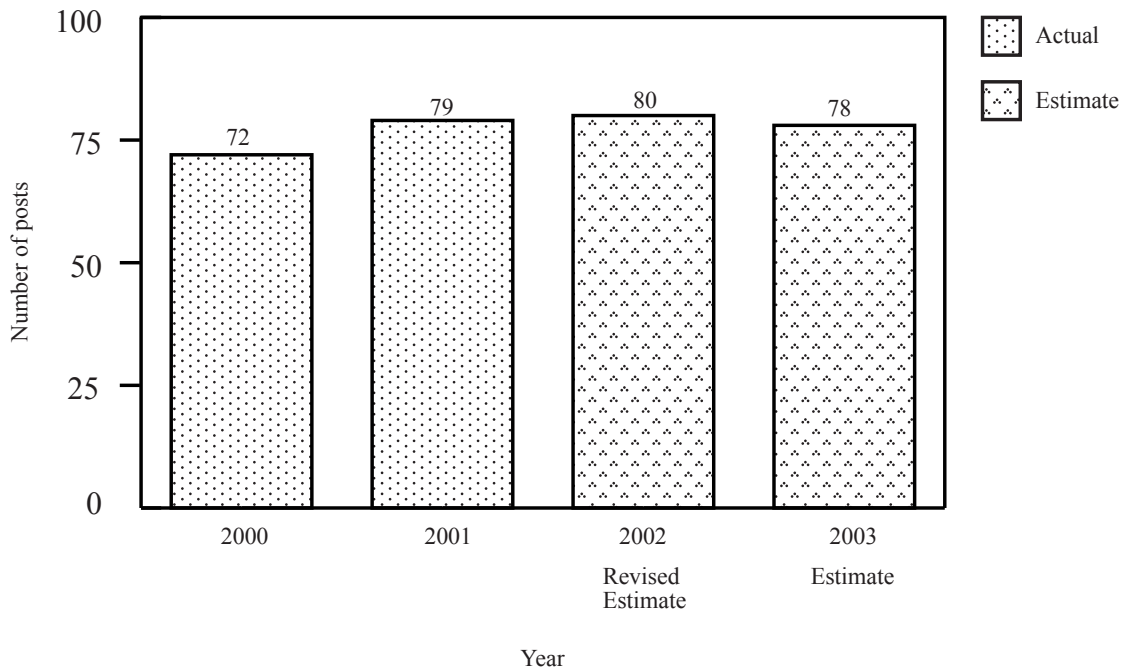
*Allocation of provision
to programmes
(2002-03)*



*Staff by programme
(as at 31 March 2003)*



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



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Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2000-01	Approved estimate 2001-02	Revised estimate 2001-02	Estimate 2002-03	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Recurrent Account					
I — Personal Emoluments					
001	Salaries	42,229	46,737	46,595	46,077
002	Allowances	3,124	3,364	4,591	4,700
007	Job-related allowances	26	28	29	29
	Total, Personal Emoluments	<u>45,379</u>	<u>50,129</u>	<u>51,215</u>	<u>50,806</u>
III — Departmental Expenses					
149	General departmental expenses	4,006	7,933	6,910	7,186
	Total, Departmental Expenses	<u>4,006</u>	<u>7,933</u>	<u>6,910</u>	<u>7,186</u>
	Total, Recurrent Account	<u>49,385</u>	<u>58,062</u>	<u>58,125</u>	<u>57,992</u>
Capital Account					
II — Other Non-Recurrent					
700	General other non-recurrent	1,553	2,500	1,750	750
	Total, Other Non-Recurrent	<u>1,553</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>1,750</u>	<u>750</u>
	Total, Capital Account	<u>1,553</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>1,750</u>	<u>750</u>
	Total Expenditure.....	<u><u>50,938</u></u>	<u><u>60,562</u></u>	<u><u>59,875</u></u>	<u><u>58,742</u></u>

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2002–03 for the salaries and expenses of the Environment and Food Bureau is \$58,742,000. This represents a decrease of \$1,133,000 against the revised estimate for 2001–02 and an increase of \$7,804,000 over actual expenditure in 2000–01.

Recurrent Account

Personal Emoluments

2 Provision of \$50,806,000 for personal emoluments represents a decrease of \$409,000 against the revised estimate for 2001–02.

3 The establishment at 31 March 2002 will be 79 permanent posts and one supernumerary post. It is expected that a net two permanent posts will be deleted in 2002–03.

4 Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated powers create or delete non-directorate posts during 2002–03, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$31,500,000.

5 Provision of \$4,700,000 under *Subhead 002 Allowances* is for standard allowances and the consolidated overtime allowance for Chauffeur grade.

6 Provision of \$29,000 under *Subhead 007 Job-related allowances* is for standard job-related allowances.

Departmental Expenses

7 Provision of \$7,186,000 under *Subhead 149 General departmental expenses* represents an increase of \$276,000 (4.0%) over the revised estimate for 2001–02. This is mainly due to the requirement for enhancing support services for the computer system in the office and the increased requirement in administration expenses, partly offset by savings in payment of honoraria to appeal boards on environmental protection.

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Capital Account

Commitments

Sub-head (Code)	Item (Code)	Ambit	Approved commitment	Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.2001	Revised estimated expenditure for 2001-02	Balance
			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
700		<i>General other non-recurrent</i>				
	010	Green research and testing programme..	2,500	—	1,750	750
		Total.....	2,500	—	1,750	750