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Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment, Transport and Works

Session No: 18

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**Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the
Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08**

**Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment, Transport and Works
Session No: 18**

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)001

Question Serial
No.

0029

Head :159 - Government Secretariat: Subhead :000 Operational Expenses
Environment, Transport and
Works Bureau (Works Branch)

Programme : (3) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport
and Works (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : In this programme, the Government will continue to introduce
measures and initiatives to uplift construction site safety and
promote environmental protection. Please let us know (a) the
details of these initiatives and their effectiveness, (b) the estimate
expenditure for 2007-08?

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply : (a) We will continue to promote best practices in construction site
safety through organising and participating in a series of
promotional activities, including the "Considerate Contractors
Site Award Scheme", "Construction Site Safety Award
Scheme" and "Hong Kong Occupational Safety and Health
Award", etc. Appropriate regulatory actions, including
suspension from tendering for public works contracts, will be
taken against a public works contractor involved in a serious
site accident.

Furthermore, we will continue to promote environment
friendly practices in public works projects, including
organising training workshops for works departments to
enhance the environmental awareness of their staff. In
addition, during the construction stage, contractors are required
to draw up an environmental management plan to minimize the
impact of the works on the environment, and implement
appropriate mitigation measures to reduce emissions of fumes,
wastewater as well as dust and noise nuisances, etc. We will
also collaborate with the Construction Industry Council in
promoting the adoption of waste management measures by the
construction industry. This is part of our on-going duties and
funded by existing resources. There is no breakdown on the
expenditure involved for this particular duty.

With the effort of all parties involved, the number of accidents in public works contracts has reduced from 20 per 1 000 workers in 2004 to 13 per 1 000 workers in 2006, down by 35%. The amount of construction waste generated was also reduced by 3% from 2003 to 2005, and further reduced by 37% in 2006 after the introduction of the Waste Disposal (Charges for Disposal of Construction Waste) Regulation in January 2006. We expect that our planned initiatives in 2007-08 will further uplift the safety and environmental performance of public works projects.

- (b) The estimated expenditure of the promotional activities for 2007-08 is \$0.25 million.

Signature:

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C K MAK

Post Title:

Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
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4147CD	Drainage improvement works in Kwu Tung South and Fu Tei Au, Sheung Shui	58	Jul 2006	Jan 2009
4148CD	Drainage improvement works in Ping Kong, Kau Lung Hang, Yuen Leng, Nam Wa Po and Tai Hang areas	261	Jan 2007	Nov 2010

Details of drainage improvement projects in Northern New Territories to commence construction in 2007-08 are as follows –

PWP Item No.	Project Title	Estimated Project Cost (\$M)	Start Date	Completion Date
4119CD (part)	Drainage Improvements in Northern New Territories – Package C	120	Jun 2007	Jun 2011
4118CD	Drainage Improvements in Northern New Territories – Package B	166	Sep 2007	Jan 2010

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C K MAK

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Date _____ 16 March 2007

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No

ETWB(W)003

Question Serial
No.

0118

Head :159 - Government Secretariat: Subhead :000 - Operational Expenses
Environment, Transport and Works
Bureau (Works Branch)

Programme : (3) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and
Works (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : How much provision will be earmarked by the Government for greening
works? What are the details? Will the Government consider cooperating
with the business sector, in order to reduce the public expenditure?.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply : Government is striving to promote greening to improve our living
environment. About \$150M will be used in 2007-08 to plant new trees,
shrubs and annuals by various government departments. Moreover, about
\$300M is spent yearly to maintain plants on existing greened areas in Hong
Kong.

In promoting greening, apart from government efforts, initiatives from both
quasi-government organisation and the private sector are most welcomed.
Apart from reducing public expenditure, this also demonstrates community
support. Recent greening projects with participation of quasi-government
organisation/private sector include the "Sheung Wan Revitalisation
Scheme", the "Central Cityscape Project", and the "Hollywood Road
Beautification Project".

Signature:

Name in block letters:

C K MAK

Post Title:

Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Works)

Date:

16 March 2007

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)005

Question Serial No.

0519

Head : 159 – Government Secretariat: Subhead : 000 - Operational Expenses
Environment, Transport and Works
Bureau (Works Branch)

Programme : (3) – Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and
Works (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The Administration will enhance tree preservation in 2007-08,
please advise this Committee:

1. What kind of tree preservation measures will be implemented in the 2007-08 financial year? What are the details and estimated expenditure?
2. Will the Government make legislation for tree preservation? If yes, what will be the legislative timetable and estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply : (a) We are striving to uplift the quality of our living environment through active planting, proper maintenance and preservation of trees. In the context of tree preservation, we are fully committed to ensuring that no tree should be unnecessarily pruned or felled in public works projects. In particular, we have specific contract provisions to achieve such an objective. We have also compiled a register of old and valuable trees for priority protection. In addition, we have promulgated to owners corporations/ mutual aid committees, property management companies, non-government organisations, etc. on the importance of greening and matters to observe in the pruning and felling of trees. We shall continue to monitor the situation in 2007-08 and devise further enhancement measures for tree preservation where necessary. In recent years, about \$300M is spent yearly by various departments to maintain plants on existing greened areas in Hong Kong.

- (b) We have a comprehensive and effective package of legislative and administrative measures for tree preservation and protection. Notwithstanding this, we will closely monitor the situation and formulate measures for further improvement if necessary.

Signature: _____
Name in block letters: **C K MAK**
Post Title: **Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Works)**
Date: **16 March 2007**

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)006

Question Serial
No.

0916

Head :159 - Government Secretariat: Subhead : 000 – Operational Expenses
Environment, Transport and
Works Bureau (Works Branch)

Programme : (2) Water Supply

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport
and Works (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The 2006-07 revised estimate of this Programme is 20.3% lower
than the original estimate. Please let us know the area which
experienced reduction in expenditure and the reasons for that.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply : The 2006-07 revised estimate amounts to \$10.6 million, \$2.7
million (or 20.3%) lower than the original estimate of \$13.3
million. The decrease is mainly due to fewer graduates joining
the Graduate Training Scheme than expected.

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C K MAK

Post Title:

Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Works)

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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)007

Question Serial No.

0917

Head :159 - Government Secretariat: Subhead : -
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
(Works Branch)

Programme : (2) Water Supply

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport
and Works (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question :

The Administration will continue with the study built upon the outcome of pilot schemes to carry on the formulation of a long-term strategy on total water management. Please advise on the latest strategies formulated in this respect, including whether consideration has been given on ways to promote reduction of water consumption; whether water charges will be increased to bring forward water conservation among the public; whether other sources of water supply will be explored; and how much expenditure will be involved?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

Under the steer of Works Branch of Environment, Transport and Works Bureau, the Water Supplies Department is carrying out a study on total water management, at an estimated cost of about \$5 million, to map out the long-term strategy for Hong Kong to meet the future water demand. The study will examine various water conservation measures including public education and promotional activities, use of water saving devices, review of water tariff structure to encourage reduction of consumption, etc. We will also further explore the use of alternative water resources for Hong Kong in light of the outcome of the pilot seawater desalination study at an estimated cost of about \$14 million and pilot reclaimed water reuse schemes at Ngong Ping and Shek Wu Hui (at an estimated capital of \$7 million and \$15 million respectively) which are still in Progress. The study on total water management is expected to be completed by early 2008.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____

C K MAK

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Works)

Date: _____

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No

ETWB(W)008

Question Serial
No.

0918

Head : 159 - Government Secretariat: Subhead : -
Environment, Transport and Works
Bureau (Works Branch)

Programme : (2) Water Supply

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and
Works (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : One of the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08 is to
“explore alternative approaches to deliver water supply services”.
Please let us know (a) what alternative approaches to deliver water
supply services are being explored by the Government; (b) the efficacy
of the various approaches under preliminary study; and (c) the
resources and staffing arrangement so involved.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin Kee, Frederick

Reply :

In 2007-08, the initiatives employed by the WSD to explore different approaches to achieve greater efficiency in the water supply services include notably the following:

- (a) Continuing the study on Total Water Management (TWM) in Hong Kong to map out a long-term strategy on optimising the share of various water resources and measures to meet the future water demand, such as reclaimed water, desalinated water, local yield, water conservation measures etc. in addition to the use of the Dongjiang water. The estimated cost of the study is \$5 million.
- (b) Implementing the Maintenance Works Management System (MWMS), which is a major computerization project costing about \$17 million to enhance the efficiency in processing the planning, approval, monitoring and payment to contractors etc in connection with maintenance work.
- (c) Continuing the implementation of a territory-wide water mains replacement and rehabilitation programme according to our Underground Asset Management Plan. The programme will be completed in 2015 and will significantly enhance the efficiency of the water distribution network and redress the problems brought about by bursts and leaks in the aged system.
- (d) Developing through in-house resources, enhancement measures to surface assets according to their conditions and relative importance as prioritised by our Surface Asset Management System.
- (e) Exploring and taking forward continuous improvements in energy efficiency through pressure management, variable speed pumping, meticulous energy audits and the optimisation of pumping patterns for key water transfers of raw water between the raw water sources and the water treatment works.
- (f) Assessing different procurement approaches including the public private partnership (PPP) approach and conventional procurement approach for the rehabilitation of the Sha Tin Water Treatment Works.

Signature: _____

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C K MAK

Post Title: _____

Permanent Secretary for the
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Furthermore, we will continue to promote the use of environment friendly construction methods and adoption of energy efficient features in public works projects. This is part of our on-going duties and funded by existing resources. There is no breakdown on the expenditure involved for this particular duty. For government buildings, the building energy codes promulgated by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department have been adopted in designs. Cost-effective energy efficient features (e.g. such as high efficiency lighting, water-cooled chillers etc) have been used to reduce energy consumption. During the construction stage, contractors are required to draw up an environmental management plan to minimize the impact of the works on the environment, and implement appropriate mitigation measures to reduce emissions of fumes, wastewater as well as dust and noise nuisances etc. In addition, contractors are required to use ultra-low sulphur diesel in order to reduce emissions of sulphur dioxide.

Our continuous efforts have reduced the number of accidents in public works contracts from 20 per 1 000 workers in 2004 to 13 per 1 000 workers in 2006, down by 35%. The amount of construction waste generated was also reduced by 3% from 2003 to 2005, and further reduced by 37% in 2006 after the introduction of the Waste Disposal (Charges for Disposal of Construction Waste) Regulation in January 2006. We expect that our planned initiatives in 2007-08 will further uplift the safety and environmental performance of public works projects.

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Authority (CITA) whereby CITA will be dissolved and its rights, assets, liabilities and obligations will be vested in CIC when the amalgamation takes effect. The existing functions of CITA in relation to training and trade testing will then be transferred to a new committee named as the Construction Industry Training Board to be formed under CIC while CITA's levy collection functions will be taken over directly by the Council.

However, the establishment of CIC does not mean immediate dissolution of CITA. Instead, CIC will take over the functions of CITA systematically in accordance with relevant provisions of the CIC Ordinance and observing the over-riding principle that services to the public will not be affected by the organizational change. To achieve this objective, CIC will draw up robust plans for the amalgamation and dissolution of CITA will be effected only when CIC is confident that everything is ready after detailed deliberations. The current target is to effect the amalgamation on 1 January 2008.

The amalgamation of CIC and CITA will not involve any funding from Government although the Works Branch of ETWB will render support/assistance wherever necessary. In accordance with the CIC Ordinance, before the amalgamation of CIC and CITA, the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works may request CITA to provide funds as are necessary to meet expenses reasonably incurred by the Council. After the amalgamation, the expenses of CIC will be met by using the levies collected under the CIC Ordinance and CITA's funds which will be vested in CIC upon the dissolution of the Authority.

Signature	_____
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Post Title	<u>Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Works)</u>
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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No

ETWB(W)011

Question Serial
No.

1059

Head :159 - Government Secretariat: Subhead : -
Environment, Transport and
Works Bureau (Works Branch)

Programme : (3) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport
and Works (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : How can the Administration ensure that the provision of \$29 billion reserved for infrastructure development will be fully utilised? Among the series of infrastructure projects under planning, how can the Administration expedite the planning and implementation progress? (e.g. how to avoid duplicate planning?)

Asked by : Hon. CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, Selina

Reply : It is Government's intention to sustain an average spending of \$29 billion on capital works a year. However, expenditure on capital works projects tends to fluctuate from year to year in accordance with the actual amount of works executed.

Various mega projects are under planning. Some examples are Central-Wan Chai Bypass (\$20.6 billion), Central Kowloon Route (\$12.5 billion), Kai Tak Development (\$9.8 billion) and Wan Chai Development Phase II (\$4.6 billion). If concerted effort can be made by all parties concerned (including the Government as well as LegCo/general public) in reaching a quick consensus on the projects, the level of capital works expenditure would pick up significantly.

Apart from the above, we are making every effort to expedite individual works projects. Timeframe of implementation has been compressed as far as possible provided it will not adversely affect the quality of the project. Up to February 2007, PWSC has approved 49 projects with a total cost estimates

of about \$13.2 billion (inclusive of \$6.1 billion for the works-related block allocations in 2007-08). More funding requests on capital works items will be submitted to the Public Works Sub-Committee for approval in the remaining months of the 2006-07 LegCo session.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: C K MAK

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Works)

Date: 16 March 2007

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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)012

Question Serial
No.

1060

Head :159 - Government Secretariat: Subhead : 000 – Operational Expenses
Environment, Transport and
Works Bureau (Works Branch)

Programme : (3) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport
and Works (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Is there any plan to strengthen co-operation with the Legislative
Council in order to expedite the approval of works?

Asked by : Hon. CHOW LIANG Shuk-yee, Selina

Reply : Government is committed to taking forward justified projects
necessary for the future economic development of Hong Kong
with the support of the Legislative Council. We will consult the
relevant panels as necessary at various stages of the projects with
a view to forging consensus and enabling the projects to make an
early start.

Signature:

Name in block letters:

C K MAK

Post Title:

Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Works)

Date:

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No

ETWB(W)013

Question Serial
No.

2441

Head :159 - Government Secretariat: Subhead : 000 – Operational Expenses
Environment, Transport and
Works Bureau (Works Branch)

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport
and Works (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : During 2007-08, the Branch will monitor the delivery of the
Public Works Programme to secure early completion of projects.
Please elaborate on the initiatives to be introduced to pursue the
target?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply : The Works Branch, together with its group of works departments,
will closely monitor the delivery of projects to ensure timely
completion. In particular, Controlling Officers are required to
prepare annual budgets of expenditure on projects for inclusion in
the Estimates, taking into account actual progress of works.
Monthly reviews will also be conducted to ensure that
rectification measures can be taken as soon as possible should
there be any slippage.

Signature:

Name in block letters:

C K MAK

Post Title:

Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Works)

Date:

16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)014

Question Serial
No.

2442

Head :159 - Government Secretariat: Subhead : 000 – Operational Expenses
Environment, Transport and
Works Bureau (Works Branch)

Programme : (3) Intra-Governmental Services

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport
and Works (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : During 2007-2008, the Branch will continue to promote the wider
use of alternative procurement models in public works projects.
Please provide details of the alternative models and how these can
improve the efficiency and productivity in implementing public
works projects?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply : We shall continue to promote alternative procurement models
already promulgated. Details and strengths of the alternative
procurement models are as follows -

- (a) Design and construct approach – the contractor designs and constructs the facilities, so as to make the best use of construction technology available. It is good for projects in which construction of facilities is more challenging than their design. The Kap Shui Mun Viaduct was procured using this approach.
- (b) Design, construct and operate approach – the future operator of facilities to give public services is contracted to design and construct the facilities as well. It is good for a projects in which operational efficiency and technological changes are important considerations. The landfills in Hong Kong are procured using this approach.

- (c) Finance, design, construct and operate approach – a financier is responsible for funding and construction of the facilities in return for concessions, e.g. of operating the facilities. It is good for capital-intensive projects. The cross-harbour tunnels in Hong Kong are procured using this approach.

Procuring a project using the right approach would facilitate incorporation of advanced technologies, as well as smooth and cost effective delivery of projects.

Signature:

Name in block letters:

C K MAK

Post Title:

Permanent Secretary for the
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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
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Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)015

Question Serial
No.

2443

Head :159 - Government Secretariat: Subhead : 000 – Operational Expenses
Environment, Transport and
Works Bureau (Works Branch)

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport
and Works (Works)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : In accordance with page 10 of Appendix B to the 2007-08 Budget
Speech, there is a 8.9% decrease in real terms in the total
Government expenditure on infrastructure for 2007-08 over the
2006-07 original estimate. Please explain the reasons for the
substantial decrease in the estimated Government expenditure on
infrastructure and the impact of the decrease on the progress of
public works projects?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply : The expenditure item classified as “infrastructure” pertains to
expenditure related to three policy areas, namely buildings, lands
and planning; transport; and water supply. The decrease in
estimated capital expenditure in 2007-08 in these policy areas is
mainly because –

- (i) certain mega projects, such as land formation and infrastructure projects for the Hong Kong Disneyland, Deep Bay Link, and Shenzhen Western Corridor, have been substantially completed and hence will incur less expenditure in 2007-08; and
- (ii) the next batch of mega projects such as Central–Wan Chai Bypass, Central Kowloon Route, Kai Tak Development and Wan Chai Development Phase II, have yet to commence as they require more time for preparatory work, including public consultation.

Nonetheless we are making every effort to implement the projects and we hope that with concerted effort of all parties concerned (including Government as well as LegCo/general public), quick consensus can be reached thus enabling the projects to commence in the near future and enhancing the level of capital works expenditure.

Signature:

Name in block letters:

C K MAK

Post Title:

Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Works)

Date:

16 March 2007

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)016

Question Serial
No.

1241

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department Subhead :

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : It is estimated that a total of 910 000 seedlings will be planted in 2007, which exceeds the figures in 2005 and 2006. Please provide information on the number of native tree seedlings planted in 2005 and 2006, and the estimated number of native tree seedlings to be planted in 2007 and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

- (a) The numbers of native tree seedlings planted in 2005 and 2006 were about 488 000 and 522 000 respectively. The expenditure involved was about \$5.5 million and \$5.8 million respectively.
- (b) The estimated number of native tree seedlings to be planted in 2007 is 528 000. The expenditure involved will be about \$5.8 million.

Signature:

Name in block letters:

Mrs Stella HUNG

Post Title:

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date:

16 March 2007

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)017

Question Serial
No.

1242

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department Subhead :

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : It is estimated that 588 000 seedlings will be produced in 2007. Please provide information on the number of native tree seedlings to be produced and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : The estimated number of native tree seedlings to be produced in 2007 is about 336 000 with an expenditure of about \$3.9 million.

Signature:

Name in block letters:

Mrs Stella HUNG

Post Title:

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date:

16 March 2007

[Top !](#)

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)018

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Question Serial No.

0048

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department Subhead :

Programme : (3) Facilities Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : In 2006, the Architectural Services Department adopted the use of outsourcing and increased application of technology. In this connection, please inform us of the expenditure on the outsourced services, the savings achieved through outsourcing services, as well as the details and value of the services to be outsourced in 2007.

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply : The expenditure on consultancy fees for outsourced services is about \$175 million in 2006-07. This includes consultancy services for building projects, subvented projects, minor projects and maintenance. The types of services include architectural, building services engineering, structural engineering, quantity surveying, site supervisory and information technology.

Outsourcing has enabled the Department to focus on core functions in providing professional support to client policy bureaux and departments. While there has been no saving achieved, it has enabled the Department to cope with significant additional workload such as the projects for the 2009 East Asian Games, Tamar Development Project, Prince of Wales Hospital Extension Block, etc.

The estimated expenditure on consultancy fees for outsourced services is about \$175 million in 2007-08.

Signature _____

Name in block letters C. H. YUE

Post Title Director of Architectural Services

Date 16 March 2007

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)020

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Question Serial No.

0361

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department Subhead :

Programme : (3) Facilities Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Under this programme, the Architectural Services Department sets the target of “completing projects within the approved time scale” at 100%. However, the target could not be met in both 2005 and 2006. Please provide a list of the projects which could not be completed within the approved time scale in the two years and the reasons for delay as well as the additional expenditure incurred for all the projects concerned.

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply : Projects that could not be completed within the approved time scale in 2005 and 2006 are set out below:

	Project title	Reason(s) for delay	Additional Expenditure (\$ million)
2005			
1.	Improvement works to existing primary schools based on the recommendations of the Education Commission Report No.5 – phase 4	- This involves the slow progress of contractor in one case.	Nil
2.	School Improvement Programme – Phase II Aided Primary Schools	- This involves the liquidation and slow progress of contractors in one case.	1.57
3.	Construction works for schools in the final phase of the School Improvement Programme (batch 6)	- This involves site difficulties and slow progress of contractor in one case.	0.11
4.	Improvement works to primary school at Sze Mei Street, San Po Kong	- Extension of time granted to contractor due to restriction in working hours to suit the school's operation.	Nil

	Project title	Reason(s) for delay	Additional Expenditure (\$ million)
2006			
5.	Fitting Out Works for Customs, Immigration and Quarantine Facilities at SkyPlaza, Hong Kong International Airport	- The project has to dovetail the SkyPlaza development by Airport Authority (AA). As the overall construction for the SkyPlaza has been delayed, the schedule for Government works which were entrusted to AA has had to be adjusted accordingly.	Nil

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 16 March 2007

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Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)024

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Question Serial No.

0791

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department Subhead :

Programme : (3) Facilities Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : According to the Administration, fitting out and renovation of existing sports venues will be undertaken in 2007-08 to facilitate the holding of the 2009 East Asian Games in Hong Kong. Will the Government please inform this Committee of the details of such measures and the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : Improvement works will be carried out at 13 existing venues to meet the requirements of the athletes, audience, etc. For instance, these will include the replacement of the sterilization and heating systems for the Kowloon Park Swimming Pool and improvement of air-conditioning and electrical installation, as well as upgrading of support and backstage facilities for various venues.

The 13 venues, together with the expenditure involved respectively, are listed out as follows -

<u>Project code and title</u>	<u>Approved Project Estimates</u> \$ million
1. 53RE – Improvement to Hong Kong Coliseum	168.6
2. 54RE – Improvement to Queen Elizabeth Stadium	112.3
3. 246RS – Improvement to Hong Kong Stadium	55.4
4. 247RS – Improvement to Victoria Park Tennis Centre	73.7
5. 248RS – Improvement to Kowloon Park Swimming Pool	155.0

<u>Project code and title</u>	<u>Approved Project Estimates</u> \$ million
6. 249RS – Improvement to Hong Kong Squash Centre	20.6
7. 250RS – Improvement to Lai Chi Kok Park Sports Centre	30.2
8. 251RS – Improvement to Western Park Sports Centre	81.7
9. 253RS – Improvement to Shek Kip Mei Park Sports Centre	32.3
10. 254RS – Improvement to Siu Sai Wan Sports Ground	16.3
11. 255RS – Improvement to Stanley Main Beach Water Sports Centre	19.2
12. 257RS – Improvement to Tseung Kwan O Sports Centre	32.3
13. 262RS – Improvement to King's Park Hockey Ground	26.0

Signature _____

Name in block letters C. H. YUE

Post Title Director of Architectural Services

Date 16 March 2007

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Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)025

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Question Serial No.

0794

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department Subhead :

Programme : (3) Facilities Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : According to the indicators of this programme, the estimated expenditure on building projects for 2007 is \$3,225.7 million, a decrease of \$2,455.7 million, or 43%, compared with the actual expenditure of \$5,681.4 million in 2006. Would the Government account for the significant decrease in such expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : The decrease of the estimated expenditure in 2007 is mainly due to the completion of a number of large-scale projects in 2006 which include, inter alia, the new infectious disease centre at Princess Margaret Hospital, the training complex for juveniles in Tuen Mun and the transport link in Tsim Sha Tsui East.

Having regard to a number of major government building projects in the pipeline such as the Tamar Development Project and Prince of Wales Hospital – extension block, we expect the annual expenditure on building works would pick up in the years after 2007.

Signature _____

Name in block letters C. H. YUE

Post Title Director of Architectural Services

Date 16 March 2007

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)026

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Question Serial No.

1033

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Facilities Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Under the “Facilities Development” Programme of the Architectural Services Department, the expenditure on building projects had decreased from some \$6.364 billion in 2005 to some \$5.681 billion in 2006 and has substantially decreased further to some \$3.225 billion in the 2007 estimate. What are the main reasons for the decrease?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply : The decrease of the estimated expenditure in 2007 from those in 2005 and 2006 is mainly due to the completion of a number of school projects under the School Improvement Programme in 2005 and the completion of a number of large-scale projects in 2006 which include, inter alia, the new infectious disease centre at Princess Margaret Hospital, the training complex for juveniles in Tuen Mun and the transport link in Tsim Sha Tsui East.

Having regard to a number of major government building projects in the pipeline such as the Tamar Development Project and Prince of Wales Hospital – extension block, we expect the annual expenditure on building works would pick up in the years after 2007.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 16 March 2007

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)027

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Question Serial No.

2652

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department Subhead :

Programme : (2) Facilities Upkeep
 (3) Facilities Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Under the two programmes, the requirement for salary provision for 2007-08 is lower than the estimate for 2006-07. Will the Administration please advise whether the reduced requirement for salary provision is caused by any adjustment in the number of posts or salary levels under the two programmes?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply : Compared with 2006-07, the number of posts for the Architectural Services Department in 2007-08 remains unchanged. However, it is anticipated that some posts will become temporarily vacant due to natural staff wastage. As a result, the requirement for salary provision is reduced accordingly.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 16 March 2007

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)028

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Question Serial No.

2688

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department Subhead :

Programme : (1) Monitoring and Advisory Services
 (2) Facilities Upkeep
 (3) Facilities Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Regarding “enhance existing and develop new information systems”, please advise this Committee on which type of new systems will be developed in 2007-08 to improve efficiency and transparency. What are the expenditure and maintenance cost involved?

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply : An Electronic Document Management System will be implemented in Queensway Government Offices Headquarters to facilitate the migration from paper-based document/filing to electronic processing and management of documents. The estimated non-recurrent expenditure is \$2.2 million while the estimated annual maintenance cost is \$120,000.

The existing quantity surveying software “RIPAC” will be upgraded to enhance the preparation and handling of Bills of Quantities and to facilitate the sharing of project cost data. The estimated non-recurrent expenditure is \$1.4 million with estimated annual maintenance cost at \$120,000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters C. H. YUE

Post Title Director of Architectural Services

Date 16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)029

Question Serial No.

0768

Head : 33 Civil Engineering and Development Department Subhead : 000 Operational expenses

rogramme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question :

Five permanent posts will be created in the Civil Engineering and Development Department in 2007-08. Please give the following information:

- (1) What are these posts and their respective departments? What is the annual expenditure on the salaries for these posts?
- (2) What are the reasons for the creation of these posts?
- (3) Will these posts be converted from the existing non-civil service contract posts and temporary posts?
- (4) How many non-civil service contract posts and temporary posts in the Department are still required in the long term? Will the staff serving in these posts be all employed by permanent terms? If so, when will it be implemented?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (1) & (2) The ranks, annual salaries of and reasons for the five posts to be created in the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) in 2007-08 are as follows:-

Rank	Number	Notional Annual Mid-Point Salary as at 1.1.2007 (per post) (\$)	Reason for Creation of Post
Senior Landscape Architect	1	929,220	To take up duties related to the development and implementation of greening master plans
Landscape Architect/Assistant Landscape Architect	1	428,610	
Senior Engineer	1	929,220	To take forward developments in the northern New Territories
Engineer/Assistant Engineer	2	442,620	

- (3) The above five posts are not created to replace the existing non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff or temporary staff.
- (4) The special review conducted jointly with the Civil Service Bureau last year established that the duties of six NCSC staff in CEDD should more appropriately be performed by civil servants. Their positions will be replaced by filling existing and anticipated vacant civil service posts and, as necessary, creating new posts. When there is open recruitment for civil service posts, NCSC staff will have to apply in response to vacancy advertisement in the same manner as outside candidates in accordance with established government policy.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Adrian NG

Post Title Director of Civil Engineering and Development (Acting)

Date _____ 16.3.2007

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)030

Question Serial No.

0769

Head : 33 Civil Engineering and Development Department Subhead :

Programme : (5) Greening and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question :

In the estimate for 2007, it is planned to develop five greening master plans. Please list the areas concerned.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

We will formulate greening master plans for Sheung Wan, Wan Chai, Causeway Bay, Mong Kok and Yau Ma Tei in 2007.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Adrian NG

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering and Development (Acting)

Date _____ 16.3.2007

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 33 Civil Engineering and Development Department Subhead :

Programme : (6) Supervision of Mining, Quarrying and Explosives

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question :

The actual numbers of blasting activities and blasting sites inspected in 2006 are 711 and 1 046 respectively, but the estimated numbers of these activities and sites to be inspected in 2007 are 1 400 and 1 150 respectively. The average frequency of inspection for each blasting activity decreases from 1.47 in 2006 to 0.82 in 2007, which means 18% of the blasting activities will not be inspected. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply :

To ensure public safety, Explosives Officers of the Mines Division of the Department are deployed to conduct surprise audit inspections of blasting to check on compliance with regulatory requirements. The need and frequency of auditing inspections depend on various factors such as nature, location, sensitivity and other site circumstances which can vary considerably from site to site (for instance, sites near urban area will definitely be accorded with higher priority). The key criterion is risk-based assessment. In general, the Mines Division carries out around 1100 blasting inspections every year. The estimate of 1150 inspections of blasting activities to be carried out in 2007 is drawn up based on past experience and information provided by proponents of projects involving blasting activities. The actual number of inspections to be carried out will depend on the operational need with due regard to ensuring public safety.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Adrian NG

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering and Development (Acting)

Date _____ 16.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 33 Civil Engineering and Development Subhead :
Department

Programme : (4) Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question :

Please explain why the 2006-07 revised estimate for this programme is 2.7% less than the original estimate.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The decrease in 2006-07 revised estimate is mainly due to unfilled staff vacancies which has resulted in decreased operating expenses.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Adrian NG

Post Title _____

Director of Civil Engineering and Development
(Acting)

Date _____

16.3.2007

[Top !](#)

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 33 Civil Engineering and Development Department Subhead :

Programme : (4) Slope Safety and Geotechnical Standards

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question :

It is mentioned that the aim is to implement the “ten-year Extended Landslip Preventive Measures Programme”. Please advise this Committee of the latest progress of the programme and whether the expected target of the programme can be met in 2010.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The 10-year (2000 to 2010) Extended Landslip Preventive Measures (LPM) Programme targets to upgrade 2 500 substandard government man-made slopes and carry out safety screening studies of 3 000 private man-made slopes by 2010. The LPM Programme is in good progress. Up to end 2006, about 1 800 government slopes have been upgraded and safety screening of about 2 200 private slopes have been completed. We are confident that the 2010 target can be met.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Adrian NG

Post Title _____

Director of Civil Engineering and Development
(Acting)

Date _____

16.3.2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)034

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Question Serial No.

2457

Head : 33 Civil Engineering and Development Department Subhead :

Programme : (5) Greening and Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question :

In 2007-08, two new posts will be created. Please advise of the ranks and responsibilities of these posts and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply :

The two posts expected to be created in 2007-08 include one Senior Landscape Architect and one Landscape Architect posts. They will be responsible for the development and implementation of greening master plans. The estimated annual expenditure, in terms of Notional Annual Mid-Point Salary, is \$1.358 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Adrian NG

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering and Development (Acting)

Date _____ 16.3.2007

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)035

Question Serial No.

0117

Head: 39 – Drainage Services Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Stormwater Drainage

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question: What is the number of stormwater drainage projects under detailed design for this year? How many of them are major flood prevention projects in flood-prone areas of the New Territories? Please provide details of these projects, their completion dates and resources required.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply: At present, we are undertaking design work for a number of stormwater drainage projects located in both the urban and rural areas at a total cost estimate of about \$6.7 billion. Seven of these projects are major flood prevention projects in flood-prone areas of the New Territories. Details of these projects are summarised as follows -

Item No.	Project Title	Estimated Cost (\$M)	Start Date	Completion Date
4149CD	Yuen Long, Kam Tin, Ngau Tam Mei and Tin Shui Wai drainage improvements, stage 1, phase 2B – Cheung Chun San Tsuen and Kam Tsin Wai	156	1st half of 2007	2nd half of 2009
4102CD	Drainage improvement in Tuen Mun and Sham Tseng – package B	70	1st half of 2007	2nd half of 2009
4109CD	Drainage improvement works in Tai Po	350	2nd half of 2007	2nd half of 2010
4118CD	Drainage improvement in Northern New Territories – package B	166	2nd half of 2007	1st half of 2010

4119CD	Drainage improvement in Northern New Territories – package C	330	1st half of 2007	1st half of 2011
4120CD	Drainage improvement in Sai Kung	160	1st half of 2007	2nd half of 2009
4128CD	Drainage improvement in Southern Lantau	80	2nd half of 2007	2nd half of 2010

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____
C.K. WONG

Post Title _____
Director of Drainage Services

Date _____
16 March 2007

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)036

Head : 39 - Drainage Services Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Stormwater Drainage

0573

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : As far as nullah decking is concerned, please tell the Council:

- (a) The number of nullahs planned for construction in 2006-07 and 2007-08 and the location and the estimated cost of each project.
- (b) Have other alternatives been examined instead of nullah decking (such as greening of nullah) to enhance the nullah and the ecology in the neighbourhood? If yes, what are the details of the plan and the estimated cost? If no, what is the reason?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply :

- (a) The details of nullah decking works commencing in 2006-07 and 2007-08 are as follows:

2006-07

Location	Estimated Cost (\$M)
Summit Terrace Nullah, Tsuen Wan	3
Kwai Wing Road Nullah Ramp, Kwai Chung	2
Yip Shing Street Nullah, Kwai Chung	2
Total	\$7M

2007-08

Location	Estimated Cost (\$M)
Jordan Valley Nullah, Kwun Tong	25
Rambler Crest Nullah, Tsing Yi	60
Flower Market Road Nullah, Mongkok	57
Tonkin Street Nullah, Shamshuipo	60
Total	\$202M

- (b) Apart from the decking of nullahs, the Drainage Services Department commenced in January 2007, a \$10.8M study on the feasibility of the rehabilitation and improvement of the Yuen Long Town nullahs to examine options of improving the environment and enhancing the ecological values of the nullahs. The options include greening, dry weather flow interception, beautification, etc., and their potential impact on the flooding risk will be considered. The study will take about 20 months to complete. The outcome of the study will help to determine the implementation strategy and works programme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C.K. WONG

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)037

Head : 39 - Drainage Services Department Subhead (No. & ti

Programme : (1) Stormwater Drainage

2459

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : In 2007-08, five new posts will be created. Please tell the Council the ranks, responsibilities and estimated expenditure involved of the relevant posts.

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply : The posts to be created in 2007-08 comprise five Works Supervisor II (Civil) who will be responsible for providing operational support for the maintenance of stormwater drains. The estimated expenditure involved in terms of Notional Annual Mid-Point Salary is \$912,900.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C.K. WONG

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 16 March 2007

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead: 000 – Operational expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question:

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) will create eight additional permanent posts in 2007-08. Will the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The titles of the new posts, the departments concerned and the annual salary expenditure;
- (b) The reasons for creating the new posts;
- (c) Whether the eight permanent posts are created to replace the non-civil service contract positions and temporary positions; and
- (d) The present number of non-civil service contract staff and temporary staff required on a long-term basis in the department. Will all of them be employed on permanent terms? When will all of them be employed on such terms?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok Hing

Reply:

(a)/(b) In 2007-08, we will create eight new posts including one Electrical and Mechanical Engineer, six Mechanical Inspectors and one Electrical Inspector in EMSD. The expenditure in terms of notional annual mid-point salary (NAMS) is as follows –

Post	No.	Unit NAMS as at 1.1.2007 (\$)	Total NAMS (\$)	Reasons for the Creation of the Posts
Electrical and Mechanical Engineer/Assistant Electrical and Mechanical Engineer	1	442,620	442,620	To further promote and enhance gas safety and lifts/escalators safety
Electrical Inspector	1	438,900	438,900	
Mechanical Inspector	6	438,900	2,633,400	
TOTAL	8		3,514,920	

- (c) The eight new posts are not created to replace the existing non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff or temporary staff.
- (d) The special review conducted jointly with the Civil Service Bureau last year established that the duties of 14 NCSC staff in the department should more appropriately be performed by civil servants. Their positions will be replaced by filling existing and anticipated vacant civil service posts and, as necessary, creating new posts. When there is open recruitment for civil service posts, NCSC staff will have to apply in response to vacancy advertisement in the same manner as outside candidates in accordance with established government policy.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **HO KWONG WAI** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services** _____

Date _____ **16 March 2007** _____

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)039

Question Serial No.

Head : 60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

0466

Programme : (4) Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question :

While indicators show that the number of vegetation maintenance cases completed in 2005 and 2006 was 1 686 and 2 959 respectively, the expenditure on vegetation maintenance for roadside slopes and expressways was \$7.5 million in 2005 and \$21.5 million in 2006. Both figures in 2006 were much higher than those in 2005. Why? How will the department further strengthen these maintenance works in 2007-08?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Bernard

Reply :

The Highways Department has started to take up vegetation maintenance responsibilities for roadside slopes and expressways in the territory in stages since 2004. The number of maintenance cases and the associated expenditure have gradually increased thus accounting for the higher figures in 2006 than those of 2005. In 2007-08, the scope of vegetation maintenance will cover all slopes and expressways in the territory and we plan to carry out two rounds of maintenance operation under our maintenance programme every year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ WAI CHI SING _____

Post Title _____ Director of Highways _____

Date _____ 16 March 2007 _____

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)040

Question Serial No.

0994

Head :
60 - Highways Department

Subhead :

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question :

Regarding the target of "issuing road excavation/road work permits within 12 days", both 2005 and 2006 have an achievement rate of 100% and the planned achievement rate for 2007 is also set at 100%. Will the Administration consider shortening the target time for issuing the permits? If yes, please provide the details. If not, please state the reasons.

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

We will review the situation having regard to the actual processing time taken in the past few years, other competing priorities and the predicted number of permit applications to assess whether we can shorten the target time for issuing the permits.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **WAI CHI SING** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Highways** _____

Date _____ **16 March 2007** _____

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)041

Question Serial No.

Head :
60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

1298

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question :

Regarding the indicator of "expenditure on roadside slope works", the estimated expenditure for 2007 is \$66.3 million. This amount is significantly smaller than the actual expenditure of \$126.9 million in 2006. What are the reasons for the drastic reduction?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

The difference between the actual expenditure in 2006 and the estimated expenditure in 2007 is due to the substantial completion of the Safe Access for Roadside Slopes Project in 2006. This project involves the construction of accesses to about 3 400 roadside slopes to facilitate maintenance contractors to carry out inspections and maintenance works safely.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **WAI CHI SING** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Highways** _____

Date _____ **16 March 2007** _____

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)042

Head :
60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

1560

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question :

It is stated under "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08" that the Highways Department will develop a new computer system to replace the Utility Management System to improve efficiency in excavation permit processing. Please provide information on:

- (a) the estimated expenditure entailed by the new computer system;
- (b) the way in which the new system helps to improve the efficiency in processing the applications for excavation permit;
- (c) when the new system is expected to come into operation.

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply :

- (a) The cost of employing a consultant to develop the new computer system to replace the Utility Management System (UMS) is estimated to be \$9.5 million;
- (b) The existing UMS was rolled out in October 1997. With the changes in requirements and procedures over the years, the basic computer system architecture and processes built into the system have become major limiting factors in further improving the efficiency of the business processes. The new computer system will enable the Highways Department to process the applications faster; allow applicants to view the status of their application in real time; enhance electronic authentication to promote electronic submissions; and enable spatial data conversion between different computer systems;
- (c) We plan to roll out the new computer system in mid 2008.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ WAI CHI SING _____

Post Title _____ Director of Highways _____

Date _____ 16 March 2007 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)043

Head :
60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

1569

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question :

The estimate for the indicator of “expenditure on roadside slope works” is \$66.3 million under the captioned programme. This represents a decrease of \$51.7 million (43.8%) compared to the estimated expenditure of \$118 million in 2006. What are the reasons for the drastic decrease?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

The difference between the estimate in 2006 and 2007 is due to the substantial completion of the Safe Access for Roadside Slopes Project in 2006. This project involves the construction of accesses to about 3 400 roadside slopes to facilitate maintenance contractors to carry out inspections and maintenance works safely.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ WAI CHI SING _____

Post Title _____ Director of Highways _____

Date _____ 16 March 2007 _____

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)044

Question Serial No.

2270

Head :
60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question :

In 2007-08, the Administration will develop a new computer system to replace the Utility Management System to improve efficiency in excavation permit processing. Please provide this Committee with:

1. details about the new system, including the new functions of the system and the anticipated level of improvement in efficiency;
2. information about the expenditures involved and a breakdown of these expenditures.

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

1. The Utility Management System (UMS) was rolled out in October 1997. In 2002, an internet interface for UMS was provided to enable applicants to apply excavation permits through internet. With the changes in business requirements and procedures over the years, the basic computer system architecture and processes built into the UMS have become major limiting factors in further improving the efficiency of the business processes. The new computer system will: (a) enable the Highways Department to process the applications faster; (b) enable the applicants to view the status of their applications in real time; (c) enhance electronic authentication to promote electronic submissions; and (d) reduce the Highways Department's staff resources in carrying out spatial data conversion exercises between different computer systems. The overall time to process excavation permit application is expected to be reduced by 10 to 20%.
2. The development cost of the new computer system is estimated to be \$9.5 million. The breakdowns is as follows:

	Item	Cost (\$ million)
i.	Hardware and software cost	0.3
ii.	Development cost	8.5
iii	Contingency	0.7
	Total	9.5

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ WAI CHI SING _____

Post Title _____ Director of Highways _____

Date _____ 16 March 2007 _____

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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)045

Question Serial

No.

0115

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : At present, how many remote villages in the New Territories are still not yet provided with metered water supply? What is the programme for provision of metered water supply to these villages? What are the expenditures involved?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply : There remains 19 villages in very remote parts of the New Territories not yet provided with metered water supply. Stream or ground-water is available in such villages. Because of their remoteness and small population, it is not cost-effective to provide metered water supply to them and as such there is at present no programme for provision. The monitoring of the water quality of the existing water sources will continue and the situation will be reviewed periodically.

Signature:

Name in block letters:

CHAN Chi Chiu

Post Title:

Director of Water Supplies

Date:

16 March 2007

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)046

Question Serial
No.

0116

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : How much resources will be reserved for inspection and maintenance of slopes and water mains which may affect these slopes in this year? How much resources will be spent on improvement to sub-standard slopes in this year?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply : We have earmarked a total of \$45 million in 2007-08 for the inspection and maintenance of slopes maintained by the Water Supplies Department (WSD) and the buried water mains which may affect these slopes. In addition, we will spend about \$64 million in 2007-08 on improvement works to the slopes maintained by the WSD that have been found to be sub-standard.

Signature:

Name in block letters:

CHAN Chi Chiu

Post Title:

Director of Water Supplies

Date:

16 March 2007

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)047

Question Serial
No.

0587

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Regarding the leakage of water mains, please advise this Council:

- (a) The amount of economic loss due to the leakage of water mains in 2006-07.
- (b) Does the government have any measures to reduce the leakage of water mains in Hong Kong? If yes, what are the relevant details of these measures taken, the corresponding implementation programme and the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Chu-ming, Martin

Reply :

- (a) The leakage rate of water mains of the water distribution system in 2006-07 is about 23%. As water mains are subject to high water pressure in order to maintain a reliable water supply to all customers, leakage in some water mains is unavoidable to a certain extent. Such leakage is more an operational constraint than an economic loss.
- (b) The Water Supplies Department (WSD) has implemented the following measures in order to reduce the leakage of water mains in Hong Kong as far as possible:
 - (1) Replacement and Rehabilitation of Water Mains
Statistical data of the water mains (e.g. age, materials, main burst records and maintenance history) are used to identify the water mains to be replaced and rehabilitated and determine the priority of such works. Implementation of the replacement and rehabilitation works will rejuvenate the water distribution system and reduce leakage in water mains.

(2) Continuous Monitoring

Continuous monitoring of the water distribution system is employed to pick up early signs of suspected leakage whereby remedial works can be timely arranged.

(3) Proactive Leakage Control

Regular and systematic leak detection tests over the water distribution system are carried out to locate underground leaks so that they can be repaired as early as possible.

(4) Pressure Management

Flow-modulated pressure reducing valves are installed at strategic locations to regulate water pressure in the water distribution system to reduce the chance of water leakage while maintaining an adequate water pressure to customers.

WSD commenced from end 2000 the replacement and rehabilitation works [Item (1) above] covering about 3 000 kilometres of water mains for completion within 15 years. The estimated total expenditure of the works is \$14 billion. In addition, WSD carries out leakage control works [Items (2) to (4) above] with an annual expenditure of about \$10 million.

Signature:

Name in block letters:

CHAN Chi Chiu

Post Title:

Director of Water Supplies

Date:

16 March 2007

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)048

Question Serial No.

0967

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : In 2007-08, the Water Supplies Department (WSD) will continue to implement the asset management plan for improving the efficiency and conditions of water supply facilities. Please provide the relevant details in this regard.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

Assets in the Water Supplies Department (WSD) are broadly grouped into two categories: underground and surface assets.

Underground assets mainly comprise of water supply and distribution networks of some 7 200 kilometres of water mains. A consultancy study on Underground Asset Management was completed and an Underground Asset Management Plan has been produced. In accordance with the Plan, WSD has embarked on a 15-year large scale territory-wide water mains replacement and rehabilitation programme to redress the burst and leak problems caused by ageing water mains.

A similar study was completed to formulate a 20-year Surface Asset Management Plan for better planning of asset requirements, scheduling of maintenance works and optimising the utilization of resources. In accordance with the Plan, WSD has set up a computerised Surface Asset Management System that houses the surface asset register. It records asset conditions and keeps track of the life cycle of individual assets. The asset conditions are surveyed at regular intervals and stored in the system for further analysis. Improvement works to rectify major defects or increase production efficiency are prioritised according to asset conditions and their relative importance to maintaining a reliable water supply.

Signature:

Name in block letters:

CHAN Chi Chiu

Post Title:

Director of Water Supplies

Date:

16 March 2007

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)049

Question Serial
No.

0968

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : In 2007-08, the Water Supplies Department (WSD) will continue to explore alternative approaches to achieve greater efficiency in the delivery of water supply services. Please advise this Council of the studies undertaken, including the items involved, the progress of each item and the expenditures already spent on these items?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

In 2007-08, the initiatives employed by the Water Supplies Department (WSD) to explore different approaches to achieve greater efficiency in the water supply services include notably the following:

- (a) Continuing the study on Total Water Management (TWM) in Hong Kong to map out a long-term strategy on optimising the share of various water resources and measures to meet the future water demand, such as reclaimed water, desalinated water, local yield, water conservation measures etc. in addition to the use of the Dongjiang water. The estimated cost of the study is \$5 million.
- (b) Implementing the Maintenance Works Management System (MWMS), which is a major computerization project costing about \$17 million to enhance the efficiency in processing the planning, approval, monitoring and payment to contractors etc in connection with maintenance work.
- (c) Continuing the implementation of a territory-wide water mains replacement and rehabilitation programme according to our Underground Asset Management Plan. The programme will be completed in 2015 and will significantly enhance the efficiency of the water distribution network and redress the problems brought about by bursts and leaks in the aged system.
- (d) Developing through in-house resources, enhancement measures to surface assets according to their conditions and relative importance as prioritised by our Surface Asset Management System.

- (e) Exploring and taking forward continuous improvements in energy efficiency through pressure management, variable speed pumping, meticulous energy audits and the optimisation of pumping patterns for key water transfers of raw water between the raw water sources and the water treatment works.
- (f) Assessing different procurement approaches including the public private partnership (PPP) approach and conventional procurement approach for the rehabilitation of the Sha Tin Water Treatment Works.

Signature:

Name in block letters:

CHAN Chi Chiu

Post Title:

Director of Water Supplies

Date:

16 March 2007

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)050

Question Serial
No.

0969

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What was the annual expenditure in the past three years for promoting and educating the public about water conservation? What is the estimated expenditure on this activity in 2007-8 and what are the details of this activity?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

The average annual expenditure on promotion of water conservation and related themes in the past three years was about \$1.3 million. The budget for 2007-08 will be similar and will include the following promotional activities:

- (a) seminars and talks for various target groups such as property management companies, owners' corporations, schools etc.;
- (b) roving exhibitions at housing estates and schools;
- (c) announcements in the Public Interest (APIs) on television and radio;
- (d) promotional messages and inserts issued with water bills;
- (e) distribution of leaflets, posters, stickers and souvenirs;
- (f) promotional events with schools and children magazines;
- (g) advertisements through various media, e.g. the press and public transport systems (buses, MTR, KCR, LRT, airport terminal, etc);
- (h) press interviews and sponsored newspaper supplements;
- (i) educational visits or activities at waterworks installations; and
- (j) open days of major water treatment works.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ CHAN Chi Chiu

Post Title: _____ Director of Water Supplies

Date: _____ 16 March 2007

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)051

Question Serial No.

1674

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : In 2007-08, the Water Supplies Department (WSD) will continue to plan and develop water resources and water supply systems, please advise the following:

1. The details of the concrete plan and measures, and the expenditure involved;
2. As the Mainland is a major source of raw water supply to Hong Kong, will the above plan and measures include the co-operation or studies undertaken by the WSD with the relevant Mainland departments? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

1. To meet the changing needs of Hong Kong, the Water Supplies Department (WSD) is taking forward the following major initiatives:
 - (a) A study on the Total Water Management (TWM) in Hong Kong to map out the long-term strategy on the share of various water resources to be developed and the measures to be implemented to meet the future water demand. These include Dongjiang water, reclaimed water, desalinated water, local yield, water conservation measures etc. The estimated cost of the study is \$5 million.
 - (b) A pilot plant study to investigate the technical and financial viability of seawater desalination using reverse osmosis in Hong Kong. The estimated cost is \$14 million.
 - (c) Pilot schemes on the use of reclaimed water at Ngong Ping and Shek Wu Hui with estimated costs of \$7 million and \$15 million respectively.
 - (d) Extension or improvements of the water supply systems. The total estimated value of the projects in hand in 2007 amounts to about \$1,154 million.
2. Dongjiang water is the major water resource for Hong Kong. Whilst we do not have joint studies with the Guangdong authorities, WSD has maintained close liaison with the Guangdong authorities to ensure a stable supply of good quality Dongjiang water to meet the demand of Hong Kong.

Signature:

Name in block letters:

CHAN Chi Chiu

Post Title:

Director of Water Supplies

Date:

16 March 2007

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)052

Question Serial
No.

1683

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Water Supply: Planning and Distribution

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The Policy Agenda does not mention any plan and budget for water conservation. Will the Water Supplies Department (WSD) please advise:

Are there any plans or measures to promote water conservation in 2007-08? If yes, what are the details and estimated expenditure? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The promotional activities for water conservation and related themes in 2007-08 include the following:

- (a) seminars and talks for various target groups such as property management companies, owners' corporations, schools etc.;
- (b) roving exhibitions at housing estates and schools;
- (c) announcements in the Public Interest (APIs) on television and radio;
- (d) promotional messages and inserts issued with water bills;
- (e) distribution of leaflets, posters, stickers and souvenirs;
- (f) promotional events with schools and children magazines;
- (g) advertisements through various media, e.g. the press and public transport systems (buses, MTR, KCR, LRT, airport terminal, etc);
- (h) press interviews and sponsored newspaper supplements;
- (i) educational visits or activities at waterworks installations; and
- (j) open days of major water treatment works.

The estimated expenditure for 2007-08 is \$1.3 million.

Signature:

Name in block letters:

CHAN Chi Chiu

Post Title:

Director of Water Supplies

Date:

16 March 2007

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)054

Head: CWRP Head 704 - Drainage

Subhead (No. & title): 4128CD

Question Serial No.

1523

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What is the progress of 4128CD "Drainage improvement in Southern Lantau"? On what aspects will the provision of 2007-08 be spent? When will it be expected to complete? Is there any discrepancy with the expected completion date when the project is approved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : We have completed the investigations and design for **4128CD** "Drainage improvement in Southern Lantau" and we plan to submit the funding proposal to the Public Works Subcommittee in April 2007. Works are expected to commence in mid-2007 for completion by end-2010. The provision of \$8.4 million in 2007-08 is mainly for site preparation and the early phases of the improvement works.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C.K. WONG

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 16 March 2007

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)055

Question Serial No.

0807

Head : Capital Works Reserve Fund

Subhead :

705 Civil Engineering

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development/
Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question :

In this Head, the 2007-08 estimated expenditure is \$1,824.217 million, which is \$398.606 million less than the 2006-07 revised estimate of \$2,222.823 million. The reduction is 17.9%. Please advise this Committee of the reasons for the drastic reduction.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

The decrease of \$398.606 million in the 2007-08 estimate as compared with the 2006-07 revised estimate is mainly due to the progressive completion of works of the following major projects:-

- (a) 5045DR – Restoration of Pillar Point Valley landfill;
- (b) 5662CL – Reclamation of Penny's Bay stage 1 works, design of site formation at Yam O and design of associated infrastructure and government, institution and community facilities for the development of Hong Kong Disneyland phase 1 on Lantau Island; and
- (c) 5697CL – Infrastructure for Penny's Bay development, package 3 and Penny's Bay reclamation stage 2.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Adrian NG

Post Title Director of Civil Engineering and Development (Acting)

Date _____ 16.3.2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)056

Question Serial No.

1051

Head : Capital Works Reserve Fund
705 Civil Engineering

Subhead : 5037CG Greening Master Plans
for Kowloon West and Hong
Kong Island – works for Tsim
Sha Tsui and Central

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question :

The approved estimate for Greening Master Plans for Kowloon West and Hong Kong Island – works for Tsim Sha Tsui and Central is \$38.4 million, and the revised estimate for 2006-07 is \$11.7 million only. With a surplus of \$26.7 million, why is the estimate for 2007-08 substantially reduced to about \$6 million? What are the reasons for not expediting the works?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply :

The reduction in the revised estimate for 2006-07 and the estimate for 2007-08 is mainly due to the awarded contract sum for the Greening Works in Tsim Sha Tsui and Central being lower than what we have allowed for in the approved project estimate. Works under the contract have been substantially completed in 2006-07, with the remaining works at isolated locations and irrigation facilities to be undertaken in 2007-08.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Adrian NG

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering and Development (Acting)

Date _____ 16.3.2007

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