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### Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2019-20

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Development

Session No. : 17

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-DEVB(W)001**

**(Question Serial No. S090)**

Head: (159) Government Secretariat: Development Bureau  
(Works Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): Not specified

Programme: ( 3 ) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (LAM Sai-hung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

What are the statistics on the expenditures, staff recruited and their ranks related to tree maintenance work (not including the planting of new trees) in the Development Bureau in the financial year 2019-20?

Asked by: Hon HUI Chi-fung (Member Question No. (LegCo use): S090)

Reply:

The 2019-20 financial provision under the Works Branch's Programme (3) covers all the activities and work of the Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section (GLTMS), which is responsible, among other duties, for formulating policies and strategies on tree management and overseeing their implementation. There is no separate cost breakdown specifically for tree maintenance work, which is part of GLTMS's regular duties.

We have earmarked, respectively, \$39.7 million\* and \$28.6 million\* for meeting GLTMS's personal emoluments and other operational expenses in 2019-20. There are 32 civil service posts and two non-civil service contract positions in GLTMS. In addition, it is employing three staff on post-retirement service contracts and three temporary agency staff.

\*In accordance with prevailing government accounting practices, the funding in the account for personal emoluments is for paying the salaries of civil servants while the funding in the account for other operational expenses also covers the cost of hiring full-time and part-time contract staff and agency staff.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-DEVB(W)002**

**(Question Serial No. S00091)**

Head: (159) Government Secretariat: Development Bureau  
(Works Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): Not specified

Programme: (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (LAM Sai-hung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Regarding the setting up of the Urban Forestry Support Fund as stated in this year's Budget Speech, its budget of \$200 million is to be used in the following four directions:

- (1) providing sponsorships and scholarships for courses;
- (2) rolling out arboricultural and horticultural trainee programmes;
- (3) organising international urban forestry conferences; and
- (4) promoting community involvement activities.

What are the specific details? How is the funding to be allocated to each of the areas?

Asked by: Hon HUI Chi-fung (Member Question No. (LegCo use): S091)

Reply:

The proposed Urban Forestry Support Fund is aimed at encouraging more people to pursue training and acquire work experience in arboriculture and horticulture by providing financial incentives such as course subsidies or scholarships. It will cover training programmes operated by tertiary institutions and courses recognised under the Qualifications Framework.

Regarding the proposed trainee programmes, the Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section (GLTMS) of the Development Bureau will invite tree management departments, landscape contractors and companies providing arboricultural and horticultural services to offer internships and on-the-job training opportunities. A suitable organisation with experience in running apprenticeships or trainee programmes will be appointed to implement the proposed programmes.

As for international urban forestry conferences and community involvement activities, GLTMS will explore ideas with different stakeholders, including community organisations.

GLTMS is now consulting training institutions, professional bodies and the industry on implementation arrangements and has yet to finalise details of any proposals and funding allocation arrangements for different initiatives.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-DEVB(W)003**

**(Question Serial No. SV014)**

Head: (159) Government Secretariat: Development Bureau  
(Works Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): Not specified

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) (LAM Sai-hung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Please state whether, according to the Administration's current procedure for supervising public works projects, a government-issued Request for Inspection and Survey Checks (RISC) form is required for a concrete supplier to deliver concrete to the contractor's site.

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (Member Question No. (LegCo use): SV014)

Reply:

In general, before pouring concrete in a public works project, the contractor has to first complete the formwork erection and rebar fixing processes, and then submit a Request for Inspection and/or Survey Checks (RISC) form to request resident site staff to carry out inspections and survey checks. The contractor can proceed to pour concrete only after obtaining approval. The contractor's notification of the concrete supplier regarding delivery of concrete to the site does not involve the RISC form. After concrete is delivered to the site, the resident site staff will follow contract requirements and carry out in-situ testing of concrete samples, including preparation of concrete cubes for future testing. In addition, the resident site staff will oversee the entire concrete pouring process to ensure that the quality of the finished concrete can meet contract requirements.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****S-DEVB(W)004****(Question Serial No. SV013)**Head: (33) Civil Engineering and Development DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): Not specifiedProgramme: (3) Provision of Land and InfrastructureControlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development (Ricky C K LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for DevelopmentQuestion:

This is a follow-up question to Reply Serial No. DEVB(W)059:

Please advise of the publicity expenses of the past development projects (such as the Northeast New Territories Development Plan and Hung Shui Kiu Development Plan) of comparable scale as the "Lantau Tomorrow Vision", including the fees incurred for the production of pamphlets.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuenReply:

In the past five years (2014-15 to 2018-19), publicity expenses were incurred for the following major development projects :-

Project	Brief description of publicity activity	Average annual publicity expense (\$ million)
Hung Shui Kiu Development	Community engagement and liaison	2.4
First Phase of Kwu Tung North and Fanling North New Development Area (NDA)	Community engagement and liaison	2.6

The expenditure for promotion of conservation and development of Lantau is comparable to some ongoing major development projects.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-DEVB(W)005**

**(Question Serial No. SV015)**

Head: (33) Civil Engineering and Development Department

Subhead (No. & title): Not specified

Programme: (3) Provision of Land and Infrastructure

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development (Ricky C K LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

This is a follow-up question to Reply Serial No. DEVB(W)057:

(1) According to the Government, government departments conducted preliminary technical scoping analysis with internal resources on the proposed reclamation works in the Central Waters in mid-2018. What is the progress of such analysis?

(2) In light of the massive scale of the proposed works, the Government is supposed to formulate specific plans to handle the work related to the underlying studies. What are the timetable and scale of such studies?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai

Reply:

(1) In mid-2018, government departments, utilising internal resources, completed a preliminary broad technical analysis of the proposed reclamation in the Central Waters, based on the consideration of water flow, water depth, navigation channel and marine traffic as well as marine ecology, with a view to exploring whether the study extent of the proposed reclamation could be expanded.

(2) We plan to develop artificial islands in the Central Waters in phases. The first phase of the development will focus on the artificial islands around Kau Yi Chau, with a total reclaimed area of about 1 000 hectares. On 26 March 2019, we briefed the Panel on Development on our proposal to upgrade the Public Works Programme Item No. 768CL "Studies related to Artificial Islands in the Central Waters" (the Studies) to Category A.

The scope of the Studies includes a detailed planning and engineering study for the artificial islands around Kau Yi Chau, a transport infrastructure study covering the roads and rails connecting the Hong Kong Island, the artificial islands in the Central Waters, Lantau and coastal areas of Tuen Mun, as well as collection of information on

waters within and in the vicinity of the possible artificial islands near Hei Ling Chau and Cheung Chau South. Subject to funding approval of the Finance Committee, we plan to commence the Studies in the latter half of 2019 for completion in 42 months. Please refer to the LC Paper No. CB(1)729/18-19(03) for details.

In addition, we plan to submit funding applications to the Legislative Council in the latter half of 2019 to conduct an engineering study on Road P1 (Tai Ho–Sunny Bay Section), a planning and engineering study on Sunny Bay reclamation, as well as the planning and engineering studies on the reclamation at Lung Kwu Tan and the replanning of Tuen Mun West areas (including the River Trade Terminal site and its surroundings).

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-DEVB(W)006**

**(Question Serial No. S097)**

Head: (33) Civil Engineering and Development Department

Subhead (No. & title): Not specified

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development (Ricky C K LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

As a follow-up question to Reply Serial No. DEVB(W)025, the Government had conducted a preliminary traffic impact assessment titled "Report on Preliminary Traffic and Transport Impact Assessments" (ref. R08-03) under the "Technical Study on Transport Infrastructure at Kennedy Town for Connection to East Lantau Metropolis – Feasibility Study". Please provide the report and information of such studies

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick

Reply:

The Civil Engineering and Development Department is handling the request for releasing the Report on Preliminary Traffic and Transport Impact Assessments in accordance with the Code on Access to Information.

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-DEVB(W)007**

**(Question Serial No. S098)**

Head: (33) Civil Engineering and Development Department

Subhead (No. & title): Not specified

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development (Ricky C K LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

As a follow-up question to Reply Serial No. DEVB(W)062, please inform of:

- 1) the estimates and manpower to be involved in taking forward the works projects as set out in the Sustainable Lantau Blueprint in the coming year (2019-2020);
- 2) the estimates and manpower to be involved in taking forward the conservation projects as set out in the Sustainable Lantau Blueprint in the coming year (2019-2020).

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick

Reply:

Under the overarching principle of "Development in the North, Conservation for the South", the Sustainable Lantau Office of the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) has been taking forward the planning, assessment, design and implementation of various development, conservation, local improvement and leisure and recreation projects in Lantau as set out in the Sustainable Lantau Blueprint. The estimates in Financial Year (FY) 2019-20 for major projects are summarised below:

Item		Estimate for FY 2019-20 (\$ million)
<b>Development</b>		
1.	Tung Chung New Town Extension – reclamation and advance works	1,787
2.	Tung Chung New Town Extension – detailed design and site investigation	42

Item		Estimate for FY 2019-20 (\$ million)
3.	Provide supporting infrastructures to the public housing development at Tung Chung Area 54: First stage: Construction of footpath, cycle track, cycle parking area and bus layby Second stage: Construction of a new carriageway and sewers	75
4.	Studies related to the artificial islands in the Central Waters	Subject to funding approval by the Legislative Council (LegCo)
5.	Studies related to a road parallel to the North Lantau Highway (Tai Ho to Sunny Bay Section)	Nil (Targeted to commence in Q2 2020, subject to funding approval by the LegCo)
<b>Conservation</b>		
6.	Ecological Study for Pui O, Shui Hau, Tai O and Neighbouring Areas	2
7.	Providing financial support for conservation projects in South Lantau under the Environmental Education and Community Action Projects of the Environment and Conservation Fund	Not applicable  (A total of about \$2.7 million for two projects were approved in FY 2018-19. The projects will last for about two years)
8.	Setting up the \$1 billion Lantau Conservation Fund	Not applicable
9.	Implementing the following measures to strengthen control on landfilling and dumping of construction and demolition (C&D) wastes:  (i) plan to conduct a Proof of Concept Study on the feasibility of identifying vehicles entering South Lantau without a valid Lantau Closed Road Permit; and  (ii) plan to step up the effort to reinstate government land affected in collaboration with relevant departments.	) ) ) Under review ) )

Item	Estimate for FY 2019-20 (\$ million)	
<b>Local Improvement Works</b>		
10.	Improvement works at Mui Wo	15.5
11.	Improvement works at Tai O	19
12.	Improvement works at Ma Wan Chung	0.3
13.	Exploring improvement to internal roads and pier facilities in South Lantau under “Study on Traffic, Transport and Capacity to Receive Visitors for Lantau”	Under review
<b>Sustainable Leisure and Recreation Facilities</b>		
14.	Planning and Engineering Study on Sunny Bay Reclamation	Nil (Targeted to commence in Q2 2020, subject to funding approval by the LegCo)
15.	Expansion of mountain bike trail in Mui Wo and Chi Ma Wan, and construction of a practice ground at Mui Wo	12.9
16.	Quick-win improvement works on hiking trails and recreation facilities	Under review
17.	Study on Lantau Trails and Recreation Plan	Under review

As regards the manpower, the above projects are being undertaken by existing staff members of the CEDD as part of their overall duties. Moreover, there are conservation elements integrated in development projects and vice versa. We therefore could not provide a breakdown of the manpower dedicated to either development or conservation projects under the Sustainable Lantau Blueprint.

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-DEVB(W)008**

**(Question Serial No. S099)**

Head: (33) Civil Engineering and Development Department

Subhead (No. & title): Not specified

Programme: (3) Provision of Land and Infrastructure

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development (Ricky C K LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

This is a follow-up question to Reply Serial No. DEVB(W)061:

1) What are the methodology to be adopted, time span and scope for the statutory Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the development proposal of the 1 000 hectares artificial islands near Kau Yi Chau?

2) With regard to the question above, will consultant(s) be commissioned to carry out the EIA by means of tenders? If so, what will be the criteria? If not, what are the reasons?

3) Upon completion of "Increasing Land Supply by Reclamation and Rock Cavern Development cum Public Engagement - Feasibility Study" and "Cumulative Environmental Impact Assessment Study for the Three Potential Nearshore Reclamation Sites in the Western Waters of Hong Kong – Investigation" by the Civil Engineering and Development Department in 2015, only executive summaries have been available so far. Would the Government submit the whole study reports? Will future EIAs make reference to the past information? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick

Reply:

1) and 2)

The studies related to artificial islands in the Central Waters (the Study) will comprise an environmental impact assessment (EIA) for the development proposal of the 1 000 hectares artificial islands near Kau Yi Chau. The methodology and the scope of the EIA will strictly comply with the statutory requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Cap 499). Subject to funding approval of the Finance Committee, we plan to commence the Study in the latter half of 2019 for completion in 42 months. We will strictly follow the procurement regulations promulgated by the Government to engage consultants to undertake the Study and the EIA through an open, fair and impartial manner.

3)

The Executive Summaries of the “Enhancing Land Supply Strategy: Reclamation Outside Victoria Harbour and Rock Cavern Development” (ELSS), including that for the “Final Report for Cumulative Environmental Impact Assessment Study for the Three Potential Near-shore Reclamation Sites in the Western Waters of Hong Kong”, have been uploaded to the website of the Civil Engineering and Development Department since 2015 for easy access by the public. Requests for other reports will be handled in accordance with the Code on Access to Information.

When conducting future EIAs for reclamation and/or rock cavern development projects, we will make reference to the findings of relevant studies, such as the ELSS.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**S-DEVB(W)009**

**(Question Serial No. S075)**

Head: (194) Water Supplies Department

Subhead (No. & title): Not Specified

Programme: (2) Water Quality Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Water Supplies (C L WONG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

(a) It is known that the existing chlorine generation plant at Ngau Tam Mei water treatment works (WTW) is temporarily producing sodium hypochlorite solution for the use of Tai Po WTW Stream II in disinfection of drinking water. However, please provide the relevant information on the cost of operation and maintenance and the quantity of sodium hypochlorite solution produced.

(b) Please provide the quantities of chlorine used and the costs of purchasing chlorine by Ngau Tam Mei WTW and each of the other 10 WTWs in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon CHU Hoi-dick (LegCo internal reference no.: 74)

Reply:

(a) As the pilot on-site chlorine generation (OSCG) plant installed at Ngau Tam Mei water treatment works (WTW) is temporarily producing sodium hypochlorite solution for the use of Tai Po WTW Stream II (constructed under the Tai Po WTW expansion contract) for disinfection of drinking water before the commissioning of the OSCG plants at Tai Po WTW itself, the operation and maintenance work of the pilot OSCG plant under this special operation mode has been ordered as a variation to the Tai Po WTW expansion contract. The cost of this variation work has not yet been finalized and hence is not available at this stage.

The quantity of sodium hypochlorite solution produced by the pilot OSCG plant at Ngau Tam Mei WTW is dependent on the output of the Tai Po WTW Stream II which in turn is to suit the operation need as well as its dosage requirement of sodium hypochlorite. The quantity of sodium hypochlorite solution produced by the pilot OSCG plant is currently about 2 700 litres per day.

(b) The quantity and the associated cost of liquid chlorine consumed in each WTW are dependent on the output of the WTW which in turn is to suit the operation need as well as its chlorine dosage requirement.

The liquid chlorine consumptions at Ngau Tam Mei WTW and the other 10 WTWs in the past 3 years are as follows:

WTW	Liquid Chlorine Consumption (Metric Tonne)		
	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Ngau Tam Mei	102	96	102
Au Tau	113	155	143
Ma On Shan	102	135	129
Pak Kong	433	421	358
Sha Tin	457	474	521
Sheung Shui	104	119	131
Silver Mine Bay	49	52	49
Siu Ho Wan	36	37	42
Tsuen Wan	45	30	35
Tuen Mun	67	52	25
Yau Kom Tau	84	95	85

The costs of the liquid chlorine consumed at Ngau Tam Mei WTW and the other 10 WTWs in the past 3 years are as follows:

WTW	Expenditure in Liquid Chlorine Supply (\$Million)		
	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Ngau Tam Mei	1.8	1.9	2.3
Au Tau	2.0	3.1	3.3
Ma On Shan	1.8	2.7	2.9
Pak Kong	7.7	8.5	8.1
Sha Tin	8.2	9.5	11.8
Sheung Shui	1.9	2.4	3.0
Silver Mine Bay	0.88	1.0	1.1
Siu Ho Wan	0.64	0.74	0.95
Tsuen Wan	1.2	0.87	1.2
Tuen Mun	1.8	1.5	0.84
Yau Kom Tau	1.5	1.9	1.9

- End -