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Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment, Transport and Works

Session No: 17

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**Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the
Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07**

**Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment, Transport and Works
Session No: 17**

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)001

Question Serial No.

0294

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 :

Appendix B of the Budget Speech shows that there is a decrease of around 10% in real terms in the estimated public expenditure on infrastructure for 2006-07 when compared with the 2005-06 original estimate. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

The expenditure items classified as "infrastructure" comprise those related to three policy areas, namely transport; building, lands and planning; and water supply. The decrease in estimated expenditure in 2006-07 is mainly due to the following factors –

- (i) completion of some mega projects such as land formation and infrastructure for the Hong Kong Disneyland, Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor, Deep Bay Link and widening of Yuen Long Highway;
- (ii) rising community aspirations for in-depth consultation/participation in the planning and design of mega projects such as Wan Chai Development II, Central-Wan Chai Bypass and Kai Tak Development, leading to a longer lead time for project delivery; and
- (iii) expenditure incurred by new mega projects in the pipeline such as Stages 2 and 3 of Replacement & Rehabilitation of Watermains, Reconstruction & Improvement of Tuen Mun Road and Trunk Road T4 at Sha Tin will only start to kick in after 2006-07.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Y C LO

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

Date _____ 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)002

Question Serial No.

0328

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 :

Regarding the examination of ways to enhance the cost-effectiveness of slope upgrading works, please provide details of the present status, the manpower and the expenses involved.

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply :

Slopes are commonly upgraded by using soil nails, which is a major cost component in slope upgrading works. Works Branch (WB) has tasked the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) to explore ways to enhance the cost-effectiveness of slope upgrading works. Using existing resources in the Landslip Preventive Measures Programme under Head 33, CEDD has deployed a group of two professionals with the support of one technical staff to review the soil nail design practice for enhancing the cost effectiveness of slope upgrading works. The review is a continuous exercise which has led to improvement in design practice resulting in optimisation of slope upgrading works. The review is mainly carried out by CEDD. The role of WB is to oversee the outcome of the review, formulate the policy and steer the implementation which form part of its existing duties.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Y C LO

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

Date _____ 10 March 2006

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

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

Question Serial No.

0329

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 :

In this programme, the Government states that it will explore alternative approaches to deliver water supply services under Head 159. How is the progress? Has the Government discussed with the Mainland authorities on these approaches?

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply :

The Water Supplies Department (WSD) is constantly exploring alternative service delivery approaches aimed to enhance efficiency in providing a reliable, adequate and quality supply of water.

In this connection, WSD is making preparations to commission a detailed consultancy study on the proposed in-situ reprovisioning of the Sha Tin Water Treatment Works using Public-Private-Partnership as a procurement model whilst maintaining a close dialogue with the staff side. We will consult the Legislative Council again before embarking on a final decision. The Government has not initiated discussions with authorities in the Mainland on alternative water service delivery approaches.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Y C L O

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

Date _____ 10 March 2006

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)004

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

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

Question Serial No.

0336

Head : 159 Government Secretariat: Subhead : 700 General non-recurrent
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 connection with the general non-recurrent expenditure, please account for the drastic decrease in the revised estimates of some \$8 million in 2005-06 to some \$5 million in 2006-07.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

This is mainly due to the reduced cashflow requirement of an approved item "Start-up grant for the Construction Workers Registration Authority to acquire a computerised registration management system" under Subhead 700 in 2006-07.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Y C L O

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

Date _____ 10 March 2006

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

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

Question Serial No.

0339

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 :

Among the items of operational expenses, the expenditure estimates of temporary staff has increased by more than 10%. Would the Administration account for the increase in expenditure? Will the manpower of temporary staff be increased?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply :

The increase in the estimate of expenditure on temporary staff is mainly for further engaging some 70 engineering graduate trainees under the Graduate Training Scheme upon completion of their formal training in 2006 to acquire the post-training responsible experience required by the relevant professional institutions before they are eligible to sit for the professional assessment.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Y C LO

Post Title _____

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

Date _____

10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)006

Question Serial No.

0340

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

Subhead : 00 Operational expenses

Programme :

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

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

Question :

There is an increase of around 10% in the estimated general departmental expenses. May the Administration explain the reasons for the increase in this respect?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply :

The increase in general departmental expenses is mainly attributable to additional requirement for hiring of consultants and specialist support for computer systems.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Y C L O _____

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

Date _____ 10 March 2006 _____

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

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

Question Serial No.

0689

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 : The Works Branch indicates that it will continue to monitor the delivery of the Public Works Programme to secure early completion of projects and keep its underspending, if any, to below 5%. Please let us know: (a) the details of the work, (b) the reasons for keeping its underspending to 5%, and (c) whether it will make the Controlling Officers increase the expenditure on works deliberately in order to keep the underspending to below 5%, thus resulting in a waste of public money.

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

- Reply :
- (a) Controlling Officers are required to prepare annual budgets of expenditure on Public Works Programme (PWP) projects for inclusion in the Estimates, taking into account actual progress of works and prevailing contract rates. We conduct monthly reviews on the spending pattern and will take mitigation measures, such as fast-tracking of works to rectify the irregularities, if any.
 - (b) The underspending limit of 5% was determined based on historical expenditure performance and has been effective in ensuring optimal resource deployment, delivery of projects on schedule, timely finalization of payments for completed works and preparation of annual budgets of expenditure in a realistic manner.
 - (c) Since this is a monitoring mechanism for the spending of public works projects, and the expenditure on individual projects will have to be kept within the project scope and ambit, it will not lead to any unjustified increase in spending. Furthermore, variations made to the project scope are subject to stringent control measures stipulated under the Stores and Procurement Regulations.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Y C LO

Post Title _____

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

Date _____

10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)008

Question Serial No.

0875

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 :

The estimate for 2006-07 is \$7.8 million (4.7%) higher than the revised estimate for 2005-06. This is mainly due to the increase in the training places under the Graduate Training Scheme. Please tell us the number of training places increased as well as the expenditure so involved.

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply :

We plan to provide further engagement for some 70 engineering graduate trainees under the Graduate Training Scheme upon completion of their formal training in 2006 to acquire the post-training responsible experience required by the relevant professional institutions before they are eligible to sit for the professional assessment. This would cost about \$6 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Y C L O

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

Date _____ 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)009

Question Serial No.

0876

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 estimate for 2006-07 is 7.3% higher than the revised estimate for 2005-06. Please specify the items and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply :

The increase of \$0.9 million in 2006-07 under Programme 2 is attributable to salary increments for existing staff and increased requirements for departmental expenses mainly arising from the additional graduate training places under the Graduate Training Scheme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Y C L O _____

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

Date _____ 10 March 2006 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)010

Question Serial No.

0877

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 :

Five posts will be deleted in 2006-07. Please provide the titles of the five posts and the amount of savings.

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply :

The five posts designated for deletion in 2006-07 include three Senior Engineer posts, one Clerical Officer post and one Personal Secretary II post. As they are planned for deletion towards the end of the financial year, the amount of savings is minimal in 2006-07. However, an annual saving of \$3.2 million in notional annual mid-point salary value could be achieved thereafter.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Y C L O

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

Date _____ 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)011

Question Serial No.

0930

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 :

As regards Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07 in paragraph 9 of Programme 3, please further elaborate on the initiatives which will be introduced to “pursue better market access in the Mainland for construction-related professional services and wider mutual recognition of professional qualifications:?”

Asked by : Hon. Shek Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

The initiatives which will be introduced to pursue better market access in the Mainland for construction-related professional services and wider mutual recognition of professional qualifications are summarised as follows:-

(a) Market Access

- (i) We will continue to liaise with the Mainland authorities to pursue further liberalisation measures under the framework of the Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) to enhance Mainland market access for the construction-related professional services. Communication channels with the Mainland authorities have been established and will be further enhanced to ensure the measures are implemented smoothly.
- (ii) Regular promotional activities including conferences, seminars, study tours and visits have been and will continue to be organised with the Mainland authorities to enable the relevant professions to obtain first-hand information on the Mainland market, and to explore opportunities for cooperation and collaboration with their counterparts and potential partners in the Mainland.
- (iii) We will continue to maintain close contact with the sector to solicit their views regarding market access in the Mainland.

(b) Mutual Recognition

Apart from continuously facilitating the on-going discussions on mutual recognition between the two sides including construction supervising engineers, geotechnical engineers, land surveyors and landscape architects, we will identify other appropriate Mainland counterparts for our local professional institutes to commence discussions on mutual

recognition of other professional qualifications.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Y C L O _____

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

Date _____ 10 March 2006 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)012

Question Serial No.

0931

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

Programme :

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

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

Question :

The Environment, Transport and Works Bureau (Works Branch) stated there will be an estimated 20 directorate posts as at 31 March 2006 and as at 31 March 2007. Please inform this Council:

- a) the nature of work, ranks and salaries of the posts; and
- b) the justifications for the need for the 20 headcounts when the Government has struggled to downsize civil service force and outsourced many capital works projects to the private sector.

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

a) A detailed breakdown on the ranks and salaries of the 20 directorate posts is provided below:

Rank	Post	No.	Notional Annual Mid-point Salary (HK\$)
Administrative Officer Staff Grade A1 (D8)	Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Works)	1	2,172,600
Administrative Officer Staff Grade B1 (D4)	Deputy Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Works)	1	1,795,200
Principal Government Engineer (D3)	Deputy Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Works)	1	1,580,400
Principal Government Counsel (DL3)	Legal Advisor (Works)	1	1,580,400
Deputy Principal Government Counsel (DL2)	Deputy Legal Advisor (Works)	2	1,360,800
Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (D2)	Principal Assistant Secretary (Works)	1	1,360,800
	Administrative Assistant to Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works	1	
Government Engineer (D2)	Principal Assistant Secretary (Works)	3	1,144,200
Chief Engineer (D1)	Chief Assistant Secretary (Works)	7	
Principal Executive Officer (D1)	Principal Executive Officer (Works)	1	
Chief Treasury Accountant (D1)	Chief Treasury Accountant (Finance)	1	

The holders of these posts are responsible for formulating public works policies and steering forward implementation of public works projects. Together they form a multi-disciplinary team providing technical/administrative support, financial advice and legal input to a wide range of policy matters such as regulation of contractors and consultants, tendering procedures, infrastructure co-ordination, greening strategy, water supply, total water management, slope safety and flood prevention.

- b) The number of directorate posts in Works Branch has already decreased from 21 to 20 since November 2003, and every effort will be made to cope with new workload through redeployment of existing resources. Notwithstanding the increased outsourcing of public works projects in recent years, the above directorate staff perform key duties relating to public works policies and projects at Bureau level and the present staff complement is essential to discharge such duties in an efficient and effective manner.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Y C L O

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

Date _____ 10 March 2006

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)013

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

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

Question Serial No.

1129

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 :

The Financial Secretary stated in the Estimates that \$29 billion will continue to be earmarked for expenditure on infrastructural works. However, it is known that the estimate concerned in 2005-06 has not been fully utilized. In fact, the expenditure on infrastructural works in the past few years was generally lower than \$29 billion. The Administration stated that the estimated expenditure would be fully utilized as far as possible in the year 2006-07. Would the Administration:

- (a) tabulate the items of expenditure on capital works projects for the year 2006-07 and specify item-by-item the measures to implement such works?
- (b) tabulate the items of expenditure on capital works projects in 2005-06 and advise on the reasons for not achieving the target?

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

Reply :

The Government has spent an average of \$28.9 billion each year on capital works projects in the five-year period running from 2001-02 to 2005-06. There are about 900 projects currently in progress, whose details are contained in the 2006-07 Estimates of expenditure for the Capital Works Reserve Fund (CWRP). Owing to the large number of public works projects involved and the nature and scope of works vary from one another, we are unable to provide a comprehensive list of measures taken on each of these items.

The decrease in estimated expenditure in 2005-06 is mainly due to the following factors –

- (i) running down of some mega projects such as land formation and infrastructure for the Hong Kong Disneyland, Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor, Deep Bay Link and widening of Yuen Long Highway;
- (ii) rising community aspirations for in-depth consultation/participation in the planning and design of mega projects such as Wan Chai Development II, Central-Wan Chai Bypass and Kai Tak Development, leading to a longer lead time for project delivery; and
- (iii) expenditure incurred by new mega projects in the pipeline such as Stages 2 and 3 of Replacement & Rehabilitation of Watermains, Reconstruction & Improvement of Tuen

Mun Road and Trunk Road T4 at Sha Tin will only start to kick in in the next few years.

However, we expect this to be only a transitional dip in the expenditure pattern and are striving to speed up the project delivery process. Apart from expediting mega projects in the pipeline, we will also aim to speed up the building works projects and boost minor works to create employment for construction workers. The Finance Committee has already approved \$5.5 billion for the 21 works-related block allocations under CWRP in 2006-07.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Y C L O _____

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

Date _____ 10 March 2006 _____

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

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 :

The Government allocates an average of \$29 billion for expenditure on infrastructural works each year. Of this amount, what percentage does consultant fee account for? How many consultancies are undertaken by architects/engineers/surveyors respectively and what are the expenses involved? How many consultancies are awarded by adopting the "lowest-price-win" principle? What are the respective estimates for 2006-07?

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

Reply :

Works departments may engage consultants at different stages of a project to augment in-house expertise and/or staff resources. Consultancy fees then become part of the estimated project cost chargeable to the Capital Works Reserve Fund. Since such fees only constitute a small portion of the overall budget and vary among projects in terms of nature and scale of the consultancy work required which are contingent upon practical needs, we could not provide an accurate estimate at the beginning of each financial year.

Most consultancies involve a mix of different but related services. Although it is not possible to produce a detailed breakdown by professional disciplines, the following summary of new consultancies awarded in 2005 in respect of architectural and engineering projects could serve as a useful reference –

Project types	Number of new consultancies	Value of new consultancies (\$million) *
Architectural	20	136
Engineering	54	315
Total	74	451

* Excluding the cost of resident site supervision staff.

Consultancies are never awarded solely on the basis of the price proposals. Value for money is one of the Government's procurement principles and price is not the sole consideration in the award of consultancy services. For the procurement of consultancy services, normally a marking scheme is used to assess the proposals to ensure the quality of the proposal. Under the "two-envelope" system, shortlisted consultants are required to submit a technical proposal with a separate fee proposal for combined assessment. The marking scheme and weighting accorded to

technical and fee elements are determined by an assessment panel of the relevant Works department, with 70/30 or 80/20 being adopted as the common split, thus reflecting an overriding emphasis on quality rather than cost. Only those proposals that have passed the technical assessment will have their fee proposals considered.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Y C L O

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

Date _____ 10 March 2006

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)015

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

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

Question Serial No.

1140

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 :

According to page 22 of Appendix B of the 2006-07 Budget Speech, there is a 9.9% decrease in real terms in the total public expenditure on infrastructure for 2006-07 over the 2005-06 original estimate. Please explain the reasons for the substantial decrease in the estimated public expenditure on infrastructure?

Asked by : Hon. Abraham SHEK Lai-him

Reply :

The expenditure items classified as "infrastructure" comprise those related to three policy areas: namely transport; building, lands and planning; and water supply. The decrease in estimated expenditure in 2006-07 is mainly due to the following factors –

- (i) completion of some mega projects such as land formation and infrastructure for the Hong Kong Disneyland, Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor, Deep Bay Link and widening of Yuen Long Highway;
- (ii) rising community aspirations for in-depth consultation/participation in the planning and design of mega projects such as Wan Chai Development II, Central-Wan Chai Bypass and Kai Tak Development, leading to a longer lead time for project delivery; and
- (iii) expenditure incurred by new mega projects in the pipeline such as Stages 2 and 3 of Replacement & Rehabilitation of Watermains, Reconstruction & Improvement of Tuen Mun Road and Trunk Road T4 at Sha Tin will only start to kick in after 2006-07.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Y C L O

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

Date _____

10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)016

Question Serial No.

1552

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 :

Page 15 of the Consolidated Summary of Estimates of the Budget shows that the expenditure on Capital Works Reserve Fund in 2006-07 is \$27.965 billion which is \$1.954 billion lower than the Revised Estimate for 2005-06. Would the Administration account for the reasons of the decrease in expenditure as well as the impact of the decrease on the progress of the public works projects as well as the employment of the construction workers?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

The decrease in estimated expenditure in 2006-07 is mainly due to the following factors –

- (i) completion of some mega projects such as land formation and infrastructure for the Hong Kong Disneyland, Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor, Deep Bay Link and widening of Yuen Long Highway;
- (ii) rising community aspirations for in-depth consultation/participation in the planning and design of mega projects such as Wan Chai Development II, Central-Wan Chai Bypass and Kai Tak Development, leading to a longer lead time for project delivery; and
- (iii) expenditure incurred by new mega projects in the pipeline such as Stages 2 and 3 of Replacement & Rehabilitation of Watermains, Reconstruction & Improvement of Tuen Mun Road and Trunk Road T4 at Sha Tin will only start to kick in after 2006-07.

However, we expect this to be only a transitional dip in the expenditure pattern and are striving to speed up the project delivery process. Apart from expediting mega projects in the pipeline, we will also aim to speed up the building works projects and boost minor works to create employment for construction workers. The Finance Committee has already approved \$5.5 billion for the 21 works-related block allocations under the Capital Works Reserve Fund in 2006-07.

Historically, employment opportunities in the construction industry are affected not only by the volume of public works projects, but also by the momentum of private building projects. The unemployment rate has dropped from 19% in 2003 to 11% in late-2005. Riding on a recovery of the real property market, the revival of capital works spending in the medium term should

improve this further.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Y C L O _____

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

Date _____ 10 March 2006 _____

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)017

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

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

Question Serial No.

1794

Head : 159 Environment, Transport
and Works Bureau (Works Branch)

Subhead : 000 Operational Expenses

Programme :

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

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

Question :

What are the details of the 5 permanent posts proposed to be deleted in 2006-07 as well as the amount of savings?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

The five posts to be deleted in 2006-07 include three Senior Engineer posts, one Personal Secretary II post and one Clerical Officer post. They have been created on a time-limited basis to facilitate the formation of the Construction Industry Council and launching of the Construction Workers Registration System. Since these posts are planned for deletion towards the end of the financial year, the amount of savings is minimal in 2006-07. However, an annual saving of \$3.2 million in notional annual mid-point salary value will be achieved thereafter.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

Y C LO

Post Title _____

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

Date _____

10 March 2006

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

ETWB(W)018

Head : 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

0256

Controlling Officer : Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

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

Question :

It is estimated that 900,000 seedlings will be planted in 2006, representing an increase of 29,000 compared with 2005. Please provide the following information:

- (a) the number of native tree seedlings planted in 2004 and 2005;
- (b) the expenditure for planting native tree seedlings in 2004 and 2005;
- (c) the estimated number of native tree seedlings to be planted in 2006 and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

- (a) The number of native tree seedlings planted in 2004 and 2005 were about 480,000 and 500,000 respectively.
- (b) The expenditure for planting native tree seedlings in 2004 and 2005 was about \$4.9 million and \$5.5 million respectively.
- (c) The estimated number of native tree seedlings to be planted in 2006 is estimated to be 522,000 with an expenditure of about \$5.8 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	MRS STELLA HUNG
Post Title	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Date	9 March 2006

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)019

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

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

Question Serial No.

0065

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department Subhead : 661 Minor plant, vehicles
and equipment (block vote)

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

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

Question : The expenditure incurred in 2004-05 for “Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)” was \$580,000. In 2005-06, no provision was made for this item and yet an estimated expenditure of \$1,044,000 for it has been made in 2006-07. Would the Administration inform this Council of the details of the estimated expenditure and the mechanism for arriving at such an estimate ?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply : The block vote provision under Subhead 661 – Minor Plant, Vehicles and Equipment covers minor capital expenditure on plant and equipment with the cost of individual items above \$150,000 but not exceeding \$2 million, and specialised vehicles with unit cost of \$2 million or less. The allocation made to this subhead is determined based on prevailing operational needs subject to annual review.

The actual expenditure of \$580,000 incurred in 2004-05 was attributed to the replacement of defective automatic smoke detectors and hose reels at office premises of the Architectural Services Department in Hung Hom, whilst the estimated expenditure of about \$1 million in 2006-07 is intended for replacement of deteriorated fire services pumps and sprinkler system at the same location. The equipment and parts to be replaced have reached the end of their serviceable life spans and are beyond economical repair .

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 10 March 2006

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)020

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

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

Question Serial No.

0330

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 : With regard to the indicator of “no. of projects completed”, the actual number for 2005 is 67. As compared to 96 for 2004, what are the reasons for the decrease? The estimated number of projects for 2006 is 58, please list out the projects and their expenditure by districts.

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply : The number of projects completed each year is affected by a host of factors including items commencing the year before, scale and complexity of works involved as well as project duration. In this light, it will not be worthwhile to establish any causal relationship between the yearly figures.

Summary of details on the 58 projects scheduled for completion in 2006 are provided at Annexes I and II.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 10 March 2006

Capital Works Projects Scheduled for Completion in 2006

	Project Title	District	Approved Project Expenditure (\$M)
Hong Kong Island			
1.	Joint-User Building at Rock Hill Street, Kennedy Town	Central & Western	245.3
2.	Redevelopment of Shaukiwan Tsung Tsin School Shau Kei Wan	Eastern	85.6
3.	General Improvement Works at Aberdeen Market and Cooked Food Centre	Southern	27.7
4.	Stanley Complex	Southern	186.6
Kowloon			
5.	Primary School at Sheung Shing Street, Ho Man Tin	Kowloon City	91.8
6.	Kowloon Tong Fire Station-cum-ambulance depot with Kowloon Fire Command Headquarters	Kowloon City	100.9
7.	General Improvement Works to Ngau Tau Kok Market and Cooked Food Centre	Kwun Tong	58.0
8.	A 36-classroom primary school at Site 10, West Kowloon Reclamation, Sham Shui Po	Sham Shui Po	104.3
9.	Secondary School at Site 10, West Kowloon Reclamation, Sham Shui Po	Sham Shui Po	119.1
10.	General Improvement Works to Ngau Chi Wan Market and Cooked Food Centre	Wong Tai Sin	44.6
11.	Hammer Hill Road Park, Diamond Hill	Wong Tai Sin	177.0
12.	Pride of Hong Kong – Tsim Sha Tsui Promenade Beautification	Yau Tsim Mong	170.2
13.	Reprovisioning of Civil Aid Service & Fire Services Department facilities to Site 17, West Kowloon Reclamation, Yau Ma Tei	Yau Tsim Mong	256.9
New Territories			
14.	Fitting out works for Customs, Immigration and Quarantine Facilities at SkyPlaza, Hong Kong International Airport	Islands	40.7
15.	Retro-fitting of air-conditioning and general improvement to Shek Wu Hui Cooked Food Centre	North	60.6
16.	Expansion and modification works at Sha Tau Kok Control Point	North	47.2
17.	A direct subsidy scheme secondary school in Area 50, Tseung Kwan O	Sai Kung	116.3
18.	Marine Police Outer Waters District Headquarters & Marine Police North Division at Ma Liu Shui	Shatin	124.4
19.	A direct subsidy scheme school (secondary-cum-primary) in Area 11, Sha Tin	Shatin	222.5
20.	Residential training complex for juveniles in Tuen Mun	Tuen Mun	329.7
21.	Exhibition Works for International Wetland Park & Visitor Centre at Tin Shui Wai	Yuen Long	181.0
22.	International Wetland Park & Visitor Centre at Tin Shui Wai – phase 2 works	Yuen Long	280.5
23.	A 24-classroom primary school at the junction of Tin Shing Road & Tin Park Road, Tin Shui Wai	Yuen Long	84.8
24.	A 36-classroom primary school in Area 12, Yuen Long	Yuen Long	107.7
25.	Second primary school in Area 104, Tin Shui Wai	Yuen Long	105.2
26.	Second secondary school in Area 104, Tin Shui Wai	Yuen Long	124.4

Multi-districts			
27.	Construction works for schools in the final phase of the School Improvement Programme (batch 6)	Multi-districts	95.8
28.	Improvement to existing government schools based on the recommendations of the Education Commission Report No. 5 – phase 4	Multi-districts	1,107.7
29.	Construction works for schools in the final phase of the School Improvement Programme (batch 2)	Multi-districts	1,139.2
30.	Construction works for schools in the final phase of the School Improvement Programme (batch 3A)	Multi-districts	1,648.9
31.	Construction works for schools in the final phase of the School Improvement Programme (batch 7)	Multi-districts	135.2

Minor Works Projects Scheduled for Completion in 2006

	Project Title	District	Approved Project Expenditure (\$M)
Hong Kong Island			
1.	Hong Kong Flower Show 2006	Eastern	0.2
2.	Proposed New Transformer Room – Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital	Eastern	1.1
3.	Provision of New Niches at Cape Collinson Columbarium	Eastern	5.5
4.	Wong Nai Chung Gap Trail Signage & Visitor Facility Installation, Site Clearance & Physical Enhancement Works	Wan Chai	4.6
Kowloon			
5.	Kowloon Hospital Rehabilitation Building Improvement Works – Batch 12	Kowloon City	1.5
6.	Sheung Lok Street Rest Garden (Site B – Service Building)	Kowloon City	13.9
7.	Improvement Works – Caritas Medical Centre	Sham Shui Po	2.3
8.	Resuscitation Room Improvement Works & Miscellaneous Works at Queen Elizabeth Hospital	Yau Tsim Mong	2.6
New Territories			
9.	Signage & Information Improvement Works – Signages for Lamma Island and Island District	Islands	0.6
10.	Tung Lung Island Peak TD DVOR/DME Station	Islands	14.6
11.	Provision of New Niches at Kwai Chung Columbarium	Kwai Tsing	6.5
12.	New Emergency Generator House at Princess Margaret Hospital	Kwai Tsing	1.8
13.	Upgrading of Facilities of Existing Mortuary at LG3 of Main Block, Princess Margaret Hospital	Kwai Tsing	12.7
14.	Provision of New Niches at Wo Hop Shek Cemetery	North	14.8
15.	Construction of Public Toilet near Anti-Japanese Martyrs Monument in Tsam Chuk Wan, Sai Kung	Sai Kung	2.4
16.	Construction of First Aid Room & Look Out Post at Chong Hing Water Sports Centre	Sai Kung	4.0
17.	Improvement Works to Three Wards (C2, C8 & D8) at Tuen Mun Hospital	Tuen Mun	3.9
18.	Relocation of Tuen Mun Polyclinic – Batch 6 Improvement Works Miscellaneous Improvement Items	Tuen Mun	4.0
19.	Demolition of Nursing School and Mortuary at Castle Peak Hospital	Tuen Mun	2.2
20.	Improvement Work (Batch 14) at Castle Peak Hospital	Tuen Mun	2.2
21.	International Wetland Park & Visitor Centre at Tin Shui Wai – Phase 2 works : Advance Works for Café and Shop	Yuen Long	3.0
22.	International Wetland Park & Visitor Centre at Tin Shui Wai – Phase 2 works : Crocodile Enclosure	Yuen Long	4.5
23.	Proposed minor works item for improvement of facilities, Tung Tau Industrial Area Playground	Yuen Long	7.1
24.	Signage & Information Improvement Works – Directional Signage in Tin Shui Wai, Yuen Long District	Yuen Long	0.3
25.	Soccer Pitch in Area 107, Tin Shui Wai	Yuen Long	14.4
Multi-Districts			
26.	Signage & Information Improvement Works – Mapboards & Identification Signages at Tsim Sha Tsui, Eastern & Yuen Long Districts	Multi-districts	0.4
27.	Signage & Information Improvement Works – New Signage Boards in Mong Kok, Yau Ma Tei & Lei Yue Mun, & Directional Sign Rectification for Various Districts	Multi-districts	0.6

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)021

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

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

Question Serial No.

0878

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 2006-07, 45 posts will be deleted. Please provide the following information:

- (a) the respective ranks of these 45 posts and the savings achieved; and
- (b) whether the work of these 45 posts will be contracted out to private companies?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply : (a) A breakdown showing the ranks and corresponding annual savings of the 45 posts designated for deletion in 2006-07 is provided at Annex.

(b) Out of the 45 posts, 35 are time-limited in nature to tie in with project completion whilst the remaining 10 are connected with outsourcing.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 10 March 2006

Summary of Details on Posts Designated for Deletion in 2006-07

Rank of Posts to be Deleted	Number of Posts to be Deleted	Savings in NAMS* (\$)
Senior Architect	1	929,220
Senior Structural Engineer	1	929,220
Senior Building Services Engineer	1	929,220
Architect/Assistant Architect	3	1,327,860
Structural Engineer/Assistant Structural Engineer	2	885,240
Building Services Engineer/Assistant Building Services Engineer	2	885,240
Quantity Surveyor/Assistant Quantity Surveyor	1	442,620
Principal Technical Officer (Building Services)	1	542,880
Electrical Inspector	1	438,900
Building Services Inspector	3	1,316,700
Clerk of Works	5	2,194,500
Assistant Clerk of Works	5	1,314,000
Assistant Building Services Inspector	4	1,051,200
Works Supervisor I (Building)	3	680,940
Works Supervisor I (Building Services)	1	226,980
Works Supervisor II (Building)	3	547,740
Works Supervisor II (Building Services)	3	547,740
Personal Secretary II	2	343,920
Assistant Clerical Officer	1	162,180
Clerical Assistant	2	268,080
Total:	45	15,964,380

* Notional Annual Mid-Point Salary

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)022

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

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

Question Serial No.

1543

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department Subhead :

Programme : (3) Facilities Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Environment, Transport and Works

Question : In 2005, the actual expenditure on building projects is \$6,364 million, which is \$688 million or 9.7% less than the estimate of \$7,052 million. What are the reasons for this?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : The lower expenditure in 2005 is mainly attributable to the following :

- (a) reduced spending on Category B projects (including school building projects and market improvement projects) pending review and/or public consultation;
- (b) reduced block vote spending on minor building works due to slippage caused by various reasons;
- (c) reduced spending caused by the time taken for reclamation works of the boundary-crossing facilities at Shenzhen Western Corridor to stabilise;
- (d) a major contractual claim pending settlement; and
- (e) one-off savings in School Improvement Programme projects.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 11 March 2006

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)023

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

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

Question Serial No.

1544

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department Subhead :

Programme : (3) Facilities Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The estimated expenditure on building projects is \$5,154 million in 2006, which is \$1,898 million or 26.9% less than that of \$7,052 million in 2005. What are the reasons for this?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : The decrease of the estimated expenditure in 2006 is mainly attributable to a number of building projects completed in 2005. Having regard to a number of major government building projects in the pipeline, we expect the annual expenditure on building works would pick up in the years after 2006. We would strive to closely monitor works progress and take appropriate measures to expedite works as far as practicable.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 11 March 2006

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)024

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Question Serial No.

2073

Head : 25 – Architectural Services Department Subhead : 000 Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

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

Question : Regarding the proposed deletion of 47 permanent posts in 2006-07, please provide the details and savings in expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : A breakdown showing the ranks and corresponding annual savings of the 47 posts designated for deletion in 2006-07 is provided at Annex. Out of these posts, two are under Programme 2 – Facilities Upkeep whilst the remaining 45 are under Programme 3 – Facilities Development.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 10 March 2006

Summary of Details on Posts Designated for Deletion in 2006-07

Rank of Posts to be Deleted	Number of Posts to be Deleted	Savings in NAMS* (\$)
Programme 2 – Facilities Upkeep		
Assistant Maintenance Surveyor	2	525,600
Programme 3 – Facilities Development		
Senior Architect	1	929,220
Senior Structural Engineer	1	929,220
Senior Building Services Engineer	1	929,220
Architect/Assistant Architect	3	1,327,860
Structural Engineer/Assistant Structural Engineer	2	885,240
Building Services Engineer/Assistant Building Services Engineer	2	885,240
Quantity Surveyor/Assistant Quantity Surveyor	1	442,620
Principal Technical Officer (Building Services)	1	542,880
Electrical Inspector	1	438,900
Building Services Inspector	3	1,316,700
Clerk of Works	5	2,194,500
Assistant Clerk of Works	5	1,314,000
Assistant Building Services Inspector	4	1,051,200
Works Supervisor I (Building)	3	680,940
Works Supervisor I (Building Services)	1	226,980
Works Supervisor II (Building)	3	547,740
Works Supervisor II (Building Services)	3	547,740
Personal Secretary II	2	343,920
Assistant Clerical Officer	1	162,180
Clerical Assistant	2	268,080
Total:	47	16,489,980

*Notional Annual Mid-Point Salary

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)025

Question Serial No.

0232

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 :

In 2005, the Civil Engineering and Development Department inspected 100 potentially substandard slopes affecting squatter structures and made re-housing recommendation on slope safety grounds. What are the details of the recommendations? How many squatter structures have been affected, and of which how many structures have accepted the re-housing recommendation? Regarding those who do not accept the recommendation, what are the details of the follow-up actions?

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply :

In 2005, about 120 squatter dwellings that were considered to be especially vulnerable to landslide risk (but with no immediate and obvious danger) were recommended to be cleared. Pre-clearance surveys of the affected dwellings have started and re-housing offers are being made. So far, only one of the squatter dwellings has been cleared. For those who do not accept clearance, the re-housing offers will remain open. Letters and leaflets will be issued and warning signs will be erected to warn them of the landslide dangers and advise them of the precautions to be taken in the event of heavy rain.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **John S V CHAI**

Post Title _____ **Director of Civil Engineering and Development**

Date _____ **10.3.2006**

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)027

Question Serial No.

0234

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 in "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07" that the Civil Engineering and Development Department will continue to provide advisory services to private slope owners on slope maintenance, safety improvement works, and aesthetics improvement. Please provide details of these services.

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply :

The Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) provides advisory services to private slope owners on slope maintenance, including safety and aesthetics aspects. Through the Building Management Resource Centres, District Offices, Hong Kong Association of Property Management Companies, etc., we will reach out to the community by organising seminars and talks on slope safety and slope maintenance to Owners' Corporations, Mutual Aid Committees and Property Managers. A regular programme of 'Meet-the-Public' services is also provided to answer specific concerns.

CEDD also takes a proactive approach to contact those private slope owners who have received Dangerous Hillside (DH) Orders. The Department will advise them on how to proceed expediently with the investigation and necessary slope works to comply with the DH Orders.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

John S V CHAI

Post Title _____

Director of Civil Engineering and
Development

Date _____

10.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)028

Question Serial No.

0235

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 :

It is mentioned in “Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2006-07” that the Civil Engineering and Development Department will continue to provide technical advice and support for marine works projects to minimise marine mud dredging and disposal. Please provide details of the measures to minimise marine mud dredging and disposal.

Asked by : Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply :

The Department will explore feasible options to keep marine mud in place with relevant project proponents during the design stage. Techniques aimed at avoiding dredging will be deployed as far as practicable, such as vertical drains and preloading mounds to speed up ground settlement in line with the development programme. Allocation of space for sediment disposal will not be granted unless there is justifiable need.

Signature _____

Name in block letters John S V CHAI

Post Title Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date 10.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)029

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

Question Serial No.

0364

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

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

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

Question :

The 2006-07 estimated expenditure on contract maintenance is \$437,391,000 which is \$264,133,000 (almost 150%) higher than the 2005-06 revised estimate of \$173,258,000. Please give reasons for the drastic increase?

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply :

The increase of estimated expenditure on contract maintenance in 2006-07 is mainly attributable to additional provisions catering for the delivery scheme of surplus reclamation materials to the Mainland for beneficial reuse.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **John S V CHAI**

Post Title _____ **Director of Civil Engineering and
Development**

Date _____ **10.3.2006**

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)030

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

Question Serial No.

0696

Head : 33 Civil Engineering and Development Subhead :
Department

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 :

The 2006-07 estimate is decreased by 10.9% (about \$11 million) as compared to the original estimate of 2005-06. What is the reason for that? How will the Department ensure that the reduced resources will not affect services?

Asked by : Hon. KWOK Ka-ki

Reply :

The decrease in estimated expenditure under Programme 5 in 2006-07 will be achieved by way of process re-engineering, streamlined procedures and realigned priorities so as to maintain the same quality of services.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ John S V CHAI

Post Title Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date _____ 10.3.2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)031

Question Serial No.

1191

Head : 33 Civil Engineering and Development Department Subhead : 700 Item 535

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 :

Please advise on the progress of the "Monitoring of uncontaminated mud disposal area at north of Lantau and south of Tsing Yi". When will the monitoring be completed?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

Monitoring of the two areas located north of Lantau and south of Tsing Yi had already ceased upon suspension of mud disposal activities in 2000 and 2004 respectively but will resume if such activities are to be carried out again in future.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

John S V CHAI

Director of Civil Engineering and Development

10.3.2006

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)032

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

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

Question Serial No.

1241

Head: 33 – Civil Engineering and
Development Department

Subhead: 000 Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

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

Question :

In 2006-07, 30 permanent posts will be deleted in the Department. Please inform this Council-

- (a) To which offices these posts belong or policy areas these posts contribute;
- (b) The ranks, duties and appointment terms of these posts;
- (c) Why these posts are deleted when there is an increase in Estimates; and
- (d) How the work of these posts will be absorbed.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

A breakdown showing the ranks, related policy areas and main duties of the 30 posts designated for deletion in 2006-07 is provided at Annex.

All these posts are filled by appointees on civil service terms, out of which five are time-limited to tie in with project completion, whilst the remaining 25 are connected with enhancement of productivity through process re-engineering, streamlined procedures and realigned priorities without compromising the quality of services.

An increased provision in the 2006-07 Estimates is mainly attributable to employment of contractors for the delivery scheme of surplus reclamation materials to the Mainland for beneficial reuse.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ John S V CHAI

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date _____ 10.3.2006

Summary of Details on Posts Designated for Deletion in 2006-07

Rank of Posts to be Deleted	Number of Posts to be Deleted	Related Policy Areas ^{Note}	Main Duties
Senior Engineer	1	23	Provision of engineering services
Engineer	1	23	
Senior Geotechnical Engineer	1	27	
Chainman	1	27	Provision of technical support services
Chief Technical Officer (Laboratory)	1	27	
Explosives Depot Attendant	2	27	
Explosives Supervisor	3	27	
Inspector of Works	2	23	
Laboratory Attendant	2	27	
Principal Technical Officer (Laboratory)	3	27	
Senior Artisan	2	23	
Senior Survey Officer (Engineering)	2	27	
Senior Technical Officer (Civil)	1	22	
Survey Officer (Engineering)	1	27	
Technical Officer (Cartographic)	1	27	
Technical Officer (Geotechnical)	1	27	Provision of general office support services
Clerical Officer	2	22	
Motor Driver	1	3	
	1	22	
Personal Secretary II	1	5	

Note

Policy Area 3 : Air & Sea Communications and Logistics Development

Policy Area 5 : Travel and Tourism

Policy Area 22 : Buildings, Lands and Planning

Policy Area 23 : Environmental Protection and Conservation

Policy Area 27 : Intra-Governmental Services

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)033

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

Question Serial No.

1395

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

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

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

Question :

Please give details of the proposed deletion of 30 permanent posts in 2006-07 and the savings in expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

A breakdown showing the ranks and corresponding annual savings of the 30 posts designated for deletion in 2006-07 is provided at Annex.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ John S V CHAI

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering & Development

Date _____ 10.3.2006

Annex

Summary of Details on Posts Designated for Deletion in 2006-07

Rank of Posts to be Deleted	Number of Posts to be Deleted	Savings in NAMS* (\$)
Senior Engineer	1	929,220
Senior Geotechnical Engineer	1	929,220
Chief Technical Officer (Laboratory)	1	710,520
Principal Technical Officer (Laboratory)	3	1,628,640
Engineer	1	442,620
Inspector of Works	2	877,800
Senior Survey Officer (Engineering)	2	764,640
Senior Technical Officer (Civil)	1	382,320
Clerical Officer	2	551,760
Personal Secretary II	1	171,960
Survey Officer (Engineering)	1	170,160
Technical Officer (Cartographic)	1	170,160
Technical Officer (Geotechnical)	1	170,160
Senior Artisan	2	324,360
Explosives Supervisor	3	456,840
Chainman	1	142,860
Laboratory Attendant	2	285,720
Motor Driver	2	285,720
Explosives Depot Attendant	2	230,760
Total:	30	9,625,440

* Notional Annual Mid-Point Salary

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)034

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

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

Question Serial No.

2125

Head: 33 – Civil Engineering and
Development Department

Subhead: 000 Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

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

Question :

In 2006-07, 30 non-directorate posts will be deleted. Please give details in the following aspects :

- (a) The posts, ranks, and number of these posts;
- (b) The reasons for the deletion;
- (c) The arrangements for the work of the posts to be deleted;
- (d) The estimated savings ; and
- (e) Whether the savings will be retained by the Department for operational expenses.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

A breakdown showing the ranks and corresponding annual savings of the 30 posts designated for deletion in 2006-07 is provided at Annex.

Out of these posts, five will be deleted due to completion of projects, whilst the remaining 25 are connected with enhancement of productivity through process re-engineering, streamlined procedures and realigned priorities.

The savings will be redeployed to meet operational needs and enhance services delivered by the Department.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ John S V CHAI

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering and
Development

Date _____ 10.3.2006

Summary of Details on Posts Designated for Deletion in 2006-07

Rank of Posts to be Deleted	Number of Posts to be Deleted	Savings in NAMS* (\$)
Senior Engineer	1	929,220
Senior Geotechnical Engineer	1	929,220
Chief Technical Officer (Laboratory)	1	710,520
Principal Technical Officer (Laboratory)	3	1,628,640
Engineer	1	442,620
Inspector of Works	2	877,800
Senior Survey Officer (Engineering)	2	764,640
Senior Technical Officer (Civil)	1	382,320
Clerical Officer	2	551,760
Personal Secretary II	1	171,960
Survey Officer (Engineering)	1	170,160
Technical Officer (Cartographic)	1	170,160
Technical Officer (Geotechnical)	1	170,160
Senior Artisan	2	324,360
Explosives Supervisor	3	456,840
Chainman	1	142,860
Laboratory Attendant	2	285,720
Motor Driver	2	285,720
Explosives Depot Attendant	2	230,760
Total:	30	9,625,440

* Notional Annual Mid-Point Salary

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)035

Head :39 - Drainage Services Department

Subhead

Question Serial No.

000 Operational Expenses

0327

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

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

Question : It is estimated that there will be deletion of 48 permanent posts in 2006-07. However, the estimate for the Salaries under Subhead 000 in 2006-07 is \$612.56 million which represents an increase of \$8.18 million over the revised estimate of \$604.38 million for 2005-06. Please inform the Council the reasons for the increase in the expenditure on Salaries.

Asked by : Hon. LI Kwok-ying

Reply : Savings derived from a net deletion of 48 permanent posts in 2006-07 will be redeployed by the Department to fill some existing vacancies for meeting long-term operational needs, which will be filled by staff drawing different salary points. The above accounts for the higher estimated expenditure on salaries in 2006-07.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C.K. WONG

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 13 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)036

Head : 39 - Drainage Services Department Subhead :

Question Serial No.

0879

Programme : (1) Stormwater Drainage

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

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

Question : The values of projects under detailed design for 2004, 2005 and 2006 are \$7,987,000,000, \$8,331,000,000 and \$7,769,000,000 respectively. Please list out the title, location, value and expected commencement and completion dates of all related projects.

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply : At present, we have a large number of stormwater drainage projects located in both the urban and rural areas at a total project estimate of about \$7.8 billion under detailed design. Since these projects are subject to regular changes due to site availability, design evolution, statutory and administrative requirements, public objections as well as other planning considerations, their details will only be set out in the Printed Estimates as and when the related works are scheduled to commence.

Drainage Services Department is committed to taking forward these projects under design and to expediting the project delivery process as far as practicable.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C.K. WONG

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)037

Head : 39 - Drainage S
Department Subhead

Question Serial No.

0881

Programme : (1) Stormwater Drainage

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

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

Question : Four posts will be deleted in 2006-07. Please list out the ranks and salaries in 2005-06 of these four posts.

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply : A breakdown showing the ranks and corresponding annual salaries of the four posts designated for deletion in 2006-07 are provided below

Rank of Posts	Number of Posts to be Deleted	Salaries in NAMS* (\$)
Technical Officer/ Technical Officer Trainee (Civil)	1	170,160
Drain Charginan	1	162,180
Timekeeper/Checker	1	142,860
Workman II	1	106,512
Total:	4	581,712

* Notional Annual Mid-Point Salary

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C.K. WONG

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 10 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)038

Head : 39 - Drainage Services Department Subhead :

Question Serial No.

0964

Programme : (1) Stormwater Drainage

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

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

Question : The estimate for the value of contracts under construction for 2006 is \$3,292 million which represents a decrease of \$842 million against the estimate of \$4,134 million for 2005, with the rate of decrease up to 20.4%. What are the reasons for this?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : Since launching of the flood prevention programme in 1997, many massive drainage contracts have been progressively completed by 2005. The works reduced substantially the hazard of severe regional flooding in the New Territories as well as in west Kowloon. In 2006, more focus will be placed on the removal of localised flooding risks through implementation of smaller scale improvement works in the upstream sections which are less costly but essential for proper functioning of the drainage systems.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C.K. WONG _____

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services _____

Date _____ 11 March 2006 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)039

Head : 39 - Drainage Services Department Subhead :
000 Operational Expenses

Question Serial No.

1394

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

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

Question : What are the details of the proposed deletion of 48 permanent posts and the savings in expenditure in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply: A breakdown of details leading to the net deletion of 48 permanent posts in 2006-07 is provided at Annex. The total savings in notional annual mid-point salary value are \$7.1 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C.K. WONG

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 11 March 2006

Summary of Details Leading to Net Deletion of 48 Permanent Post in 2006-07

Rank of Posts	Number of Posts to be Deleted/(Created)	Savings in NAMS* (\$)
Assistant Clerical Officer	1	162,180
Artisan (Electrical & Mechanical)	22	3,142,920
Chainman	1	142,860
Drain Chargeman	2	324,360
Engineering Laboratory Technician II/ Student Engineering Laboratory Technician	1	164,730
Electrical & Mechanical Engineer/ Assistant Electrical & Mechanical Engineer	1	442,620
Laboratory Attendant	2	285,720
Senior Executive Officer	1	681,180
Executive Officer I	(1)	(481,020)
Senior Artisan (Electrical & Mechanical)	3	486,540
Timekeeper/Checker	2	285,720
Technical Officer/ Technical Officer Trainee (Civil)	1	170,160
Typist	1	134,040
Workman I	3	346,140
Workman II	8	852,096
Net Deletion and Savings:	48	7,140,246

* Notional Annual Mid-Point Salary

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)040

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

Question Serial No.

1789

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:

Please give details of the proposed deletion of one permanent post in 2006-07 and the savings in expenditure.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply:

A breakdown of details leading to the net deletion of one permanent post in 2006-07 is provided at Annex. The total savings in notional annual mid-point salary value are \$1.67 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Roger S.H. LAI

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date _____ March 2006

Summary of Details Leading to Net Deletion of One Permanent Post in 2006-07

Rank of Posts	Number of Posts to be Deleted/(Created)	Savings in NAMS* (\$)
Senior Building Services Engineer	1	929,220
Senior Economist	1	929,220
Principal Technical Officer	1	542,880
Executive Officer II	1	304,080
Mechanical Inspector	(2)	(877,800)
Assistant Clerical Officer	(1)	(162,180)
Net Deletion and Savings:	1	1,665,420

* Notional Annual Mid-Point Salary

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)041

Head : 60 Highways Department Subhead :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (4) Technical Services

0063

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

Starting from 2006, the indicator shows that the expenditure on vegetation maintenance for roadside slopes and high speed roads will be increased from \$8 million in 2005 to \$30 million in 2006. Please provide the reasons for the substantial increase in the estimated expenditure of this item. Will the Administration consult the community in respect of the works concerned?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

The Highways Department has to earmark extra resources to maintain the vegetation and clear dead trees and invasive vine on roadside slopes and along high speed roads to achieve a safe, green, tidy and hygienic environment. The Department is in the progress of taking up this new responsibility which will cover around 9 300 roadside slopes (including roadside slopes at the Penny's Bay Development Area) and all expressways in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. As this will form part of the Department's regular maintenance works, it is not necessary to consult the community.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title _____ Director of Highways

Date _____ 13 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)042

Head : 60 Highways Department Subhead :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (4) Technical Services

0672

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

The indicator in Programme (4) shows that the expenditure on vegetation maintenance for roadside slopes and high speed roads increased substantially from \$8 million in 2005 to \$30 million in the estimate for 2006. What are the reasons? Please provide details on the strengthening of the maintenance of vegetation in this respect.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

The Highways Department has to earmark extra resources to maintain the vegetation and clear dead trees and invasive vine on roadside slopes and along high speed roads to achieve a safe, green, tidy and hygienic environment. The Department is in the progress of taking up this new responsibility which will cover around 9 300 roadside slopes (including roadside slopes at the Penny's Bay Development Area) and all expressways in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 13 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)043

Head : 60 Highways Department

Subhead:

Question Serial No.

Programme : (4) Technical Services

0957

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

The provision for the vegetation maintenance for roadside slopes and high speed roads for 2006 is \$30 million, which is 250% more than the actual expenditure of \$8 million for 2005. On this,

- (a) please specify the reasons for the substantial increase in provision; and
- (b) will the work be outsourced? If yes, please specify the numbers of outsourced contracts and workers involved, as well as the minimum pay required. If no, will the department deploy in-house staff or employ additional staff to take up the work? Please specify the manpower arrangement involved.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

- (a) The Highways Department has to earmark extra resources to maintain the vegetation on roadside slopes and along high speed roads to achieve a safe, green, tidy and hygienic environment. The Department is in the process of taking up this new responsibility which will cover around 9 300 roadside slopes (including roadside slopes at the Penny's Bay Development Area) and all expressways in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.
- (b) Vegetation maintenance works are outsourced together with road maintenance works through term contracts. There are currently seven term contracts covering vegetation maintenance. In 2006-07, there will be three additional contracts awarded to expand the coverage of the vegetated areas. In these contracts, the contractors are required to complete vegetation maintenance according to the contract requirements and the Department will carry out periodic audits to ensure that the contract requirements are fulfilled. Unlike services contracts, works contracts do not specify the number of workers for the works nor the minimum wages of labourers.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **MAK CHAI KWONG** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Highways** _____

Date _____ **13 March 2006** _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)044

Head : 60 Highways Department Subhead :

Question Serial No.

2098

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

The increase in provision of \$5.3 million is mainly due to the increased provision for enhancement of the excavation permit conditions prescribed in the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance. However, the estimated number of cases to be processed in 2006 is 40 000, which is lower than the actual number of cases processed in 2004, i.e. 42 741. Why is the provision on the increase in spite of the decreasing number of cases?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply :

The increase in provision of \$5.3 million under Programme (2) District and Maintenance will mainly be used to continue the work of a dedicated enforcement team from 2006-07 to 2010-11 to ensure compliance with requirements under the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance by permit holders so as to minimise disturbance to the public. There is no direct relationship between the number of permits issued and the enforcement manpower as only some of the permits have to undergo enforcement actions. Enforcement actions carried out by the Department include investigation, collection of evidence, interviewing suspects and preparation for instituting prosecutions of offenders. These duties were carried out in 2005-06 by re-deploying manpower from the department's existing resources. Since it is not feasible to permanently re-deploy civil service posts for this purpose, additional provision has been obtained to continue the enforcement duties.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 11 March 2006

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)045

Question Serial No.

0322

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 Water Supplies Department will continue to plan and develop water resources and water supply systems in order to provide round-the-clock supply throughout the year. In this regard, please inform this Council of:

- (a) the details of the planning and development of water resources, and the locations of the water resources;
- (b) the details of the planning and development of water supply systems and the various projects involved. Please specify the districts where planning and development of water supply systems are to be undertaken; and
- (c) the names of the new towns for which the Water Supplies Department will undertake the planning, design and construction of water supply systems so as to facilitate their development, and the relevant details.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) With good relationship and close cooperation with the Guangdong authorities, Hong Kong has been assured of a continuing supply of raw water from Dongjiang to meet its demand. Nevertheless, the rapid economic growth in the Pearl River Delta region will lead to keen competition for fresh water resource in the region. For the sustainable development of Hong Kong, the Water Supplies Department is planning and developing new water resources as one of the core initiatives under the Total Water Management programme. The Department is operating a pilot plant to study the cost effectiveness of desalinating seawater with the use of Reverse Osmosis technology and its applicability under local conditions. The Department is also collaborating with the Drainage Services Department and the Environmental Protection Department to explore the use of reclaimed water under pilot schemes being implemented at Ngong Ping and planned at Shek Wu Hui;

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

ETWB(W)046

Question Serial No.

0323

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department

Subhead : 000 Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

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

Question :

The Water Supplies Department will delete 175 permanent posts in 2006-07. Please provide details of :

- (a) the posts to be deleted and the divisions concerned;
- (b) the reasons for the deletion of the posts;
- (c) the future movements of the permanent civil servants concerned after their posts are deleted by listing them under different categories, such as normal retirement, joining the voluntary retirement scheme, resignation, dismissal or transfer to other departments; and
- (d) the annual savings arising from the deletion of the posts, and whether the savings will be retained and utilised by the Department, or returned to the Treasury.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) A breakdown of the ranks and annual savings in notional annual mid-point salary value of the 175 posts designated for deletion in 2006-07 is provided at Annex;
- (b) The deletion of these posts is part of an on-going exercise to enhance productivity through process re-engineering, streamlined procedures and realigned priorities without compromising the quality of services;
- (c) These posts are either vacant or will soon become vacant upon normal retirement of permanent staff; and
- (d) Since most of these posts are vacant, the actual savings in 2006-07 as compared with the 2005-06 Revised Estimate are only about \$2 million which will be redeployed by the Department to meet other operational needs.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: CHAN Chi Chiu

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 10 March 2006

Summary of Details on Posts Designated for Deletion in 2006-07

Rank of Posts to be Deleted	Number of Posts to be Deleted	Savings in NAMS* (\$)
Artisan	52	7,428,720
Assistant Clerical Officer	16	2,594,880
Assistant Waterworks Inspector	1	262,800
Chainman	1	142,860
Clerical Assistant	1	134,040
Clerical Officer	2	551,760
Engineer	4	1,770,480
Motor Driver	2	285,720
Senior Engineer	1	929,220
Technical Officer/Technical Officer Trainee	1	170,160
Waterworks Inspector	1	438,900
Workman I	17	1,961,460
Workman II	65	6,923,280
Works Supervisor I	3	680,940
Works Supervisor II	8	1,460,640
<hr/>		
Total	175	25,735,860

*Notional Annual Mid-Point Salary

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

ETWB(W)047

Question Serial No.

2239

Head : 194 Water Supplies Department
expenses

Subhead: 000 Operational

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Water Supplies

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

Question :

Please provide the details of the proposed deletion of 175 permanent posts in 2006-07 and the savings in expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

A breakdown of the ranks and annual savings in notional annual mid-point salary value of the 175 posts designated for deletion in 2006-07 is provided at Annex. However, since most of these posts are vacant, the actual savings in 2006-07 as compared with the 2005-06 Revised Estimates are only about \$2 million.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: CHAN Chi Chiu

Post Title: Director of Water Supplies

Date: 10 March 2006

Summary of Details on Posts Designated for Deletion in 2006-07

Rank of Posts to be Deleted	Number of Posts to be Deleted	Savings in NAMS* (\$)
Artisan	52	7,428,720
Assistant Clerical Officer	16	2,594,880
Assistant Waterworks Inspector	1	262,800
Chainman	1	142,860
Clerical Assistant	1	134,040
Clerical Officer	2	551,760
Engineer	4	1,770,480
Motor Driver	2	285,720
Senior Engineer	1	929,220
Technical Officer/Technical Officer Trainee	1	170,160
Waterworks Inspector	1	438,900
Workman I	17	1,961,460
Workman II	65	6,923,280
Works Supervisor I	3	680,940
Works Supervisor II	8	1,460,640
Total	175	25,735,860

*Notional Annual Mid-Point Salary

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)048

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07

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

Question Serial No.

1000

Head : CWRF Head 703 - Buildings

Subhead :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

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

Question : The approved project estimate of Head 703 – Buildings under the Capital Works Reserve Funds is \$57.6 billion. As at 31 March 2005, the actual expenditure was only \$33.7 billion, and of the remaining approved estimate of \$23.9 billion, only \$6.2 billion was utilised in the 2005-06 revised estimate. The estimate for 2006-07 has further been reduced to \$5.9 billion. Please advise this Council :

- (a) the reasons for continuous reduction in the estimates when resources are available;
- (b) a breakdown of current building projects pending commencement as well as their expenditure and the estimated time required for construction; and
- (c) the reasons for failing to speed up the progress as a result of which the projects cannot be commenced or completed in 2006-07.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

- Reply :
- (a) Whilst the approved estimate of \$57.6 billion represents an overall ceiling of funds that could be spent on individual capital works projects according to their respective programmes, the actual amount of expenditure incurred each year will be influenced by factors such as items commencing the year before, scale and complexity of works as well as project duration. Having regard to the number of upcoming major government building projects, we expect the annual expenditure under Head 703 would pick up in the years after 2006-07;
 - (b) a breakdown of details on the projects pending commencement in 2006-07 is at Annex; and
 - (c) all new projects planned to start in 2006-07 are proceeding on schedule, and the Department will continue to take forward other projects in the pipeline as early as practicable.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 10 March 2006

Summary of Details on Projects Pending Commencement

(i) Category A Projects

Item	Title	Estimate 2006-07 (\$M)	Approved Project Estimate (\$M)	Estimated Project Duration (months)
3394RO	District open space in Area 39, Fanling	19.0	42.7 (Note 1)	21
3396RO	District open space in Area 2, Tung Chung	20.8	48.1 (Note 1)	21
3399RO	District open space in Area 35, Tsuen Wan - phase 2	27.2	54.7 (Note 1)	24
3242RS	Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground	50.0	293.1	36

(ii) Category B Projects in the 2006-07 Draft Estimates

Item	Title	Estimate 2006-07 (\$M)	Rough Order of Cost (\$M)	Estimated Project Duration (months)
3127BF	Fire Services Department Diving Training Centre in Government Dockyard on Stonecutters Island	10.0	137.7	28
3173IC	Fitting out works for customs and quarantine facilities at the Asia Airfreight Terminal 2	3.0	18.8 (Note 2)	14
3029LJ	Relocation of Labour Tribunal to the South Kowloon Law Courts Building	15.3	55.7 (Note 3)	12
3243LP	Reprovisioning of Central District Headquarters and Divisional Police Station at Chung Kong Road, Sheung Wan	1.0	230.0	35
3001SF	Fitting out/conversion works of Social Welfare Department integrated family service centres	6.0	54.6	15
3302EP	Primary school in Area 31, Sheung Shui	4.0	100.5	22
3324EP	Primary school at Hiu Kwong Street, Sau Mau Ping	2.0	93.9	21
3100ET	Special school at Cornwall Street, Sham Shui Po, for severely mentally handicapped children	25.0	76.2	Scope under review
3003NB	Additional columbarium at Diamond Hill	10.0	126.0	30
3027NM	Retrofitting of air-conditioning to Fa Yuen Street Market and Cooked Food Centre	1.0	82.4	15

Item	Title	Estimate 2006-07 (\$M)	Rough Order of Cost (\$M)	Estimated Project Duration (months)
3033NM	General improvement to Six Markets	1.0	88.0	15
3388RO	Sham Shui Po Park (stage 2)	0.3	48.0	23
3397RO	Local Open Space in Area 16 (Yau Oi South), Tuen Mun	1.3	63.8	20
3400RO	District open space in Area 40A, Tseung Kwan O	0.3	51.0	23
3256RS	Indoor recreation center-cum-library in Area 17, Tung Chung	1.5	305.0	35
3063KA	Tamar Development Project	2.0 (Note 4)	4,912.0	42

Note 1 : The approved project estimate for 3394RO, 3396RO and 3399RO was revised to \$42.7M, \$48.1M and \$54.7M respectively on 24 February 2006.

Note 2 : 3173IC was upgraded to Category A on 13 January 2006 with an approved project estimate of \$18.8 million.

Note 3 : 3029LJ was upgraded to Category A on 17 February 2006 with an approved project estimate of \$67.1 million.

Note 4 : 3063KA is forecast to start in 2007-08 with an estimated expenditure of \$2 million in 2006-07 for preparatory works.

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

ETWB(W)049

Question Serial No.

0380

Head : 707 New Towns and Urban Area Subhead : 7698CL
Development

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

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

Question :

What is the progress of the following project? How will the provision for 2006-07 be used?

When will the project be completed and what is its expected completion date when it is approved?

7698CL : Tin Shui Wai development – village flood protection works for Sheung Cheung Wai, phase 1 – upgrading of existing stormwater pumping station.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

The improvement works at the Sheung Cheung Wai stormwater pumping station were substantially completed on 28 December 2004 which is the same as the expected completion date shown in the PWSC paper submitted to the PWSC. The provision of \$1.0 million in the 2006-07 Draft Estimates is required to settle the final account of the works contract.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ John S V CHAI

Post Title Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date _____ 9.3.2006