

**Head 137 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY
BUREAU (ENVIRONMENT BRANCH)**

Controlling officer: the Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment) will account for expenditure under this Head.

Estimate 2025–26	\$2,080.0m
Establishment ceiling 2025–26 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 210 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2025 reducing by three posts to 207 posts as at 31 March 2026.....	\$165.4m
In addition, there will be an estimated 12 directorate posts as at 31 March 2025 and as at 31 March 2026.	
Commitment balance	\$3,416.1m

Controlling Officer’s Report

Programmes

Programme (1) Director of Bureau’s Office	This programme contributes to Policy Area 27: Intra-Governmental Services (Secretary for Environment and Ecology).
Programme (2) Power Programme (3) Sustainable Development Programme (4) Environmental Protection Programme (5) Nature Conservation	These programmes contribute to Policy Area 23: Environmental Protection, Conservation, Power and Sustainable Development (Secretary for Environment and Ecology).
Programme (6) Climate Change	This programme contributes to Policy Area 7: Public Safety (Secretary for Environment and Ecology) and Policy Area 23: Environmental Protection, Conservation, Power and Sustainable Development (Secretary for Environment and Ecology).

Detail

Programme (1): Director of Bureau’s Office

	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Original)	2024–25 (Revised)	2025–26 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	21.1	22.3	22.6 (+1.3%)	21.1 (–6.6%)
				(or –5.4% on 2024–25 Original)

Aim

2 The aim is to ensure the smooth operation of the Office of the Secretary for Environment and Ecology.

Brief Description

3 The Office of the Secretary for Environment and Ecology is responsible for providing support to the Secretary for Environment and Ecology in undertaking political work. This includes the support provided by the Under Secretary and the Political Assistant. The Office is also responsible for providing administrative support to the Secretary for Environment and Ecology in carrying out his duties. The work includes planning, co-ordination and implementation of all arrangements for the Secretary’s public, media and community functions.

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Programme (2): Power

	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Original)	2024–25 (Revised)	2025–26 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	1,755.4	1,821.7	1,759.5 (–3.4%)	1,586.8 (–9.8%)
				(or –12.9% on 2024–25 Original)

Aim

4 The aims are to ensure safe, reliable and efficient energy supply at reasonable prices while minimising the environmental impact caused by the production and use of energy through the established monitoring arrangements for the operation of the two power companies and the town gas supply company; to enhance electrical and gas safety through the introduction and enforcement of safety standards; to promote competition and transparency in the local fuel market; to promote the adoption of renewable energy; and to raise public awareness of and achieve energy efficiency and conservation through education, promotion, and implementation of various programmes.

Brief Description

5 The Branch's main responsibility under this programme is to formulate policies and programmes in relation to energy supply, electrical and gas safety, renewable energy as well as energy efficiency and conservation.

6 In 2024–25, the Branch:

- oversaw the implementation of the various programmes and schemes in relation to the promotion of energy efficiency and conservation and the development of renewable energy under the Scheme of Control Agreements;
- promoted decarbonisation in electricity generation and energy efficiency and conservation as per the direction set out in the Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2050;
- worked with relevant bureaux and departments to formulate plans and take various measures with a view to improving the overall energy performance of government buildings and infrastructure;
- encouraged the wider application of renewable energy at government buildings and facilities and promoted the development of renewable energy in the private sector, including the implementation of measures to facilitate the installation of solar energy generation systems in open car parks;
- oversaw the consultation and preparation for introducing the legislative amendments to the Buildings Energy Efficiency Ordinance (Cap. 610), the implementation of the Building Energy Code and Energy Audit Code as well as the review on the two Codes for gazettal in 2024;
- oversaw the implementation of Phase IV of Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme (MEELS) and took forward the third review of the Grading Standards under the Scheme covering refrigerating appliances, washing machines and storage type electric water heaters to uplift the energy efficiency standards;
- oversaw the construction and operation of the District Cooling System (DCS) projects in the Kai Tak Development, took forward the implementation of DCS projects in the Kwu Tung North New Development Area and Tung Chung New Town Extension (East), and oversaw feasibility studies on implementing DCS projects in other New Development Areas;
- pursued the Energy Saving and Decarbonisation for All 2024 Campaign including the Energy Saving Charter 2024 and 4T Charter 2024 to promote public awareness of energy efficiency and conservation measures;
- oversaw the distribution of electricity charges relief of which the new round commenced from 1 January 2024, to eligible residential electricity accounts to alleviate the increase in electricity charges during the transitional period in moving to a lower carbon future;
- oversaw the enhanced Charter on External Lighting to encourage owners of and responsible persons for external lighting installations of decorative, promotional or advertising purposes affecting the outdoor environment to switch off such lighting installations at an earlier preset time; and
- oversaw the two power companies' establishment and operation of the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Terminal which allows them to purchase LNG from international market directly.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26

7 During 2025–26, the Branch will:

- continue to oversee the implementation of the various programmes and schemes to promote energy efficiency and conservation and the development of renewable energy;

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- continue to promote decarbonisation in electricity generation and energy efficiency and conservation as per the direction set out in the Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2050;
- continue to conduct energy audits as well as retro-commissioning, implement energy saving projects and install renewable energy systems in government buildings and infrastructure to improve the overall energy performance of government premises;
- continue to review the MEELS to further enhance energy efficiency at appliances level;
- continue to promote energy efficiency and conservation in buildings, including taking forward the legislative amendment exercise on the Buildings Energy Efficiency Ordinance and implementing the Building Energy Code and Energy Audit Code 2024 edition;
- continue to oversee the operation and implementation of the DCS projects and feasibility studies on DCS projects in New Development Areas; and
- continue to oversee the distribution of electricity charges relief.

Programme (3): Sustainable Development

	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Original)	2024–25 (Revised)	2025–26 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	35.4	40.9	38.2 (–6.6%)	42.6 (+11.5%)
				(or +4.2% on 2024–25 Original)

Aim

- 8** The aim is to promote sustainable development (SD) in Hong Kong.

Brief Description

9 The Branch's main responsibility under this programme is to ensure the incorporation of sustainability considerations into the Government's decision-making process through the sustainability assessment (SA) system; promote understanding and application of the SD principles as well as the SA system among bureaux and departments; and implement education and publicity programmes to promote public awareness and understanding of the principles of SD.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26

- 10** During 2025–26, the Branch will:
- implement education and publicity programmes, including the School Outreach Programme and the School Award Programme;
 - monitor the implementation of the SA system; and
 - provide training programmes for bureaux and departments on the SD principles and the SA system.

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Programme (4): Environmental Protection

	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Original)	2024–25 (Revised)	2025–26 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	81.4	153.8	80.9 (–47.4%)	155.0 (+91.6%)
				(or +0.8% on 2024–25 Original)

Aim

11 The aim is to promote a healthy and pleasant environment of Hong Kong for the benefit of the community and future generations.

Brief Description

12 The Branch’s main responsibility under this programme is to formulate and oversee implementation of policies in relation to air and water quality improvement, pollution control of air, water and noise, waste management, environmental impact assessment and promotion of green transport.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26

13 During 2025–26, the Branch will:

- oversee the operation of the amended Air Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap. 311);
- continue to promote green transport in accordance with the Green Transformation Roadmap of Public Buses and Taxis, and through the New Energy Transport (NET) Fund as well as other subsidy schemes;
- formulate a roadmap for the promotion of electric public transport and commercial vehicles, with a view to achieving zero vehicular emissions by 2050;
- launch and monitor trials of hydrogen fuel cell heavy vehicles under the NET Fund to explore the potential and possible applications of hydrogen fuel in green transport;
- review the Ninth Technical Memorandum for Allocation of Emission Allowances in respect of Specified Licences to explore the feasibility of tightening the emission caps on power plants;
- proceed with the legislative amendments to (i) tighten the sulphur content limits of marine light diesel and industrial diesel; and (ii) extend the control of volatile organic compounds to architectural paints and consumer products;
- proceed with the legislative amendments of the Ozone Layer Protection Ordinance (Cap. 403) to regulate and phase down the manufacturing and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons in the light of the latest requirements under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer;
- oversee the operation of the amended Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Cap. 499);
- oversee (i) the implementation of the road traffic noise policy; and (ii) review of measures in tackling noise from domestic renovation and use of loudspeakers for street cries;
- oversee the retrofitting of electric charging facilities in petrol filling stations with a view to facilitating the transition to green transport;
- take forward the initiatives under the Action Plan on Green Maritime Fuel Bunkering in Hong Kong jointly with the Transport and Logistics Bureau, such as making preparation for the provision of green maritime fuel bunkering for ocean-going vessels;
- oversee the implementation of waste-to-resources management strategies and programmes and the review of the municipal solid waste charging scheme;
- oversee the legislative amendment exercises to establish a common legislative framework for producer responsibility schemes;
- oversee the implementation of the regulation on disposable plastic tableware and other plastic products;
- oversee the development of the community recycling network and implementation of measures to encourage public participation in recycling; and
- oversee the administration of the Sewage Services Charging Scheme.

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Programme (5): Nature Conservation

	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Original)	2024–25 (Revised)	2025–26 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	88.6	116.8	135.0 (+15.6%)	119.6 (–11.4%)
				(or +2.4% on 2024–25 Original)

Aim

14 The aim is to regulate, protect and manage natural resources that are important for the promotion of biological diversity of Hong Kong in a sustainable manner, taking into account social and economic considerations, for the benefit and enjoyment of the community and future generations.

Brief Description

15 The Branch's main responsibility under this programme is to formulate and oversee the implementation of policies relating to the promotion of biodiversity, protection of endangered species and wild animals, and conservation of country parks, marine parks, and wetland. It also promotes countryside conservation through the work of the Countryside Conservation Office.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26

16 During 2025–26, the Branch will:

- oversee further studies and planning for the development of Sam Po Shue Wetland Conservation Park in the Northern Metropolis;
- oversee the management and operation of the new North Lantau Marine Park;
- oversee the enhancement of recreational and educational facilities of country parks;
- oversee the management strategy of the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark;
- continue to oversee the strategies for enhanced protection of endangered species and management of wild animals, including the review on relevant legislation and codes to enhance protection of marine animals;
- oversee the updating of the Hong Kong Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan;
- promote eco-tour experience and plan, co-ordinate and implement minor improvement works in Lai Chi Wo and Sha Lo Tung as priority areas;
- continue to provide secretariat support to the expert group for the proactive long term conservation of Sha Lo Tung to enrich its biodiversity;
- continue to provide secretariat support to the Advisory Committee on Countryside Conservation to consider funding applications under the Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme; and
- continue to facilitate guesthouse and food business licence applications in countryside areas.

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Programme (6): Climate Change

	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Original)	2024–25 (Revised)	2025–26 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	120.6	152.2	142.7 (–6.2%)	154.9 (+8.5%)
				(or +1.8% on 2024–25 Original)

Aim

17 The aim is to co-ordinate the Government’s efforts in combatting climate change and to achieve carbon neutrality.

Brief Description

18 The Branch’s main responsibility under this programme is to co-ordinate strategies and measures for combatting climate change and to achieve carbon neutrality.

19 To align with the national “dual carbon” targets, Hong Kong Special Administration Region strives to achieve carbon neutrality before 2050 and reduce the total carbon emissions from the 2005 level by half before 2035. Under the vision of the Hong Kong’s Climate Action Plan 2050, the Government has been taking forward four major decarbonisation strategies, namely “net-zero electricity generation”, “energy saving and green buildings”, “green transport” and “waste reduction” to lead Hong Kong towards carbon neutrality. Hong Kong has been actively involved in international co-operation and exchanges on climate actions, including the events organised by the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26

20 During 2025–26, the Branch will:

- assist the Council for Carbon Neutrality and Sustainable Development to offer advice on decarbonisation strategies and promote participation by different sectors of the community;
- monitor the work of bureaux and departments in the implementation of the Hong Kong’s Climate Action Plan 2050 in support of Hong Kong’s transition to carbon neutrality;
- assist the Steering Committee on Climate Change and Carbon Neutrality in formulating the overall strategy and overseeing the co-ordination of various climate actions;
- assist the Inter-departmental Working Group on Using Hydrogen as Fuel in taking forward the measures set out in the Strategy of Hydrogen Development in Hong Kong;
- introduce the legislative amendments of the Gas Safety Ordinance (Cap. 51) for regulating the manufacture, storage, transport, supply and use of hydrogen as fuel;
- enhance public awareness of climate change including the publicity on Carbon Neutrality;
- promote regional and international collaboration on climate change and carbon neutrality, including collaboration with cities in the Greater Bay Area;
- oversee the work of the Hong Kong Observatory in providing weather services and scientific support for climate actions; and
- continue to provide support to bureaux and departments in enhancing carbon management by carrying out carbon audits on major government buildings; and progressively extend the conduct of carbon audit to typical government infrastructures to identify room for carbon reduction.

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ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

	2023–24 (Actual) (\$m)	2024–25 (Original) (\$m)	2024–25 (Revised) (\$m)	2025–26 (Estimate) (\$m)
Programme				
(1) Director of Bureau’s Office	21.1	22.3	22.6	21.1
(2) Power	1,755.4	1,821.7	1,759.5	1,586.8
(3) Sustainable Development	35.4	40.9	38.2	42.6
(4) Environmental Protection	81.4	153.8	80.9	155.0
(5) Nature Conservation	88.6	116.8	135.0	119.6
(6) Climate Change	120.6	152.2	142.7	154.9
	<u>2,102.5</u>	<u>2,307.7</u>	<u>2,178.9</u> (–5.6%)	<u>2,080.0</u> (–4.5%)
				(or –9.9% on 2024–25 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

Provision for 2025–26 is \$1.5 million (6.6%) lower than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to the decreased provision for operating expenses.

Programme (2)

Provision for 2025–26 is \$172.7 million (9.8%) lower than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to the decreased cash flow requirement for providing electricity charges relief.

Programme (3)

Provision for 2025–26 is \$4.4 million (11.5%) higher than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to the increased provision for operating expenses.

Programme (4)

Provision for 2025–26 is \$74.1 million (91.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for the New Energy Transport Fund and Fast Chargers Incentive Scheme.

Programme (5)

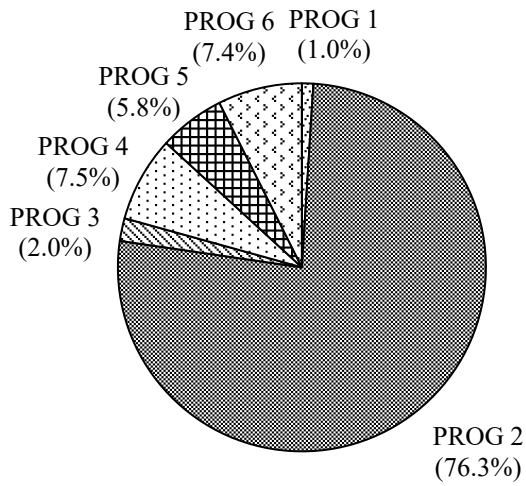
Provision for 2025–26 is \$15.4 million (11.4%) lower than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to the decreased cash flow requirement for the non-recurrent item of the Countryside Conservation Office. In addition, there will be a net decrease of one post in 2025–26.

Programme (6)

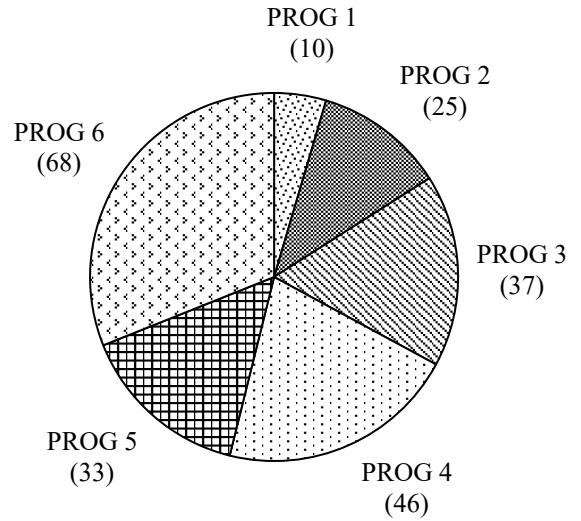
Provision for 2025–26 is \$12.2 million (8.5%) higher than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for the Green Tech Fund. In addition, there will be a net decrease of two posts in 2025–26.

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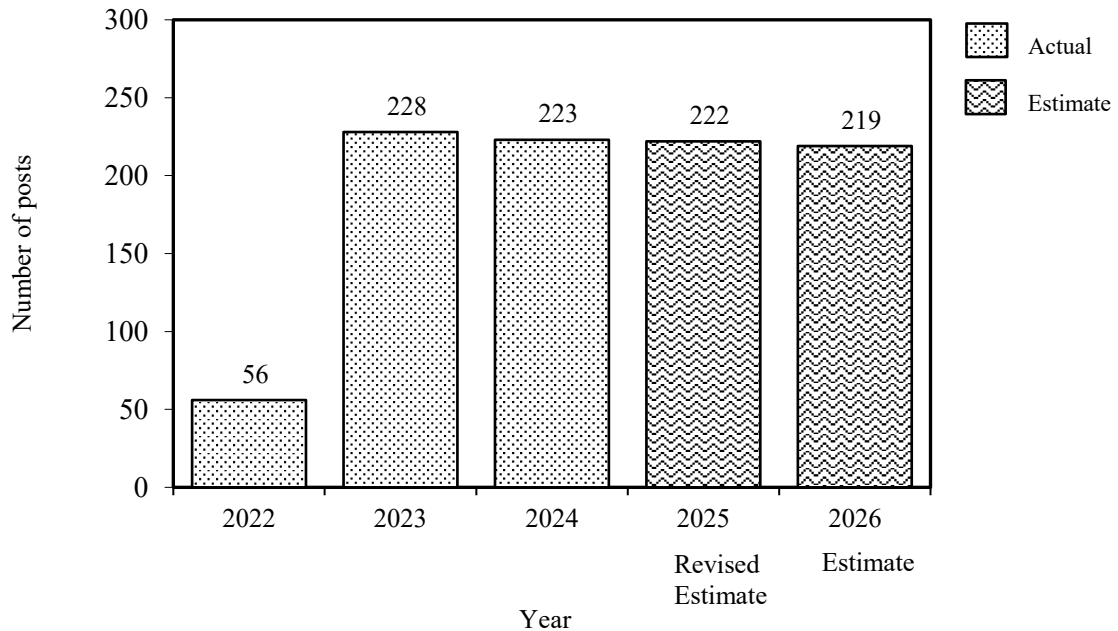
*Allocation of provision
to programmes
(2025-26)*



*Staff by programme
(as at 31 March 2026)*



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



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Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2023–24	Approved estimate 2024–25	Revised estimate 2024–25	Estimate 2025–26	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Operating Account					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses	327,953	338,034	330,940	344,354
	Total, Recurrent.....	<u>327,953</u>	<u>338,034</u>	<u>330,940</u>	<u>344,354</u>
Non-Recurrent					
700	General non-recurrent	1,774,254	1,969,662	1,847,924	1,735,600
	Total, Non-Recurrent.....	<u>1,774,254</u>	<u>1,969,662</u>	<u>1,847,924</u>	<u>1,735,600</u>
	Total, Operating Account	<u>2,102,207</u>	<u>2,307,696</u>	<u>2,178,864</u>	<u>2,079,954</u>
Capital Account					
Plant, Equipment and Works					
	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote).....	311	—	—	—
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works.....	<u>311</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
	Total, Capital Account.....	<u>311</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
	Total Expenditure	<u><u>2,102,518</u></u>	<u><u>2,307,696</u></u>	<u><u>2,178,864</u></u>	<u><u>2,079,954</u></u>

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2025–26 for the salaries and expenses of the Environment and Ecology Bureau (Environment Branch) is \$2,079,954,000. This represents a decrease of \$98,910,000 against the revised estimate for 2024–25 and \$22,564,000 against the actual expenditure in 2023–24.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$344,354,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Environment and Ecology Bureau (Environment Branch).

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2025 will be 222 posts. It is expected that there will be a net decrease of three posts in 2025–26. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2025–26, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$165,417,000.

4 An analysis of the financial provision under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is as follows:

	2023–24 (Actual) (\$'000)	2024–25 (Original) (\$'000)	2024–25 (Revised) (\$'000)	2025–26 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries	173,547	190,557	190,510	206,483
- Allowances	5,899	5,729	5,779	7,299
- Job-related allowances.....	6	72	72	72
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution	490	601	583	577
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution	15,836	18,815	18,267	21,948
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses	132,175	122,260	115,729	107,975
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	327,953	338,034	330,940	344,354

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Commitments

Sub-head (Code)	Item (Code)	Ambit	Approved commitment \$'000	Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.2024 \$'000	Revised estimated expenditure for 2024–25 \$'000	Balance \$'000
<i>Operating Account</i>						
700	<i>General non-recurrent</i>					
	052	Sustainable Development Fund.....	100,000	72,199	4,760	23,041
	803	Countryside Conservation Office.....	500,000	143,502	64,000	292,498
	804	Electricity Charges Relief Scheme (2024–2025).....	3,544,000	286,200	1,720,000	1,537,800
	819	Green Tech Fund.....	400,000	57,300	42,000	300,700
	840	New Energy Transport Fund.....	1,100,000	120,986	17,000	962,014
	910	Fast Chargers Incentive Scheme¶.....	300,000¶	—	—	300,000
		Total	<u>5,944,000</u>	<u>680,187</u>	<u>1,847,760</u>	<u>3,416,053</u>

¶ This is a new item, funding for which is sought in the context of the Appropriation Bill 2025.