

Head 159 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: DEVELOPMENT BUREAU (WORKS BRANCH)

Controlling officer: the Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) will account for expenditure under this Head.

Estimate 2025–26 **\$1,449.8m**

Establishment ceiling 2025–26 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 433 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2025 reducing by five posts to 428 posts as at 31 March 2026..... **\$364.0m**

In addition, there will be an estimated 30 directorate posts as at 31 March 2025 and as at 31 March 2026.

Commitment balance **\$1,416.2m**

Controlling Officer’s Report

Programmes

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| Programme (1) Water Supply | This programme contributes to Policy Area 24: Water Supply, Drainage and Slope Safety (Secretary for Development). |
| Programme (2) Heritage Conservation
Programme (3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management | These programmes contribute to Policy Area 22: Buildings, Lands, Planning, Heritage Conservation, Greening and Landscape (Secretary for Development). |
| Programme (4) Energizing Kowloon East
Programme (5) Project Strategy and Governance | |
| Programme (6) Intra-Governmental Services | This programme contributes to Policy Area 22: Buildings, Lands, Planning, Heritage Conservation, Greening and Landscape (Secretary for Development) and Policy Area 27: Intra-Governmental Services (Secretary for Development). |

Detail

Programme (1): Water Supply

	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Original)	2024–25 (Revised)	2025–26 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	19.0	20.3	19.1 (–5.9%)	18.0 (–5.8%)
				(or –11.3% on 2024–25 Original)

Aim

2 The aim is to ensure the provision of a reliable, adequate and quality supply of water and to maintain an efficient water supply service.

Brief Description

3 The Works Branch’s main responsibility under this programme is to formulate water supply policies and co-ordinate their implementation. In 2024, the Branch:

- oversaw the provision of round-the-clock water supply to the territory throughout the year;
- oversaw the performance of the Water Supplies Department (WSD) on drinking water safety including the control of quality of water supplied to customers in accordance with the Hong Kong Drinking Water Standards;
- monitored the implementation of total water management strategy;
- oversaw the implementation of major water supply projects, including the investigation and design of the second stage of desalination plant at Tsung Kwan O and development of Water Intelligent Network;
- oversaw the construction and operation of Anderson Road Quarry grey water treatment plant and Shek Wu Hui water reclamation plant for the provision of recycled water for non-potable use;
- oversaw the operation of the Dongjiang water supply;

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- continued the preparation of legislative amendments to the Waterworks Ordinance (Cap. 102) (WWO) and the Waterworks Regulations (Cap. 102A) (WWR) relating to the regulation of plumbing works, control of plumbing materials, safeguarding drinking water safety at consumers' taps, mandatory water efficiency labelling scheme and supply of recycled water, as well as the review of other parts of WWO and WWR;
- oversaw the enforcement of WWO and WWR relating to strengthening the power of the Water Authority against the overcharging for water;
- continued to take forward the Action Plan for Enhancing Drinking Water Safety in Hong Kong together with WSD, including overseeing the implementation of the Water Safety Plan Subsidy Scheme (WSPSS); and
- continued to support the Drinking Water Safety Advisory Committee which provides advice to the Development Bureau on various drinking water safety issues.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26

4 During 2025–26, the Branch will:

- continue to oversee a reliable and safe supply of potable water;
- oversee the performance of WSD on drinking water safety;
- steer the update and review on the total water management strategy;
- work with WSD in taking forward a series of events promoting public education about the history of supply of Dongjiang water to Hong Kong;
- oversee the drafting of legislative amendments to WWO and WWR relating to the regulation of plumbing works, control of plumbing materials, supply of recycled water etc.;
- oversee the stepping up of prosecution and inspections against overcharging for water at sub-divided units; and
- oversee the implementation of initiatives under the Action Plan for Enhancing Drinking Water Safety in Hong Kong, including WSPSS.

Programme (2): Heritage Conservation

	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Original)	2024–25 (Revised)	2025–26 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	314.0	349.8	339.0 (–3.1%)	362.5 (+6.9%)
				(or +3.6% on 2024–25 Original)

Aim

5 The aim is to protect, conserve and revitalise as appropriate historical and heritage buildings and sites through relevant and sustainable approaches for the benefit and enjoyment of the present and future generations.

Brief Description

6 The Works Branch's main responsibility under this programme is to support the Secretary for Development in discharging her statutory role as the Antiquities Authority and to formulate and implement heritage conservation measures with public participation. In 2024, the Branch:

- continued to provide funding support under the Built Heritage Conservation Fund for implementing the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme (Revitalisation Scheme), the Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme on Built Heritage, and the funding schemes for thematic research and public engagement projects, and to provide secretariat support to the Advisory Committee on Built Heritage Conservation which offers advice to the Government on the operation of the Fund;
- continued to take forward the projects under Batches I to VII of the Revitalisation Scheme, which involves revitalisation of government-owned historic buildings by non-profit-making organisations (NPOs);
- implemented the enhancement measures for the Revitalisation Scheme and the Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme on Built Heritage;
- completed the review on the Funding Scheme for Public Engagement Projects and implemented Batch II of the funding scheme;
- completed the review on the Funding Scheme for Thematic Research and commenced preparation for launching Batch II of the scheme which will implement the enhancement measures recommended in the review;

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- continued to implement the Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme on Built Heritage to provide financial assistance on the maintenance of privately-owned graded historic buildings as well as government-owned declared monuments and graded historic buildings leased to NPOs;
 - continued to oversee the implementation of the Heritage Impact Assessment mechanism for capital works projects to ensure that their impact on heritage sites would be avoided or minimised and mitigation measures would be devised if impact was unavoidable;
 - offered assistance and explored economic incentives as appropriate to facilitate conservation of privately-owned graded historic buildings;
 - continued to take forward the remaining parts of the Central Police Station Compound revitalisation project in partnership with the Hong Kong Jockey Club;
 - continued to manage the operation and leasing of Cattle Depot Artist Village;
 - together with the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau, continued to work closely with the selected NPO to promote the former Police Married Quarters on Hollywood Road as a creative industries landmark;
 - completed the declaration of two additional historic buildings as monuments under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53) (A&MO);
 - continued with the grading exercise for 1 444 historic buildings and other buildings suggested for grading by the public by seeking the Antiquities Advisory Board’s confirmation of the proposed grading taking account of the advice of the Historic Buildings Assessment Panel as well as the views received from the private owners concerned and the public;
 - took forward the preliminary research on buildings built between 1950 and 1959 with a view to selecting buildings suitable for grading assessment under the prevailing mechanism;
 - continued to implement the Framework Agreement on the Exchange and Collaboration on Cultural Heritage with the National Cultural Heritage Administration and the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Exchange and Collaboration on Archaeological and Built Heritage Amongst the Greater Bay Area (GBA) signed with the Department of Culture and Tourism of Guangdong Province and the Cultural Affairs Bureau of Macao Special Administrative Region Government in November 2022, the MoU on the Exchange and Collaboration on Archaeology and Built Heritage signed with Shanghai Municipal Administration of Culture and Tourism (Shanghai Municipal Administration of Cultural Heritage); and signed and commenced implementation of the Framework Agreement to Deepen Exchanges and Cooperation in the Field of Stratigraphy, Palaeontology and Prehistoric Sites with the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in 2024, with a view to jointly studying palaeontology and prehistoric sites, promoting the conservation of and heritage education and publicity on palaeontology, archaeological sites/findings;
 - organised the Heritage Fiesta cum Roving Exhibition, “Under the Same Roof – Origin and Art of Lingnan Traditional Architecture”, “Master of All Crafts: ‘Investiture of the Gods’ on the Ridge of Lo Pan Temple”, “Harmony of Rites and Music: Exploring the Qilu Culture through Shandong Relics”, and “Launch from Greater Bay Area: Nanhai I Shipwreck and the Maritime Silk Road” exhibitions, and other promotional activities, such as launching the first GBA heritage trail themed on education, and continued to manage the HK Heritage LIVE Instagram account to promote regional collaboration and enhance the public interest in and knowledge of heritage conservation; and
 - conducted exploration for and excavation of dinosaur fossils on Port Island and related public education activities to promote understanding of paleontology and dinosaur fossils excavated from Port Island.
- 7 The key performance measures in respect of heritage conservation are:

Indicators

	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Estimate)
cumulative total no. of projects included under the Revitalisation Scheme.....	24	24	24
cumulative total no. of buildings/structures/sites declared as monuments.....	134	136	138
restoration, repair and maintenance projects for historic buildings/structures/sites completed.....	35	35	35
attendance at public education, publicity and promotional activities/programmes.....	820 775	884 435	930 000

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Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26

8 During 2025–26, the Branch will:

- continue to oversee the operation of the Built Heritage Conservation Fund;
- continue to take forward the projects under Batches I to VII of the Revitalisation Scheme;
- continue to implement the Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme on Built Heritage to provide financial assistance on the maintenance of privately-owned graded historic buildings as well as government-owned declared monuments and graded historic buildings leased to NPOs;
- continue to implement Batch II of the Funding Scheme for Public Engagement Projects;
- continue to prepare for the launch of the Batch II of the Funding Scheme for Thematic Research;
- continue to oversee the implementation of the Heritage Impact Assessment mechanism to protect sites and buildings of historical or archaeological significance;
- continue to liaise with private owners of graded historic buildings to offer assistance and explore economic incentives as appropriate to facilitate their preservation;
- continue to take forward the remaining parts of the Central Police Station Compound revitalisation project in partnership with the Hong Kong Jockey Club;
- continue to manage the operation and leasing of Cattle Depot Artist Village;
- together with the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau, continue to work closely with the selected NPO to promote the revitalised former Police Married Quarters on Hollywood Road as a creative industries landmark;
- continue to identify suitable historic buildings or archaeological sites for consideration to be declared as monuments under A&MO;
- continue to oversee the grading exercise for 1 444 historic buildings and other buildings suggested for grading by the public;
- continue to take forward the preliminary research on buildings built between 1950 and 1959 with a view to selecting buildings suitable for grading assessment under the prevailing mechanism;
- continue to organise promotional activities to enhance public interest in and knowledge of heritage conservation;
- continue to deepen collaboration and exchange between Hong Kong and the Mainland, in particular within GBA, on archaeological, conservation and revitalisation of historic buildings, as well as relevant promotion, public education and community engagement efforts; and
- commence scientific research on the dinosaur fossils excavated in Hong Kong upon completion of the preparation of such fossils, and continue to organise public education activities to deepen understanding of dinosaur fossils and paleontology of Hong Kong.

Programme (3): Greening, Landscape and Tree Management

	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Original)	2024–25 (Revised)	2025–26 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	96.0	116.4	113.3 (–2.7%)	122.8 (+8.4%)
				(or +5.5% on 2024–25 Original)

Aim

9 The aim is to oversee and co-ordinate government efforts on landscape and tree management through an integrated approach.

Brief Description

10 Landscape and trees are integral parts of our outdoor environment. They contribute to our quality of life by moderating temperature, improving air quality and enhancing the visual appeal and biodiversity of our densely built-up city. The Greening, Landscape and Tree Management (GLTM) Section was established under the Works Branch in March 2010 to take up the overall policy responsibility for formulating and co-ordinating landscape and tree management strategies and initiatives in Hong Kong.

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11 The GLTM Section is underpinned by the Greening and Landscape Office (GLO) and the Tree Management Office (TMO). The two offices work in close co-operation to promote a holistic approach, advocating adequate space allocation for new planting, proper selection of planting species, quality landscape design and planting practices in the upstream and proper vegetation maintenance in the downstream, with protection of public safety as a priority consideration. GLO is responsible for central co-ordination of the Government's greening and landscape planning and design efforts, while TMO for advocating the adoption of a professional approach to tree management among tree management departments and in the community at large. In 2024, the Branch:

- continued to promote the principles of “Right Tree, Right Place” and vegetation diversity with a view to developing a healthier and more resilient urban forest and minimising tree risks;
- continued to implement a holistic urban forestry management regime and develop proper urban arboricultural practices;
- implemented the enhancement measures for roadside tree planting and maintenance;
- implemented various recommendations from The Ombudsman on the handling of tree-related complaints in government land;
- continued the study on the suitability and sustainability of existing roadside trees for the development of a management tool for planning of improvement measures;
- hosted the International Urban Forestry Conference 2024;
- continued to administer the Urban Forestry Support Fund supporting the Study Sponsorship Scheme, Trainee Programme, and public education and promotion activities under the “People • Trees • Harmony” campaign; and
- continued to manage the Registration Scheme for Tree Management Personnel.

12 The key performance measures in respect of greening, landscape and tree management are:

Indicators

	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Estimate)
planting by the Government#			
trees (thousands).....	286.6	260.7	250.0
shrubs (thousands).....	4 761.3	3 220.9	3 830.0
herbaceous plants (thousands).....	1 174.5	1 542.4	1 710.0
total (thousands).....	6 222.4	5 024.0	5 790.0
expenditure on greening works by the Government (\$m).....	268.0	216.2	310.0
no. of participants in training organised by the GLTM Section	5 700	6 286	6 300
no. of participants in public education and community involvement activities organised by the GLTM Section ...	37 000	44 159	40 000

The above planting data includes the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HA)'s planting data. As a financially autonomous public body, HA funds its public housing programmes with its own resources.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26

13 During 2025–26, the Branch will:

- continue to oversee the operation of the Urban Forestry Support Fund;
- continue to manage the Registration Scheme for Tree Management Personnel;
- continue to organise public education and promotion activities under the “People • Trees • Harmony” campaign; and
- complete the study on the suitability and sustainability of existing roadside trees.

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Programme (4): Energizing Kowloon East

	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Original)	2024–25 (Revised)	2025–26 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	43.5	42.8	42.0 (–1.9%)	41.9 (–0.2%)
				(or –2.1% on 2024–25 Original)

Aim

14 The aim is to advocate the overall planning and design directions, facilitate public and private developments, implement necessary public works projects, and take such initiatives that are conducive to expediting the transformation of Kowloon East (comprising the Kai Tak Development and the Kwun Tong and Kowloon Bay Business Areas) into an additional core business district (CBD) to support Hong Kong's economic development.

Brief Description

15 The 2011–12 Policy Address announced the transformation of Kowloon East into an attractive CBD in order to meet the demand for quality office space outside the traditional CBD. Specifically, this involves land use reviews, urban design, co-ordinating the Government's efforts and resources in improving connectivity and the associated infrastructure as well as the environment, facilitating proposals from the public and private sectors that help the transformation of Kowloon East, enhancing vibrancy of the district under a place-making approach, building a strong and positive brand for Kowloon East.

16 In June 2012, the multi-disciplinary Energizing Kowloon East Office was inaugurated to steer and monitor the transformation of Kowloon East into the second CBD of Hong Kong. The Energizing Kowloon East Initiative was extended to the San Po Kong Business Area in October 2017.

17 In 2024, the Branch:

- continued to implement the Conceptual Master Plan (CMP) and liaise with various stakeholders and the wider community to address their needs;
- continued to enhance walkability and connectivity in Kowloon East by taking forward the remaining pedestrian and traffic environment improvement proposals recommended under the feasibility studies on Kowloon Bay, Kwun Tong and San Po Kong Business Areas;
- continued a comprehensive pedestrian environment improvement review in Kowloon East, including examination of further external pedestrian linkages to the nearby residential areas;
- continued to take forward the recommendations of the future commercial use of the Lai Yip Street site;
- continued to take forward the recommendations of the two planning and engineering studies on Kwun Tong and Kowloon Bay Action Areas;
- continued to take forward the overall planning of the Choi Hung Road Playground and Sports Centre site to enhance the existing facilities and incorporate a public vehicle park and other social welfare and community uses;
- oversaw the operation of the facilities underneath Kwun Tong Bypass for arts, culture and creative uses;
- explored opportunities to support the arts, culture and creative industries, as well as water sports and recreation and to promote vibrancy of the waterfront with a view to turning Kowloon East into a distinctive CBD;
- incorporated the industrial culture elements of Kowloon East into urban design with a view to creating distinctive public spaces including open space and streetscape enhancement projects;
- continued to co-ordinate the Government's efforts and resources for improvement of the environment, including the completion of face-lifting of Lam Wah Street Playground together with its adjacent areas, transformation of the King Yip Street nullah into Tsui Ping River, provision of district open space cum underground public vehicle park at Sze Mei Street as well as reprovisioning of the refuse collection point at Wang Chin Street;
- continued to carry out the proof-of-concept trial programme and to share the experience and knowledge gained to facilitate wider application, while at the same time facilitating different sectors in using Kowloon East as a test bed to examine the feasibility of innovative ideas in real-life situations;
- maintained active dialogues with various stakeholders and the wider community to enhance vibrancy through facilitation of place-making events and activities;
- continued to provide one-stop advisory and co-ordination services for public and private developments to facilitate the transformation in Kowloon East; and
- engaged various stakeholders and the wider community to promote Kowloon East as the second CBD of Hong Kong.

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Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26

18 During 2025–26, the Branch will continue to:

- advocate and refine the CMP taking into account the latest circumstances and development proposals to forge ahead the policy initiatives of Energizing Kowloon East in transforming the district into the second CBD of Hong Kong;
- take forward the recommendations of the planning and engineering studies on the Kwun Tong and Kowloon Bay Action Areas and the future commercial use of the Lai Yip Street site;
- enhance walkability and connectivity in Kowloon East through taking forward the remaining improvement proposals recommended under the feasibility studies on Kowloon Bay, Kwun Tong and San Po Kong Business Areas;
- implement quick-wins and short term improvement measures recommended under the comprehensive pedestrian environment improvement review in Kowloon East, and plan on the provision of further external pedestrian linkages to the nearby residential areas;
- co-ordinate the Government’s efforts and resources for improvement of the environment, including provision of district open space cum underground public vehicle park at Sze Mei Street, reprovisioning of refuse collection point at Wang Chin Street and redevelopment of the Choi Hung Road Playground and Sports Centre to enhance the existing facilities and incorporate a public vehicle park and other social welfare and community uses;
- share the experience and knowledge gained from the proof-of-concept trial programme to facilitate wider application, and facilitate different sectors in using Kowloon East as a test bed to examine the feasibility of innovative ideas in real-life situations;
- provide one-stop advisory and co-ordination services for public and private developments to facilitate the transformation of Kowloon East;
- build a unique brand for Kowloon East as a CBD with local characteristics and history through adopting a place-making and facilitating approach;
- promote and explore opportunities to incorporate the industrial culture elements of Kowloon East into urban design and public arts with a view to creating distinctive public spaces including open space and streetscape enhancement projects;
- promote diverse water recreational uses to enhance vibrancy of the waterfront by recommending short, medium and long-term water body co-use proposals for the Kwun Tong Typhoon Shelter and Kai Tak Approach Channel;
- explore opportunities to support the arts, culture and creative industries in Kowloon East, and to oversee the operation of the facilities underneath Kwun Tong Bypass for arts, culture and creative uses;
- maintain active dialogues with various stakeholders and the wider community to enhance vibrancy through facilitation of place-making events and activities; and
- formulate promotion materials and maintain active liaison with Invest Hong Kong to foster the branding and wider recognition of Kowloon East as the second CBD of Hong Kong.

Programme (5): Project Strategy and Governance

	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Original)	2024–25 (Revised)	2025–26 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	100.7	114.3	116.6 (+2.0%)	95.1 (–18.4%)
				(or –16.8% on 2024–25 Original)

Aim

19 The aim is to adopt co-ordinated approaches, create synergies and steer concerted efforts in taking forward the initiatives for strengthening cost management and uplifting the performance of capital work projects along the following directions – (a) strengthening the existing gateway process for cost management; (b) enhancing project delivery capability; (c) leading strategic developments to enhance cost-effectiveness; and (d) enhancing collaboration with international counterparts and local industry stakeholders.

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Brief Description

20 The Government has been investing in capital works projects to enhance people's living environment and to sustain Hong Kong's long-term competitiveness. To uplift the delivery capability and enhance overall cost-effectiveness in capital works projects, the 2018 Policy Address announced to upgrade the Project Cost Management Office (PCMO) and expand its establishment and functions.

21 In April 2019, PCMO was upgraded and renamed as Project Strategy and Governance Office (PSGO), a multi-disciplinary office, for implementing strategies and reinforcing capabilities in cost surveillance and project governance. PSGO adopts a holistic approach to strengthen cost management and improve the performance of capital works projects.

22 In 2024, the Branch:

- took forward the strategic study on construction costs and continued to achieve better cost management and control throughout the delivery of capital works projects by formulating, implementing and promoting cost control measures and cost saving initiatives;
- established the Building Technology Research Institute (BTRi) in driving applied research and development reviewing and uplifting standards as well as providing accreditation, certification and testing;
- continued to monitor the delivery of capital works projects to ensure timely completion and within budget;
- continued to promote and cultivate cost-consciousness and cost management in the construction industry;
- continued to uplift project performance and delivery capability of capital works projects through delivery of Major Projects Leadership Programme (MPLP) and Project Delivery Capability Programme (PDCP) under the Centre of Excellence for Major Project Leaders (CoE);
- continued to provide cross-bureau and high level technical support in respect of project delivery, including project cost estimation, budget control and procurement issues of capital works projects;
- continued to lead the construction industry to uplift the capacity and sustainability of the industry, thereby improving productivity, enhancing quality, improving site safety and reducing environmental impact;
- continued to monitor the adoption and implementation of the digital works supervision system, digital project delivery system, implement the integrated capital works platform in phases to monitor project performance continuously and to enhance the management of capital works projects;
- continued to steer and support the wider use of Modular Integrated Construction (MiC), Multi-trade Integrated Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (MiMEP) and other high productivity construction methods;
- completed the study for formulating measures to strengthen the supply chain of the MiC modules and rolled out progressively such measures including the implementation of MiC Manufacturer Accreditation Scheme;
- continued to steer and support applied research and development (R&D) in capital works projects;
- continued to foster closer collaboration with local stakeholders and international counterparts to enhance project governance capability;
- continued to take lead in promoting sustainable built environment in Hong Kong; and
- continued to steer and monitor the adoption of prefabricated rebar products in the construction industry.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26

23 During 2025–26, the Branch will:

- formulate and implement a series of strategic cost reduction measures in project delivery, mode of procurement, utilisation of innovative technologies, streamlining approval process, and review of standards;
- take forward the development of the Advanced Construction Industry Building in Tsing Yi to provide space to set up advanced manufacturing facilities;
- continue to achieve better cost management and control throughout the delivery of capital works projects by formulating, implementing and promoting cost control measures and cost saving initiatives;
- continue to monitor the delivery of capital works projects to ensure timely completion and within budget;
- continue to promote and cultivate cost-consciousness and cost management in the construction industry;
- continue to uplift project performance and delivery capability of capital works projects through the CoE with an aim to enhancing its role as an international expert knowledge hub on project delivery;
- continue to deliver MPLP under CoE to equip officers with innovative mindset and world-class leadership skills for delivering public works projects, and PDCP under CoE to enhance the professional skills of mid-tier managers and uplift the project delivery capability;

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- continue to provide cross-bureau and high level technical support in respect of project delivery, including project cost estimation, budget control and procurement issues of capital works projects;
- continue to lead the construction industry to uplift the capability and sustainability of the industry, thereby improving productivity, enhancing quality, improving site safety and reducing environmental impact;
- continue to lead and drive the digitalisation of public works and the construction industry to enhance work processes and uplift efficiency and productivity;
- continue to utilise the developed integrated capital works platform to consolidate the data of all public works projects to achieve further application of artificial intelligence technology for big data analysis for reviewing the performance of projects in terms of cost and progress;
- continue to roll out progressively measures to strengthen the supply chain of MiC modules, foster complementarities with the Mainland and drive the high-quality development of MiC so as to turn it into one of the industries in GBA that enjoy clear advantages, and subsequently expand it to overseas markets;
- continue to steer and support the wider use of MiMEP and other high productivity construction methods;
- continue to collaborate with BTRi in driving applied research and development, reviewing and uplifting standards as well as providing accreditation, certification and testing;
- continue to foster closer collaboration with local stakeholders and international counterparts to enhance project governance capability;
- continue to take lead in promoting sustainable built environment in Hong Kong; and
- continue to oversee and monitor the adoption of prefabricated rebar products in the construction industry.

Programme (6): Intra-Governmental Services

	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Original)	2024–25 (Revised)	2025–26 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	557.8	814.9	608.7 (–25.3%)	809.5 (+33.0%)
				(or –0.7% on 2024–25 Original)

Aim

24 The aim is to plan, manage and implement public sector infrastructure development and works programmes in a safe, timely and cost-effective manner whilst maintaining high quality standards, and to promote the safety of lifts and escalators.

Brief Description

25 The Branch's main responsibilities under this programme are to formulate works policies; to monitor implementation of public sector infrastructure development and works programmes; to roll out industry reform initiatives; to provide legal services for these matters; and to formulate policies on safety of lifts and escalators. In 2024, the Branch:

- oversaw the implementation of infrastructure projects of Kai Tak Development;
- oversaw the construction of the elevated landscaped pedestrian deck near the Kwun Tong MTR Station, steered the investigation and design of the travellers network that links up the former runway of Kai Tak, the Kowloon Bay Action Area and the Kwun Tong Action Area, and the design and implementation of the 13-kilometre long GreenWay network in the Kai Tak Development for shared use by pedestrians and cyclists;
- oversaw the implementation of the improvement works at Mui Wo and Tai O;
- oversaw the implementation of improvement and expansion of mountain bike trail networks in South Lantau and the cycle track network in the New Territories;
- steered the study related to South Lantau Eco-recreation Corridor;
- steered the study related to the road network enhancement to South Lantau;
- steered the study on Sunny Bay reclamation;
- steered the engineering study for Ma Liu Shui reclamation;
- steered the studies related to the Kau Yi Chau Artificial Islands and the associated network of strategic transport infrastructure;
- steered the study for Road P1 (Tai Ho – Sunny Bay Section);

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- oversaw the construction of the stages 2 and 3 works of the relocation of Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works to caverns and the design of its remaining works;
- oversaw the construction of the relocation of Diamond Hill Fresh Water and Salt Water Service Reservoirs and Public Works Central Laboratory to caverns;
- steered the investigation and detailed design of the relocation of Tsuen Wan No. 2 Fresh Water Service Reservoir and Yau Tong Group Fresh Water and Salt Water Service Reservoirs to caverns;
- steered the feasibility studies on the relocation of Tuen Mun Water Treatment Works, Tsing Yi East Group Fresh Water and Salt Water Service Reservoirs and Shau Kei Wan Low Level Salt Water Service Reservoir to caverns;
- steered the implementation of the initiatives to facilitate cavern development and took forward the implementation model of underground quarry-cum-cavern development as a pilot project;
- steered the pilot planning and engineering study on development of selected Strategic Cavern Areas;
- steered the implementation of the Pier Improvement Programme;
- oversaw the provision of infrastructure support to various increasing land supply initiatives and proposals;
- completed the pilot study on underground space development in selected Strategic Urban Areas and oversaw the work associated with the way forward of the pilot study;
- worked closely with the Construction Industry Council (CIC) to develop and implement various improvement initiatives, including upskilling local construction manpower, attracting new entrants, promoting innovation and technology, monitoring the construction manpower situation and facilitating workers registration;
- took multi-pronged measures to address the manpower need based on the construction manpower forecast by CIC, including enhancing training for professionals, technicians and workers, driving wider adoption of innovative technologies and implementing the Labour Importation Scheme for the Construction Sector;
- supported CIC to continue using its three existing campuses and various training grounds to train construction practitioners to meet the industry needs;
- worked with the industry to launch the industry-wide promotion campaign for enhancing public understanding of the professionalism, contribution and prospect of the industry with a view to attracting new blood, including the launch of a construction-related STEAM education platform for primary and secondary schools;
- supported CIC to increase its annual training quota for skilled construction workers to at least about 12 000 places in each of the academic years from 2023/24 to 2027/28 and provided necessary training to serving and new construction personnel, including promoting “multi-skilled” development of workers, and at the same time continue to collaborate with relevant institutions in stepping up the training of local technicians and professionals;
- provided funding support to tertiary institutions and CIC to implement pilot schemes, in the 2023/24 to 2024/25 academic year, for providing on-the-job training allowances to trainees of part-time degree and safety officer courses;
- steered and monitored the implementation of and introduced enhancements to the Construction Innovation and Technology Fund (CITF), including providing funding support for industry adoption of the Smart Site Safety System (SSSS); and promoted CITF to industry stakeholders to encourage wider adoption of innovative technologies and greater provision of related training;
- continued to promote collaborative partnership in the implementation of public works projects, including the adoption of the New Engineering Contract (NEC) form, to enhance management efficiency and cost-effectiveness;
- continued to promote the construction and related professional services and liaised with the relevant Mainland authorities to pursue further market access in the Mainland, with focus on extending the existing scope of the professional services and striving for further liberalisation measures, including direct provision of services in the Free Trade Zones and GBA;
- established the evaluation mechanism of the Mainland “Professional Title” qualifications for Hong Kong professionals successfully, and implemented a pilot scheme for five engineering disciplines, namely civil engineering, geotechnical, highway, electrical and measurement, control and instrumentation. The assessment of the first batch of applications for “Professional Title” qualifications was completed with 207 Hong Kong engineers obtaining “Professional Title” qualifications;
- oversaw the implementation of the Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Programme to deal with landslide risks associated with man-made slopes and natural terrains;
- introduced improvement measures, including rolling out of SSSS Labelling Scheme to encourage a wider adoption of SSSS in the construction industry, and organised promotional activities to enhance safety and environmental performance at public works construction sites;
- monitored the implementation of the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance (Cap. 618) (LEO) to enhance regulatory control of lift and escalator safety;

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- oversaw the implementation of the Lift Modernisation Subsidy Scheme (LIMSS) to enhance the safety of aged lifts through provision of financial incentive to building owners in need;
- secured the passage of the Construction Industry Security of Payment Bill by the Legislative Council and prepared for its implementation;
- monitored drainage upgrading and rehabilitation works to reduce flooding risk;
- steered the implementation of the concept of “Rivers in the City” through river revitalisation projects and introduction of water bodies rejuvenation facilities;
- continued to review the public works procurement system and oversee the implementation of the enhancement measures;
- worked closely with CIC for building the capability of subcontractors;
- provided secretariat and support services to the Lantau Development Advisory Committee (LanDAC);
- oversaw the implementation of the conservation and development initiatives and projects set out in the Sustainable Lantau Blueprint;
- steered the operation of the Lantau Conservation Fund (LCF) to promote conservation together with the community and pursue local improvement works for Lantau;
- monitored the implementation of the works policies in enhancing the selection, appointment and management of engineering and associated consultants under the purview of the Architectural and Associated Consultants Selection Board (AACSB) and the Engineering and Associated Consultants Selection Board (EACSB);
- monitored the implementation of the works policy to promote design buildability for public works projects; and
- oversaw and monitored the implementation of the works policy to adopt Building Information Modelling (BIM) technology for major government capital works projects and promoted the use of this technology in private construction projects.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26

26 During 2025–26, the Branch will:

- continue to oversee the implementation of infrastructure projects of Kai Tak Development;
- continue to oversee the implementation of the improvement works at Mui Wo and Tai O;
- continue to oversee the implementation of improvement and expansion of mountain bike trail networks in South Lantau and the cycle track network in the New Territories;
- continue to steer the study related to South Lantau Eco-recreation Corridor;
- continue to steer the study related to the road network enhancement to South Lantau;
- continue to steer the study related to Sunny Bay reclamation;
- continue to steer the engineering study for Ma Liu Shui reclamation;
- continue to steer the completion of statutory procedures in complying with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Ordinance (Cap. 499) in respect of the EIA report for Kau Yi Chau Artificial Islands reclamation and to take forward detailed engineering studies and design progressively, as well as steer studies related to the development projects and associated network of strategic transport infrastructure;
- continue to steer the study for Road P1 (Tai Ho – Sunny Bay Section);
- continue to oversee the construction of the relocation of Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works to caverns;
- continue to oversee the construction of the relocation of Diamond Hill Fresh Water and Salt Water Service Reservoirs and Public Works Central Laboratory to caverns;
- continue to take forward the implementation model of underground quarry-cum-cavern development as a pilot project;
- continue to oversee the implementation of the Pier Improvement Programme;
- continue to oversee the construction of the elevated landscaped pedestrian deck near the Kwun Tong MTR Station, steer the investigation and design of the travellers network that links up the former runway of Kai Tak, the Kowloon Bay Action Area and the Kwun Tong Action Area, and steer the design and implementation of the 13-kilometre long GreenWay network in the Kai Tak Development for shared use by pedestrians and cyclists;
- continue to oversee the provision of infrastructure support to various initiatives and proposals to increase land supply;

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- continue to work closely with CIC to drive various improvement initiatives that aim to raise the standards of the construction industry;
- continue to support CIC to monitor the construction manpower situation and training demands, including update of construction manpower forecast;
- continue to support CIC to manage, plan and develop various training activities and facilities at its campuses and training grounds to meet the manpower needs of the industry;
- continue to provide support for CIC to increase its annual training quota for skilled construction workers to at least about 12 000 places in each of the academic years from 2023/24 to 2027/28 and to provide necessary training to serving and new construction personnel, including promoting “multi-skilled” development of workers, and at the same time continue to collaborate with relevant institutions in stepping up the training of local technicians and professionals;
- continue to support tertiary institutions and CIC to implement pilot schemes for providing on-the-job training allowances to trainees of part-time degree and safety officer courses;
- continue to administer the Labour Importation Scheme for the Construction Sector;
- continue, in conjunction with CIC, to liaise with counterparts in the Mainland for fostering/exploring training collaboration, promulgating GBA Standards on the skill level of skilled workers and technicians in the construction sector, and finalising the “One Examination, Multiple Certification” arrangement with the Guangdong Province and Macao Special Administrative Region, to enhance the training quality of the construction industry in GBA and nurture talents;
- continue to oversee the administration of CITF by CIC and the implementation of enhancement measures arising from the review on CITF for promoting wider adoption of technologies and greater provision of related training;
- continue to promote collaborative partnership in the implementation of public works projects, including the adoption of the NEC form;
- continue to promote the construction and related professional services and to liaise with the relevant Mainland authorities to pursue further market access in the Mainland, with focus on extending the existing scope of the professional services and striving for further liberalisation measures, including direct provision of services in the Free Trade Zones and GBA;
- continued to promote the Mainland’s evaluation mechanism for “Professional Title” qualifications to Hong Kong construction professionals, regularise the application of the evaluation mechanism, and extend it to other suitable construction-related professions;
- continue to introduce and monitor measures, including monitoring the adoption of SSSS in public works contracts, implementation and promotion of SSSS Labelling Scheme and subsidising its adoption on private worksites through CITF, and organise promotional activities to enhance construction safety;
- continue to implement the industry-wide promotion campaign, introduce more construction-related STEAM education contents and activities in the construction-related STEAM education platform, and support CIC to foster voluntary work in the industry through the Construction Industry Volunteers Team, with a view to enhancing public perception of the industry and attracting new blood;
- continue to monitor and introduce measures as well as organise promotional activities to enhance environmental performance at public works construction sites;
- continue to monitor the implementation of LEO;
- continue to oversee the implementation of LIMSS;
- continue to oversee the implementation of the Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Programme;
- continue to monitor drainage upgrading and rehabilitation works to reduce flooding risk;
- continue to steer the implementation of the concept of “Rivers in the City” through river revitalisation projects and introduction of water bodies rejuvenation facilities;
- oversee the implementation of the Construction Industry Security of Payment Ordinance (Cap. 652) and arrange publicity campaign and education programmes to promote its implementation in the construction industry;
- continue to monitor the implementation of the enhancement measures for the public works procurement system;
- continue to support CIC for building the capability of subcontractors;
- continue to provide secretariat and support services to LanDAC;
- continue to oversee the implementation of the conservation and development initiatives and projects set out in the Sustainable Lantau Blueprint;
- continue to steer the operation of LCF to promote conservation together with the community and pursue local improvement works for Lantau;

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(WORKS BRANCH)**

- continue to implement the works policies in enhancing the selection, appointment and management of engineering and associated consultants under the purview of AACSB and EACSB;
- continue to implement the works policy to promote design buildability for public works projects; and
- continue to oversee and monitor the adoption of BIM technology in major government capital works projects and promote the use of this technology in private construction projects.

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ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	2023–24 (Actual) (\$m)	2024–25 (Original) (\$m)	2024–25 (Revised) (\$m)	2025–26 (Estimate) (\$m)
(1) Water Supply.....	19.0	20.3	19.1	18.0
(2) Heritage Conservation.....	314.0	349.8	339.0	362.5
(3) Greening, Landscape and Tree Management.....	96.0	116.4	113.3	122.8
(4) Energizing Kowloon East	43.5	42.8	42.0	41.9
(5) Project Strategy and Governance	100.7	114.3	116.6	95.1
(6) Intra-Governmental Services	557.8	814.9	608.7	809.5
	<u>1,131.0</u>	<u>1,458.5</u>	<u>1,238.7</u> (–15.1%)	<u>1,449.8</u> (+17.0%)
				(or –0.6% on 2024–25 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

Provision for 2025–26 is \$1.1 million (5.8%) lower than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to a net decrease of one post in 2025–26.

Programme (2)

Provision for 2025–26 is \$23.5 million (6.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to the increased provisions for organising exhibitions and filling of vacancies, and increased cash flow requirement for a non-recurrent item. There will be a net decrease of one post in 2025–26.

Programme (3)

Provision for 2025–26 is \$9.5 million (8.4%) 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 \$0.1 million (0.2%) lower than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to the decreased provision for operating expenses, partly offset by the increased provision for filling of vacancies.

Programme (5)

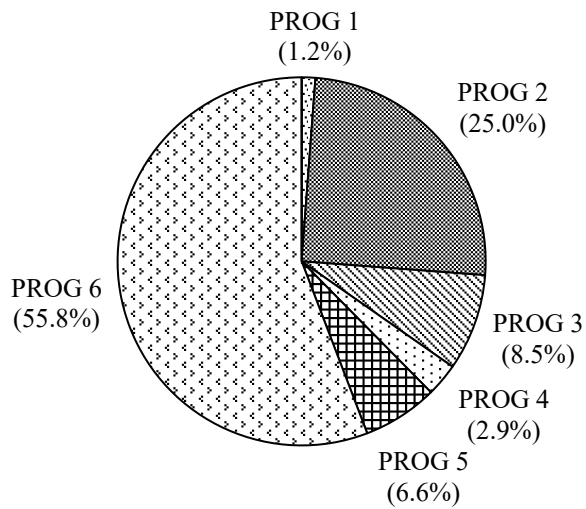
Provision for 2025–26 is \$21.5 million (18.4%) lower than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to the decreased cash flow requirement for a non-recurrent item, decreased provision for operating expenses and a net decrease of two posts in 2025–26.

Programme (6)

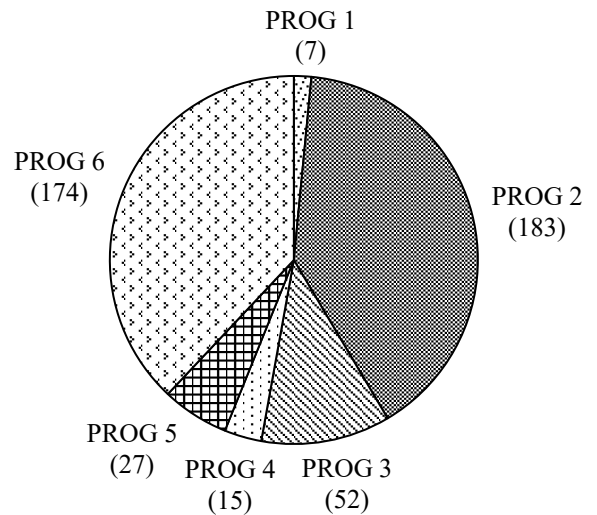
Provision for 2025–26 is \$200.8 million (33.0%) higher than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to the lower-than-expected requirement of the recurrent consequences arising from new minor works projects funded under Capital Works Reserve Fund Block Allocations in 2024–25 and the increased cash flow requirement for non-recurrent items in 2025–26. There will be a net decrease of one post in 2025–26.

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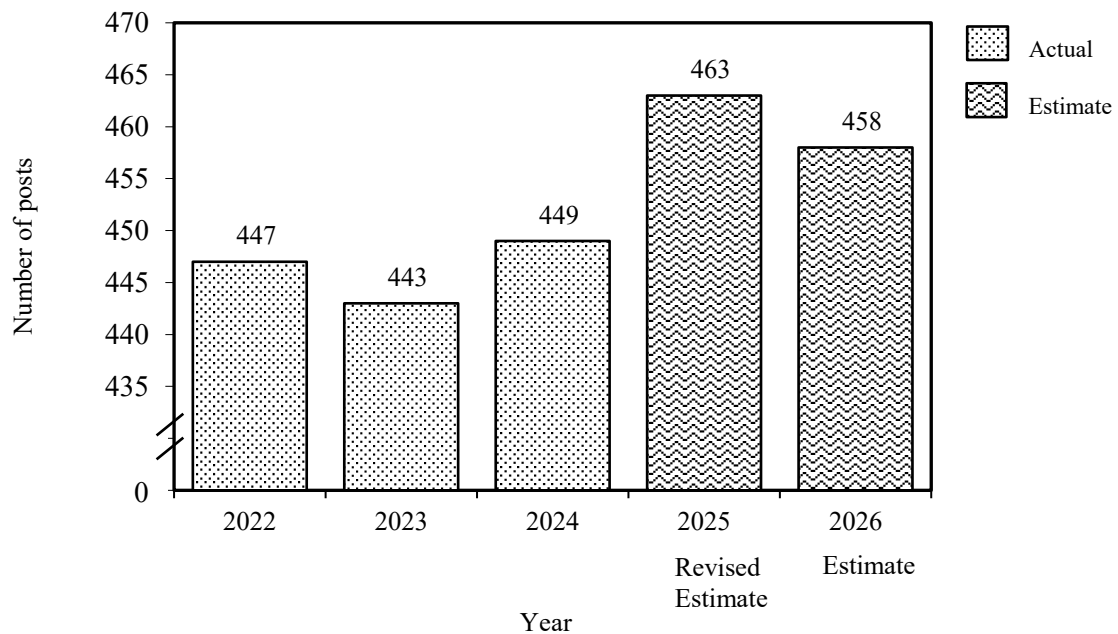
*Allocation of provision
to programmes
(2025-26)*



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



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



**Head 159 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: DEVELOPMENT BUREAU
(WORKS BRANCH)**

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	856,816	1,082,319	992,273	1,050,104
	Total, Recurrent.....	856,816	1,082,319	992,273	1,050,104
Non-Recurrent					
700	General non-recurrent	249,400	358,996	229,183	382,251
	Total, Non-Recurrent.....	249,400	358,996	229,183	382,251
	Total, Operating Account	1,106,216	1,441,315	1,221,456	1,432,355
Capital Account					
Plant, Equipment and Works					
600	Works	5,790	5,000	5,000	4,320
653	Restoration of historic buildings (block vote)	9,054	10,400	10,400	10,200
661	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote).....	9,102	1,033	1,033	2,106
694	Archaeological excavations (block vote).....	792	795	795	794
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works.....	24,738	17,228	17,228	17,420
	Total, Capital Account.....	24,738	17,228	17,228	17,420
	Total Expenditure	1,130,954	1,458,543	1,238,684	1,449,775

Head 159 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: DEVELOPMENT BUREAU (WORKS BRANCH)

Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2025–26 for the salaries and expenses of the Works Branch is \$1,449,775,000. This represents an increase of \$211,091,000 over the revised estimate for 2024–25 and \$318,821,000 over the actual expenditure in 2023–24.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$1,050,104,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Works Branch.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2025 will be 463 posts. It is expected that there will be a net decrease of five 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 \$363,965,000.

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.....	409,288	451,812	425,687	434,154
- Allowances.....	5,750	6,127	8,042	8,042
- Job-related allowances.....	27	29	35	37
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution.....	634	523	691	633
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution.....	36,742	45,273	41,134	44,443
Departmental Expenses				
- Temporary staff.....	125,270	142,964	132,546	137,130
- General departmental expenses	268,627	423,449	371,353	396,650
Other Charges				
- Maintenance of government slopes by Housing Department.....	1,150	1,150	1,270	1,400
- Artefacts and museum exhibitions.....	9,328	10,992	11,515	27,615
	856,816	1,082,319	992,273	1,050,104

Capital Account

Plant, Equipment and Works

5 Provision of \$10,200,000 under *Subhead 653 Restoration of historic buildings (block vote)* is to meet public demand for restoration works on buildings, sites or structures of historical interest. Funds for the restoration of monuments may be committed when an item of historical interest has been declared a monument under section 3(1) of the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53) or is deemed to merit declaration as a monument in special circumstances. An item may be in either private or public ownership (excluding buildings in government use or those leased to non-profit-making organisations which are separately covered by the Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme on Built Heritage). The maximum expenditure for each project of privately-owned monuments is \$10 million and that for public monuments is \$2 million.

6 Provision of \$2,106,000 under *Subhead 661 Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)* represents an increase of \$1,073,000 (103.9%) over the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for procurement/replacement of plant and equipment.

7 Provision of \$794,000 under *Subhead 694 Archaeological excavations (block vote)* is for conducting excavation projects necessitated by various kinds of small-scale developments. The maximum expenditure for each project is \$1 million.

**Head 159 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: DEVELOPMENT BUREAU
(WORKS BRANCH)**

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>				
	803	Strengthening Cost Management and Uplifting Performance of Public Works Projects [^]	150,500 [^]	91,756	23,000	35,744
	809	Urban Forestry Support Fund.....	200,000	41,380	27,967	130,653
	810	Enhancements for Training of Construction Workers.....	200,000	138,656	25,000	36,344
	811	Further Enhancement to Manpower Supply of the Construction Industry...	1,000,000	68,200	66,000	865,800
	812	Promoting the Application of Innovative Technology in the Construction Industry.....	75,000	8,068	20,000	46,932
	814	Pilot Scheme for On-the-job Training Subsidy for Construction-related Part-time Degree Programmes ^ψ	147,300 ^ψ	5,042	19,670	122,588
	815	Pilot Scheme for On-the-job Training Subsidy for Construction Safety Officers.....	7,000	—	1,200	5,800
	870	Conservation and Revitalisation of Historic Buildings.....	400,000	210,859	46,346	142,795
			<u>2,179,800</u>	<u>563,961</u>	<u>229,183</u>	<u>1,386,656</u>

Capital Account

600		<i>Works</i>				
	049	Restoration of Tat Tak Communal Hall.....	9,800	9,359	67	374
	462	Restoration of Yan Tun Kong Study Hall.....	6,980	6,333	67	580
	802	Structural repairs to the Enclosing Walls and Corner Watch Towers of Kun Lung Wai, Lung Yeuk Tau, Fanling, New Territories.....	9,850	4,142	667	5,041
	803	Structural repairs to Man Lun Fung Ancestral Hall, San Tin, Yuen Long, New Territories.....	9,000	1,221	2,000	5,779
	808	Restoration of Man Mo Temple Compound on Hollywood Road, Sheung Wan.....	9,955	2,562	200	7,193
	813	Restoration of the former residence of Ip Ting-sz, Sha Tau Kok.....	7,670	5,283	67	2,320
	843	Structural repairs to Tang Chung Ling Ancestral Hall in Lung Yeuk Tau, Fanling, New Territories.....	6,435	5,636	200	599

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(WORKS BRANCH)**

Commitments—Cont'd.

Sub-head (Code)	Item (Code)	Ambit	Approved commitment	Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.2024	Revised estimated expenditure for 2024–25	Balance
			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Capital Account—Cont'd.						
600		<i>Works—Cont'd.</i>				
	879	Structural repairs to Lo Wai, Lung Yeuk Tau, Fanling, New Territories	9,970	5,472	732	3,766
	883	Structural repairs to Liu Man Shek Tong Ancestral Hall, Sheung Shui, New Territories	9,870	9,243	133	494
	887	Major repairs and restoration to Tung Wah Museum, Waterloo Road, Kowloon	4,895	3,836	600	459
	893	Restoration of Fat Tat Tong in Ha Wo Hang, Sha Tau Kok, New Territories .	7,953	4,944	200	2,809
	898	External restoration and redecorations to the Helena May, Garden Road, Central.....	6,200	6,026	67	107
			<u>98,578</u>	<u>64,057</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>29,521</u>
		Total	<u>2,278,378</u>	<u>628,018</u>	<u>234,183</u>	<u>1,416,177</u>

^ The approved commitment for the item was \$135,500,000. An increase in commitment of \$15 million is sought in the context of the Appropriation Bill 2025.

ψ The approved commitment for the item was \$100 million. An increase in commitment of \$47,300,000 is sought in the context of the Appropriation Bill 2025.