

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**DEVB(W)090**

**(Question Serial No. 0382)**

Head: (39) Drainage Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Stormwater Drainage

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (MOK Wing-cheong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

It is stated under “Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026-27” that the Government will continue to steer the implementation of the concept of “Rivers in the City” through river revitalisation projects and introduction of water bodies rejuvenation facilities. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. Please set out the projects on river revitalisation and water bodies rejuvenation facilities that the Government plans to launch or further advance in 2026-27, including the number of projects already commenced or expected to commence, their major scope of works, the latest timetable, and the financial provision involved;
2. What elements are generally included in river revitalisation works and water bodies rejuvenation facilities, such as engineered wetlands, landscaped decks, water-friendly walking tracks, cross-river pedestrian walkways, ecological walls, tidal pools, bird perches, water features, and intelligent water gates; and through these facilities, how will the Government address ecological restoration, improve water quality, and meet local residents' need for leisure and water-friendly activities, while maintaining or enhancing flood control and drainage capabilities; and
3. To tie in with the implementation of the concept of “Rivers in the City”, what specific measures will the Government adopt to further improve the water quality of rivers, address odour nuisance and reduce sewage discharge problems; (whether existing and new measures such as dry weather flow interception system, pollutant interception projects, ecological riverbed design, and artificial intelligence (AI) water level monitoring are implemented) if yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Pui-kong (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

The Drainage Services Department (DSD) is committed to enhancing the flood control capabilities of drainage facilities, while proactively embracing the “Rivers in the City” concept to carry out river revitalisation works aimed at enhancing the ecological value of rivers, promoting water-friendly activities, improving the community environment, and increasing the connectivity between rivers and their surrounding environment for better integration.

1. In 2026-27, the DSD will continue with the following river revitalisation projects:

| <b>River revitalisation project</b>                        | <b>Scope of works</b>   | <b>Commencement date of works</b> | <b>Anticipated completion date of river revitalisation works</b> | <b>Approved estimate for related river revitalisation works (\$ million)</b> |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Yuen Long Barrage Scheme                                   | Implementation of a barrage scheme at the downstream of the Yuen Long Nullah, and revitalisation of a section of about 1 km of the Yuen Long Nullah between the Long Ping Station and the location of the barrage. Revitalisation works include renovating part of the nullah surface, introducing aquatic plants and landscape elements, and adding featured railings and viewing decks. | In 2023                           | In 2030  | 349.3  |
| Improvement of Yuen Long Town Nullah (Town Centre Section) | Construction of a dry weather flow interception system, and revitalisation of a section of the Yuen Long Nullah of about 1 km between the Long Ping Station and the Shap Pat Heung Road. Revitalisation works include renovating part of the nullah surface, introducing aquatic plants and landscape elements, and adding featured railings and a viewing deck.                          | In 2023                           | In 2030  | 215.3  |
| Revitalisation of Shek Sheung River near Ng Tung River     | Revitalisation of a river section of about 480 m, which includes reconstruction of the river banks and embankments, resurfacing of the river bed, and associated landscaping and greening works.  | In 2026                           | In 2027  | 28.6   |
| Revitalisation of lower Lam Tsuen River near Kam Wo Bridge | Revitalisation of a river section of about 350 m, which includes construction of a viewing deck, and associated landscaping and greening works.   | In 2026                           | In 2027  | 28.0   |

In addition, the DSD will carry out the design of revitalisation works for Tai Wai Nullah, Fo Tan Nullah, Middle Tuen Mun River Channel, and a section of Lam Tsuen River near Mui Shue Hang Playground (located at the midstream of Lam Tsuen River near the Tai Po Tau area). The estimated costs and implementation timetable of the relevant projects can only be provided upon completion of the detailed design.

2. In taking forward river revitalisation works, the DSD actively adopts the design concept of revitalising water bodies under “Blue-Green Drainage Infrastructure”. “Blue” broadly refers to rivers and water bodies while “Green” represents landscape greening. “Blue-Green Drainage Infrastructure” is an urban drainage system that interweaves the natural environment with community characteristics and modern functions. Through improvement works, the drainage capacity of rivers is enhanced, while environmental, ecological and landscaping elements are incorporated to inject vigour and vitality into rivers and the community. Such works include the addition of viewing decks, landscaping plants, pavilions and seats along rivers to create quality riverside public spaces for members of the public; the introduction of ecological installations in rivers such as ecological walls, tidal pools and bird perches to create favourable conditions for the river ecosystem and promote biodiversity; and the provision of cross-river pedestrian walkways and riverside promenades to enhance connectivity and accessibility of the pedestrian network within the area. By adopting the concept of “Blue-Green Drainage Infrastructure”, the DSD has realised the value of multi-functionality of rivers and water bodies, and enhanced the living environment of the community.
  
3. To further improve the water quality of rivers, the Government has been implementing various measures to reduce the discharge of pollution source into the stormwater drainage system, including tackling the problem at source by rectifying sewer misconnections, installing dry weather flow interception systems at suitable locations, and regulating improper discharge of polluted water at roadside. The DSD has also carried out regular clearance of rivers to reduce sludge accumulation and improve water quality. In addition, the DSD has applied Malodour Control Hydrogel to stormwater outfalls with odour problems as a temporary measure to mitigate odour.

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