

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)095

(Question Serial No. 0398)

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:

In recent years, the Drainage Services Department (DSD) has been actively taking forward the concept of "Rivers in the City" by enhancing flood prevention capacity through river revitalisation works and incorporating ecological and water-friendly elements to improve the community environment. Regarding the progress of the revitalisation works for Shing Mun River and Lam Tsuen River, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. In 2026-27, how much provision has been earmarked by the DSD for advancing the flood prevention and revitalisation works for Shing Mun River and Lam Tsuen River respectively; and what is the percentage change as compared with the revised estimate for 2025-26;
3. In 2026-27, has the DSD earmarked provision for conducting revitalisation studies for the midstream of Lam Tsuen River (such as the Tai Po Tau area), or for commencing related works; if so, what are the estimated expenditure and the anticipated completion timetable involved;
4. In the revitalisation works for Shing Mun River and Lam Tsuen River, will consideration be given to constructing new water-friendly leisure facilities such as riverside walkways, viewing decks, eco-educational areas or water sports facilities, with a view to creating water-friendly attractions in the community; if so, what are the specific facilities and the estimated expenditure involved; and
5. What were the actual expenditures incurred by the DSD on river revitalisation and related environmental beautification works as a whole in each of the past 3 financial years (from 2023-24 to 2025-26); and what is the relevant estimated expenditure for 2026-27?

Asked by: Hon LEE Tsz-king, Dominic (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

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. The DSD is currently carrying out drainage improvement works for Shing Mun River in Sha Tin and Lam Tsuen River in Tai Po, including the construction of flood walls along these rivers to reduce flood risk on both sides of the channels. Under the concept of “Rivers in the City”, the DSD also enhances the drainage capacity of the rivers while incorporating environmental and landscaping elements in the revitalisation of a section of Lower Lam Tsuen River near Kam Wo Bridge to foster a better living environment for the community. As regards the flood prevention works for Shing Mun River, the revised expenditure for 2025-26 and the estimated expenditure for 2026-27 are about \$31 million and \$50 million respectively. As for the flood prevention and revitalisation works at Lam Tsuen River, the revised expenditure for 2025-26 and the estimated expenditure for 2026-27 are about \$32 million and \$56 million respectively.

3.&4.

In 2026-27, the DSD plans to commence the design of revitalisation works for 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 DSD will continue to maintain close communication with relevant stakeholders and listen to their views during the design stage of the project to design appropriate water-friendly leisure facilities for better integration between rivers and their surrounding environment. Subject to the progress of the detailed design and other relevant preparatory work (e.g. processing land matters and conducting district consultation), the DSD will commence the relevant works in due course. Since the DSD will deploy its existing professional and technical staff to carry out the design work concerned, no additional expenditure will be involved.

The DSD is currently undertaking river revitalisation works for Lower Lam Tsuen River near Kam Wo Bridge. The scope of works mainly includes the revitalisation of a river section of about 350 metres, the construction of a viewing deck, and associated landscaping and greening works, with an aim to enhancing the environment of the river section and its surroundings. The estimated expenditure for the project is about \$28 million.

5. In the past 3 years and in 2026-27, the DSD’s expenditures on river revitalisation and related environmental beautification works are as follows:

Year	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26 (Revised estimate)	2026-27 (Estimate)
Expenditure (\$ million)	213	323	138	22 (Note)

Note: Revitalisation of Tsui Ping River, which is of a relatively large scale, was largely completed in 2025, and only some relatively small-scale river revitalisation projects,

including Revitalisation of Lower Lam Tsuen River near Kam Wo Bridge, will be carried out in 2026-27. Meanwhile, for some sizeable flood control and river revitalisation projects, such as Improvement of Yuen Long Town Nullah (Town Centre Section) and Yuen Long Barrage Scheme, the relevant river revitalisation works will only commence in or after 2027-28 based on their current works progress. Accordingly, the estimated expenditure on river revitalisation works in 2026-27 is lower than those in the past 3 years.

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