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\$10m feasibility study on Tate's Cairn tunnel

THE government will appoint consultants to conduct a feasibility study into the \$1.4 billion Tate's Cairn tunnelling scheme to link Sha Tin with Diamond Hill and relieve congestion on the Lion Rock Tunnels.

The Secretary for Lands and Works, Mr Nicky Chan, said in a briefing on Tuesday that the study would cost about \$10 million and would be expected to be ready by the end of next year. And the project, if it went ahead, should be completed by 1992.

Capacity of the existing Lion Rock Tunnels would be saturated in four years if the present volume of traffic — 700,000 vehicles a day — would be growing at 10 percent a year.

Mr Chan said any further development of the North Western part of the New Territories after housing 135,000 people in Tin Shui Wai, would hinge on improvement of the existing transportation network, which included the Tuen Mun Highway and the Light Rail Transit.

He said there was also

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some thought given on the link between Tsuen Wan to Yuen Long through Tai Mo Shan either by road or by rail.

On the government's spending on capital projects in the territory next year, Mr Chan said it would be "no less than the amount

we have spent this fiscal year," which was in the region of \$6 billion.

Mr Chan also disclosed that the Sino-British Land Commission would discuss the number of sites to be sold by auction next year and the revenue expected from the sale.