

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2006-07
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)041

Head : 60 Highways Department Subhead :

Question Serial No.

0063

Programme : (4) Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question :

Starting from 2006, the indicator shows that the expenditure on vegetation maintenance for roadside slopes and high speed roads will be increased from \$8 million in 2005 to \$30 million in 2006. Please provide the reasons for the substantial increase in the estimated expenditure of this item. Will the Administration consult the community in respect of the works concerned?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

The Highways Department has to earmark extra resources to maintain the vegetation and clear dead trees and invasive vine on roadside slopes and along high speed roads to achieve a safe, green, tidy and hygienic environment. The Department is in the progress of taking up this new responsibility which will cover around 9 300 roadside slopes (including roadside slopes at the Penny's Bay Development Area) and all expressways in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. As this will form part of the Department's regular maintenance works, it is not necessary to consult the community.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **MAK CHAI KWONG**

Post Title _____ **Director of Highways**

Date _____ **13 March 2006**