

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(W)039

Question Serial No.

Head : 60 - Highways Department Subhead (No. & title) :

0466

Programme : (4) Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

While indicators show that the number of vegetation maintenance cases completed in 2005 and 2006 was 1 686 and 2 959 respectively, the expenditure on vegetation maintenance for roadside slopes and expressways was \$7.5 million in 2005 and \$21.5 million in 2006. Both figures in 2006 were much higher than those in 2005. Why? How will the department further strengthen these maintenance works in 2007-08?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Bernard

Reply :

The Highways Department has started to take up vegetation maintenance responsibilities for roadside slopes and expressways in the territory in stages since 2004. The number of maintenance cases and the associated expenditure have gradually increased thus accounting for the higher figures in 2006 than those of 2005. In 2007-08, the scope of vegetation maintenance will cover all slopes and expressways in the territory and we plan to carry out two rounds of maintenance operation under our maintenance programme every year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 16 March 2007