

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

THB(T)035

Question Serial No.

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title):

1290

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Regarding the “widening of Tolo Highway/Fanling Highway between Island House Interchange and Fanling - Stage 2”, when will the detailed design of the project be completed? What kind of noise problem will the project cause to nearby housing estates during the construction period and upon the opening of the aforesaid road section?

Separately, when the “widening of Tolo Highway between Island House Interchange and Tai Hang” was taken forward, a group lodged a complaint to the Complaints Division of the Legislative Council against extensive tree felling. According to the preliminary assessment conducted by the Highways Department, how many trees will have to be felled with the commencement of Stage 2 of the project? How can the department avoid tree felling to reduce the number of trees to be felled? Will there be any compensatory measures?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

We aim to complete the detailed design for the “Widening of Tolo Highway/Fanling Highway between Island House Interchange and Fanling – Stage 2” project within 2012.

We have completed an environmental impact assessment for the project in compliance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance in respect of the project. To address likely noise impacts, we plan to erect noise barriers as recommended in the environmental impact assessment report to ensure that the noise impact during the construction and operational stages of the project can meet the statutory requirements.

We estimate that about 1 600 trees may be felled under the project. Most of them are located along the existing roadside. In the project planning stage, we have considered various measures with a view to minimizing the impact on existing trees. Apart from optimizing the road alignment to reduce the number of trees to be affected, we will also carry out compensatory planting under the project, including about 400 trees, 1 000 seedlings and over 1 000 shrubs.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ K K LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Highways

Date _____ 17.3.2011