

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)095

(Question Serial No. 0813)

Head: (60) Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title): Not specified

Programme: (4) Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (K K LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Under “Matters Requiring Special Attention” in the coming year, the Government highlighted that more greening and “enhanced maintenance of vegetation for roadside slopes and expressways” are to be undertaken. However, under the indicators, the respective areas of “land provided with vegetation maintenance service” for the current and coming years are both 1 095 hectares. Is there any contradiction between the two? If not, what are the details of more greening and enhanced maintenance of vegetation?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yan, Albert (Member Question No. 36)

Reply:

The vegetated area currently maintained by the Highways Department measures 1 095 hectares in total size. This total size is expected to increase gradually as new vegetated areas are formed under highways projects and handed over to the department for maintenance. However, the total area of the vegetated areas is not expected to increase substantially in 2015.

Despite the small increase in completed new vegetated areas in 2015, the Highways Department will continue to look for greening opportunities provided in road works projects in the planning and design stages with an aim to further enhancing the greenery of the environment. The Highways Department will also enhance maintenance of vegetated areas by replacement of planting with more native tree species at appropriate locations in order to increase ecological value as far as practicable.

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