

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**DEVB(W)096**

**(Question Serial No. 1845)**

Head: (60) Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title): Not specified

Programme: (4) Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (Daniel K W CHUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

During the typhoon season in each year, there will be accidents involving collapse of trees of invasive species. Regarding the estimate of expenditure for technical services, will the Government reserve resources and manpower for inspection on the safety of invasive tree species before the onset of typhoon season and for taking a proactive approach to handling trees with potential risk of failure?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 50)

Reply:

The Highways Department (HyD) maintains vegetation within expressway boundaries and on the slopes under its purview. Vegetation maintenance operations, which include removal of invasive species (e.g. *Leucaena leucocephala*), are carried out at least once every six months. HyD also completes tree risk assessments and implements mitigation measures in accordance with the Guidelines for Tree Risk Assessment and Management Arrangement (issued by the Development Bureau's Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section) before the rainy and typhoon season every year. Horticultural maintenance measures, such as removing dead or dangerous trees, pruning broken branches and overgrown vegetation, etc, are carried out in order to ensure public road safety.

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