

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)154

(Question Serial No. 6113)

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:

The Department states that it will undertake vegetation maintenance for roadside slopes and expressways. Please advise:

- (a) What are the expenses involved?
- (b) What criteria would the Department adopt in the selection of plant species? Would priority be given to native plants?
- (c) Which plants are included in the current species list of the Department?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 105)

Reply:

The overall expenditure on vegetation management and maintenance in 2017 was \$55 million. The expenditure in a typical year covers regular inspections, maintenance operations, regular Tree Risk Assessment and Management exercises, tree risk mitigation measures and monitoring of high-risk trees.

As regards plant species selection, the Highways Department follows the principles of "Right Plant, Right Place" and vegetation diversity while having regard to amenity, functional, ecological and maintainability considerations as well as site conditions and constraints. Generally speaking, the department gives priority to native plant species. While the department has not maintained its own species list, it has been referring to the "Technical Guidelines on Landscape Treatment for Slopes" issued by the Civil Engineering and Development Department when selecting tree species for roadside slopes and expressways.

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