

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)144

(Question Serial No. 4431)

Head: (60) Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (4) Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (Jimmy P M CHAN)

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 plant species are included in the current species list of the Department? What factors would be considered in the selection?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (LegCo internal reference no.: 103)

Reply:

The Highways Department's overall expenditure on vegetation management and maintenance in 2019 was \$44.30 million which covers regular inspections, maintenance works, regular tree risk assessment and management, tree risk mitigation measures and monitoring of high risk trees.

When selecting plant species for roadside slopes and expressways, the Highways Department follows the principles of "right tree, right place" and vegetation diversity advocated by the Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section of the Development Bureau while having regard to site conditions and constraints as well as amenity, functional, ecological and maintainability considerations. We also make reference from the Technical Guidelines on Landscape Treatment for Slopes issued by the Civil Engineering and Development Department. Generally speaking, the Highways Department gives priority to native plant species.

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