

Reply Serial No.

S-HPLB(PL)002

Question Serial No.

Oral

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 118 - Planning Department Subhead (No. & title) : -

Programme : (1) - Territorial and Sub-regional Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Planning

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question :

Please provide the list of issues being/to be examined under the Study on Rural Planning and Land Management in the New Territories?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

The Study is to examine the land use and land management problems in the rural areas of the New Territories and to identify practicable measures. The Study is divided into two stages. Stage one, which is being carried out in-house, is to set out the problems and causes leading to the general environmental degradation of the rural landscape. The key issues being examined include:

1. the constraints of the land-use zoning mechanism in managing and improving the rural environment;
2. the fragmented ownership of rural land which renders land assembly for development a difficult and lengthy process; and
3. the various uses of private land which may not be compatible with the surrounding environment.

Apart from examining in detail the above key issues, we will also identify practical measures for improving the rural environment. The public including all relevant stakeholders will be consulted in the study process.

In Stage two of the study, we would identify pilot projects for assessing the feasibility and effectiveness of the proposed improvement measures. This will involve examination of various technical issues including engineering, traffic management, landscaping, ecology, environmental assessment and market analysis. Specialist inputs from consultants are required to study these technical issues and provision of \$7 million has been allowed under the Study for the purpose.

Signature _____

Name in block letters B C K FUNG

Post Title Director of Planning

Date 31 March 2003