

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)086

Question Serial No.

0359

Head: 91 Lands Department

Subhead(No. & title): 700 General non-recurrent

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: What is the reason for the substantial increase in the estimate of the General non-recurrent for 2004-05 as compared with the revised estimated expenditure for 2003-04? Please give a detailed breakdown for comparison.

Asked by: Hon. LEUNG Fu-wah

Reply:

The increase of \$7.748 million in expenditure is mainly due to the hiring of contractors for grass cutting on more vacant government land and contracting-out of Systematic Identification of Maintenance Responsibility of Slopes in the Territory (SIMAR) studies to identify the parties responsible for maintenance of registered man-made slopes. A breakdown of the expenditure is as follows:

	(a) 2003-04 Revised Estimated <u>Expenditure</u> \$Million	(b) 2004-05 Estimated <u>Expenditure</u> \$Million	(b)-(a) <u>Difference</u> \$Million
Site investigation for the former Explosive Magazine site at Justice Drive	0.652	-	(0.652)
Hiring of contractors for grass cutting on vacant government land	2.000	5.500	3.500
Contracting-out of SIMAR studies to identify the parties responsible for maintenance of registered man-made slopes	-	4.900	4.900
Total	<u>2.652</u>	<u>10.400</u>	<u>7.748</u>

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 26 March 2004