

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)072

Question Serial No.

0096

Head: 91 Lands Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Land Administration

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : Under the indicator of "Land Management", the figure of "man-made slopes to be improved" will be increased from 5 250 for 2004 to 5 800 for 2005. Please explain why and give the details of the projects concerned.

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

Since 1996, we have established a mechanism to identify and determine the maintenance responsibility in respect of each of the man-made slopes in Hong Kong. Currently, there are about 57 000 man-made slopes in the Government's catalogue, about 17 200 of which are under the Lands Department's maintenance responsibility. This number may increase as the process of identification and determination continues. At the same time, the total number of man-made slopes in the Government's catalogue has also increased as a result of :

- (i) newly identified existing slopes; and
- (ii) newly created slopes associated with the completion of new infrastructure and development projects.

Of the 17 200 man-made slopes under the Lands Department's maintenance responsibility, about 8 800 slopes belong to the 'relatively low risk' category requiring inspections at intervals of two years or more. The remaining 8 400 slopes fall within the 'high risk' category requiring inspection annually.

Arising from these inspections, some slopes may require maintenance works immediately. These would include clearing surface drains, repairing cracks and clearing weepholes in hard slope covers, etc. Our capacity to handle the inspection and maintenance work has been improving over the years as we have made use of outsourcing and streamlined our management operations, hence, the increase of our target from 5 250 for 2004 to 5 800 for 2005.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 2 April 2005

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