

Access slows flood solution

SOME projects to cure flooding problems in the northwest New Territories will take more than 10 years to complete.

Secretary for Works James Blake told legislators work could not start until access was obtained to private land under many different ownerships.

Another reason for the delay was the need to phase and co-ordinate various schemes, to avoid possible adverse effects such as flooding an area during project work.

In reply to a question from Zachary Wong, Mr Blake said short-term flood mitigation measures included assessing major development projects' impacts on drainage patterns.

A Land Drainage Bill would be tabled early next year to empower Government access to private areas to carry out maintenance work at rivers.

The Royal Observatory would also test a "real time flood forecasting system".