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Abandoned cars not polluting says Oxley

THE increasing number of abandoned cars have become eyesores in the countryside.

But a senior Government official said yesterday there was no evidence to suggest that abandoned cars had created a major pollution problem.

"It is principally one of aesthetics: abandoned cars are eyesores," said Mr Clive Oxley, acting Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands.

"However, I am advised that there is no significant evidence of stream course or drainage pollution caused by rusting scrap or engine oil," Mr Oxley said.

Cars abandoned in the New Territories, caused concern to some legislators.

Mr Edward Ho, asked if the Government would consider extending town planning control to the New Territories, and others wanted to know whether the Government had the power to remove the cars from private land.

Mr Oxley said the Government had the power to remove cars from areas in the immediate vicinity of private roads, but it had no power over private lands.

That was enough to worry Mr Andrew Wong who asked whether the Government would remove his private car if he left it in his own garden when he went away for a month.

Mr Oxley said it would be a possibility if the Government were satisfied the car had been abandoned and the owner had been given every opportunity to claim his property.