

Trees cut for road works are replaced with new ones

I REFER to the letter, "Spare a tree and I will give up my car" (The Straits Times, April 6), in which Mr Chong Chin Onn laments that trees are being cut for road widening.

We understand and share Mr Chong's concern for the environment. We would like to assure him that the Land Transport Authority makes every effort to preserve trees.

Where possible, trees that have to be cut are replaced with new ones.

We have planted about 700 new trees and shrubs in the vicinity of the works area, even before the works started, to replace those to be removed during construction. When construction is completed, another 500 trees and shrubs will be added.

New trees will take time to provide the shade and beauty afforded by mature trees. However, this is one of the trade-offs if we keep building more roads to support growing vehicle numbers.

Mr Chong has raised an issue that will become more pressing and pertinent as Singapore continues to grow and develop within a finite land area, causing demands for land use to increasingly compete and conflict.

The only sustainable way forward is to attract more people to choose public transport over cars, bearing in mind the trade-offs that have to be made.

We laud Mr Chong for his willingness to sacrifice his car to save a tree.

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