

This is a regular update on progress with the Millennium Challenge Corporation Vanuatu Project compiled by the Design and Build Contractor – Downer EDI Works Vanuatu Ltd on behalf of the Project Team.

MCA Update #25 Efate Ring Road & Santo East Coast Road

Highlight:

It has been one year since the Efate Ring Road groundbreaking ceremony. This week, sealing will start for a 20 km long section of completed pavement on Efate.

Efate Work Done Last Week

The clearing crew reached the 10 km mark (meaning they are 10 km from Klem's Hill), while the side drain and pavement widening crew continued and widen both sides of the road between Savannah Store and Creek Ai. Widening and drainage work in Tanoliu village is now complete. The pavement overlay crew worked on final finishing of the pavement near Safaki and now have a section completely ready for sealing. The drainage team repaired flood damage to the culvert adjacent to the Savannah store and completed all the other culvert work between Tanoliu and Creek Ai.

Efate Work Planned for This Week

The clearing operation will progress to the Mangaliliu turnoff. The side drain and pavement widening crew will continue working on both sides of the existing road North of Creek Ai and will then move to work on the Creek Ai hill progressing back towards the Mangaliliu turnoff. A rock breaker will continue to cut the side drains on the landward side of the road between Tanoliu and Savannah Store. The pavement overlay crew will continue to prepare sections between Siviri and Safaki for sealing. Sealing of the completed pavement has commenced at Safaki and, as weather permits, the sealing operation will progress from Safaki back towards Siviri. One crew from the drainage team will continue work on the special culverts and the other crew will carry on installing culverts between Mangaliliu turnoff and the top of the Creek Ai hill.

Existing Road Maintenance

In response to requests from the public, MCA and Downer EDI agreed that road trafficability on the eastern side of the Efate Ring Road be checked. There are several places where the existing pavement has failed between Epule and Rentabao on East Efate and work will be undertaken in the next week to repair these.

Safety At Sealing Operations

Sealing involves spraying bitumen onto the road at temperatures hotter than boiling water. When sprayed the bitumen is somewhere in the range 170° C to 180° C and contact with bare skin will result in a severe burn. Pedestrians and curious spectators should keep well clear of the sealing operation. When bitumen is sprayed a fine mist can drift downwind and leave a light coating of hard to remove sticky black bitumen on vehicles and onlookers. Stop/Go traffic controllers will be on duty during sealing operations and motorists should obey their instructions. In particular motorists should avoid driving on bitumen that has been sprayed on the road surface but not covered with black stones. Doing so will cause the vehicle's tyres to be coated in sticky bitumen that will damage the prepared surface and spoil the sealing work. After sealing is complete, 30 km/hr speed limit signs will remain in place for some time while the black stones "bed in". Motorists should abide by these signs as excessive speed can damage the seal and there are loose stones on the road surface that can cause vehicles to lose control at higher speeds

MCA-Vanuatu Turnouts, Access-ways and Driveways Policy

MCA-Vanuatu has developed a policy on turnouts, access-ways and driveways in order to ensure that their treatment is transparent and equitable. The main difference between turnouts, access-ways and driveways is the volume of traffic. A turnout is a road junction in which a public road branches out of the Efate Ring Road. Each turnout will be sealed for up to 30 meters beyond the junction, will include warning signs and line markings as well as a concrete pipe culvert. Access-ways are entranceways to properties that carry more traffic than a driveway. Access-ways will be sealed for up to six meters, will be three meters wide and have a concrete pipe culvert. Driveways are defined as an entrance to a property that carries a relatively small volume of traffic. For each existing driveway that is affected by the Ring Road upgrade, Downer EDI works will provide and install a 2.9 meter length of pipe plus 1.5 cubic meters of fill in order to upgrade the driveway. Variations on these details may be used where an engineering justification exists. If you would like a copy or have particular questions concerning the policy, please contact MCA-Vanuatu on Tel: 26918 or 26415. A similar policy shall be developed for the Santo East Coast Road

Enquiries to Craig Smart
Stakeholder Liaison Manager
Downer EDI Works Vanuatu
Phone 5585 002

craig.smart@downerediworks.co.nz

Next update will be provided on Thursday 24 June 2009