

Note for Editor: Intended for publication in period: 17 to 19 February 2011

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

MCA Update #94 Efate Ring Road & Santo East Coast Road



Trevor Lenga and Sity Jack laying red pavement markers on a corner near Champagne Beach.



Installing a speed bump in Hog Harbour.



Hog Harbour pikinini checking out a recently installed speed bump.



An example of the Destination Reassurance signs installed along the Santo East Coast Road

Efate Work

Downer have now completed installing the large green Destination Reassurance Signs around the Efate Ring Road. These inform drivers how far it is to various destinations around the island. Downer crews are now working on several small tidy tasks

Later in the week it is planned to commence applying rumble strips on selected corners. These are a series of bumps made from a special type of plastic that makes a loud “rumble” noise when tyres drive over the bumps and warns drivers they are too close to the edge of the seal. This protects the edge of the seal and road shoulder from being damaged by traffic driving where it should not.

Several Downer crews are also cutting the grass along the side of the road between Neslep Bridge and Rentapao. This is part of the “first cycle of maintenance”, and when this is completed all maintenance work required on the new road will be the responsibility of MCA - V and PWD. Downer hopes to finish this grass cutting work by the end of February.

Santo Work

Downer have had a team working on Santo to install Destination Reassurance signs, additional speed calming measures and speed bumps in Hog Harbour and Port Olry. Large yellow “tiger tail” strips still need to be painted on the road near each bump and this will be done late in the month when the special yellow road marking paint arrives from New Zealand.

Finally Downer would like to acknowledge the contribution that Fesaitu Pagkale usually known as Edou or E2 made to the Santo East Coast Road project. E2 died at his house in Luganville on 24 January. Late E2 was a supervisor for Flame Tree and worked on the construction of the Santo East Coast Road (also the Pentecost and Ambae sealed runway jobs for Hi-way Stabilisers). After construction had finished he

remained on Santo to maintain Flame Trees equipment and monitor the road. E2 was buried in Lautoka, Fiji on 31 January. Condolences to his family, work mates and his many friends.

Matevulu Truss Bridge

Bridges were not included in the scope of the Efate Ring Road or Santo East Coast Road Projects – however they are important links and in response to a request from the Government, MCC have recently organized detailed inspections of the Epule Bailey Bridge on Efate and the Lope Lope Bridge and Matevulu Truss Bridge on Santo. The US Army Corps of Engineers Bridge Inspector also carried out a “hands on” practical training session with Santo PWD staff.

While the final Inspection report is awaited and the Government makes its decisions on repairs and replacement options, interim signs have been posted on both approaches to the Matevulu Truss Bridge advising a recommended speed limit of 15 km/hr and a maximum gross vehicle weight of 15 tonnes. Road users are advised to exercise common sense and caution.

Traffic Conditions and Road Safety

While construction activities are much reduced there is still some minor work underway in several locations and road users are urged to comply with the safety signs and the directions of traffic controllers at work sites. Again, we ask all drivers to refrain from speeding anywhere on the sealed road or where construction is underway. The roads are used by pedestrians as well as other vehicles.

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In addition further information can be found on the MCA – Vanuatu website at www.mcavanuatu.gov.vu.