

Note for Publisher: Intended for running early in week beginning 15 Dec 08. This is intended to be a regular update on progress with the Millennium Challenge Project provided by the Design and Build Contractor – Downer EDi Works Vanuatu Ltd. Photographs of most of the activities mentioned are also available.

MCA Update #1: Efate Ring Road & Santo East Coast Road

Highlights: Two Firsts and a Finish

First Blast at Malarua Quarry and First Section of Efate Ring Road Sealed

Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) for Efate Ring Road Finished – and now available on MCA website

Downer EDi Works have sealed the first section of completed pavement on the Efate Ring Road. The length is just beyond the top of Meten Hill and was part of a trial to check materials, equipment and procedures.

Work Done Last Week

Last week we continued to excavate material from the top of Meten Hill to reduce the final slope of the road to much less than it is at present while continuing to clear vegetation from the Right of Way between Port Havannah and Malafau. Two new culverts were laid in this section.

We were also working on constructing two kilometres of new pavement between the Ulei Bridge and the Marona Bridge.

Work Planned for This Week

This week we plan to finish clearing vegetation from the existing road Right of Way between Malafau and Meten Hill and seal a one kilometre section in the Port Havannah area.

We will also continue to excavate material from the top of Meten Hill and lay further culverts.

If conditions permit we will commence clearing the Right of Way past Siviri Village.

Malarua Basalt Quarry

Following a ceremony in Emua Village the first blast at the Malarua Quarry was held just after 4 pm on Tuesday 9 December with a second blast on Thursday 11 December. A total of 3 ½ tonnes of explosive have been used to produce over 12,000 tonnes of loose rock. Further blasts to develop the quarry will occur next week. Development work will continue into the New Year.

Santo East Coast Road

MCA and Department of Geology, Mines and Water Resources personnel are working on the sources for coral aggregate and water. The Commissioner of Mines will be visiting Santo late this month to advance arrangements for the coral quarries required

General

For the safety of road users and road workers please comply with the speed limit signs and the directions of the manual traffic controllers where traffic flow is restricted. **SPEED KILLS PEOPLE**

Please drive particularly carefully and slowly where the road has recently been sealed and comply with the 30 km/hr speed limit. **SPEED DAMAGES ROADS**

Owners from Malafau/Meten village are asked to harvest any food crops or gather any firewood etc growing within the existing road Right of Way across the Malafau Swamp between Malafau and Meten.

Owners from Siviri village are also asked to harvest any food crops or gather any firewood etc from within the existing road Right of Way in the vicinity of Siviri village.

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