

MCA Update #16: Efate Ring Road & Santo East Coast Road

Highlights:

A short wet week resulted in a change of plan

Efate Work Done Last Week

The pavement work crews reached 1.5 km past Siviri village before persistent rain set in and halted progress. As the weather forecast was adverse for any pavement construction work for the rest of the week it was decided to commence clearing the 5 km stretch of road between Emua and Savaki. This section had been set out for some time and is the area where the Emua and Paonangisu villagers have already relocated their fences. One crew started at Savaki and another at Laonkarai and will work towards each other. The drainage crew constructed two culverts between Emua Wharf and Laonkarai.

A “Rod Sefti Awenes” session was held at Manua School for pikinini who live in the area. Two more sessions are planned. The assistance of Head Teacher Juliette Naviti in arranging these is much appreciated.

We also appreciate the information that villagers have given us on water pipe location and would like to know about any other water pipes under the road between Emua and Savaki.

Efate Work Planned for This Week

Clearing work will continue between Emua and Savaki. As this section is 5 km long clearing will take until Tuesday. After clearing is complete the pavement will be widened and shaped ready for placing the coral basecourse overlay. If the weather clears and allows the road to properly dry out the pavement crew will recommence final pavement construction at Malatia and work through Lakenasua to Saama and Emua.

To assist forward planning we would appreciate information from landowners and villagers of any water pipes under the road in the stretch between Savaki and Epule.

Quarries

The new crushing plant at Malarua is now ready to start producing sealing chip. All the components have been assembled, checked and test run. A small celebration will be held at the quarry once a stockpile of conforming chip has been produced. Due to the wet weather no coral aggregate has been produced at Meten Hill this week.

Engineers – What Do They Do?

Downer EDI Works has a number of Engineers in its establishment, they are mostly involved in management but we have one whose fulltime job is hands on engineering. Marcin Goluchowski is from Poland and was previously working for Downer EDI Works in Auckland, New Zealand before joining the Vanuatu Project Team in September last year. Marcin has a masters degree in Civil Engineering and his job title is Project Engineer. In addition to providing an engineering science input to the on site construction process Marcin is in charge of the Laboratory and Survey teams. His responsibilities are wide and varied, and range through;

- reviewing and refining the design produced by our design sub-consultant
- setting out the final design in the field, seeing how it relates to existing features and amending as necessary
- deciding new culvert and any special drainage structure details and ensuring that the inlet and outlet drains are properly located
- investigating the existing pavement and designing the new pavement depth
- arranging for the testing of materials used in the road and checking the quality of the finished work

To assist him with all this Marcin is supported by several NZ based professional engineers with specialist expertise in structural design, site investigations and pavement design. There are also four Vanuatu based Site Engineers in Marcin’s local engineering team.

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Next update will be provided on Thursday 23 April 2009