

MCA Update #17: Efate Ring Road & Santo East Coast Road

Highlights:

Commencement ceremony planned for Santo and pavement work recommences on Efate.

Efate Work Done Last Week

The pavement work crew restarted work at the Malatia Stream after a break caused by wet weather and placed then shaped the final pavement layer to Lakenasua. After completing the bulk of the clearing work in the Paonangisu to Safaki section a crew started widening the existing road between Saama and Emua. The drainage crew constructed two more culverts near Laonkarai and some maintenance work was carried out on the existing road pavement between the Mangaliliu turnoff and Savannah Store.

Efate Work Planned for This Week

Tidy up work will be undertaken to complete the main clearing operation between Laonkarai and Safaki. The pavement crew will continue final pavement construction through Lakenasua to Saama and then Emua in succeeding weeks. The drainage team will continue their steady progress and will be in the vicinity of Paonangisu this week.

A crew will be widening the pavement between Saama and Emua and generally preparing the road surface for placement of the final overlay by the pavement team. This week the section immediately adjacent to Emua village will be cleared. We would still appreciate receiving any information about water pipes under the road in the stretch between Safaki and Epule that land owners or leaseholders can provide.

Quarries

The new crushing plant at Malarua has produced its first sealing chip. There are a few “teething” troubles with achieving the correct stone chip sizes but the plant should soon start to produce significant volumes of product. A small celebration will be held at the quarry once a stockpile of conforming chip has been produced. The Meten Hill operation continues to work extended hours to keep up the aggregate supply to the pavement team.

Santo

PWD have been very busy carrying out maintenance work and have now virtually finished the stretch of the East Coast Road from the existing seal end to Matevulu. A Ground Breaking Ceremony to mark the commencement of the physical work on Santo will be held on the 30th April 2009 at Matevulu. The Honorable Prime Minister, GoV Ministers, Diplomatic Missions and GoV Officials are invited to attend the ceremony. The funding of the Santo East Coast Road sub-project has been achieved through the cooperation of donors and the Government of Vanuatu, with the initial funds provided by the Government of the United States through the MCC, and additional funds provided by the Government of New Zealand through NZAID and the Government of Vanuatu.

Downer EDI Works are in the process of establishing resources on Santo ready to commence physical work in early May. The first activity will be culvert construction in the section between existing seal end and Matevulu.

Safety Message

Sections of the existing road on both Efate and Santo have now had maintenance work carried out to improve surface smoothness. This work is done to improve vehicle ride and passenger comfort. It is not undertaken to create a vehicle race track or provide experience for hopeful racing car drivers. Previously the potholes limited the speed vehicles could travel at, now drivers are expected to control their vehicle speed to within the speed limit. People are working and walking on the road in many places and drivers should respect this.

BE SAFE, DON'T BE SORRY