

Note for Editor: Intended for publication in period: 30 April to 2 May 2009

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 #18 Efate Ring Road & Santo East Coast Road

Highlight:

Ground breaking ceremony for Santo East Coast Goodwill Highway.

Santo East Road

A Ground Breaking Ceremony was held at Matevulu on 30 April to mark the imminent start of physical work on the Santo East Coast Road. The Ceremony was arranged by SANMA Province with Secretary General Joel Path in the MC role. Important speeches were given, and a commemorative plaque unveiled by; Prime Minister Edward Natapei, Deputy Prime Minister Ham Lini, Minister of Infrastructure and Public Utilities Serge Vohor, MCC Country Director Charles Sethness, New Zealand High Commissioner Jeff Langley, President of SANMA Province Sebastien Alguet and President of Supenatavuitano Chief Sale Rani. An announcement was made by the New Zealand High Commissioner Jeff Langley that NZ Aid would contribute 900 million vatu towards the overall MCA – Vanuatu Project.

SANMA PWD have been busy carrying out maintenance work on the first section of the existing Santo East Coast Road in preparation for handing it over to the Design and Build contractor. 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 the existing seal end at Chapui and Matevulu.

Efate Work Done Last Week

Vegetation clearing between Saama and Safaki is now virtually complete with only a few small areas near Emua village remaining to be done. The pavement crew continued final pavement construction through Lakenasua to near Saama. The drainage team have made good progress and have almost completed installing all the culverts between Emua and Safaki. Another crew continued widening and strengthening the existing pavement between Saama and Emua and generally preparing the road surface for placement of the final overlay by the pavement team. Further 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 clearing operation between Emua and Safaki. A crew will continue widening and strengthening the pavement and cut side drains through Emua village and progress towards Paonangisu. The pavement crew will continue final pavement construction past Saama village progressing towards Emua and then on to Paonangisu in succeeding weeks. The drainage crew will relocate to Ulei and start constructing culverts working back through Tanoliu village towards the Savannah store. Some road maintenance work is planned between Epule and Epau.

Safe Employee for April

Jackson David from Siviri village is the April Safe Employee of the Month. He was nominated by grader operator Guy Simpson for his work in directing where the trucks carrying coral aggregate spread their loads whilst keeping one lane of the road open for traffic and ensuring the workers marking out and measuring the work are kept safe. A presentation will be made to Jackson later this month.

Missing Measuring Wheel

A wheel used by surveyors to measure distances along the road went missing from the back of a truck parked near the Digicel tower between Saama and Emua last week. The wheel is made of red and black plastic and is about 300 mm in diameter with a 1 m long aluminium handle. If anybody sees or finds this somewhere we would be pleased to talk to them.

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Next update will be provided on Thursday 7 May 2009

