

Note for Editor: Intended for publication in period: 25 to 27 June 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 #26 Efate Ring Road & Santo East Coast Road

Highlight:

2.4 km of road have been sealed. Sealing continuing. Sealing continuing.

Efate Work Done Last Week

The clearing crew are 8 km from Klem's Hill, while the side drain and pavement widening crew reached Creek Ai. The pavement overlay crew started work at Ulei School and progressed to Tanoliu village. A small team continued with seal preparation between Emua and Paonangisu. Sealing was carried out on only two days and a total of 2.4 km have now been sealed. The drainage team completed flood damage repair work on the culvert adjacent to the Savannah store and started work on the first deep culvert at the top of the Creek Ai hill. A subcontract crew installed a variety of entrances for access on and off the new road between Safaki and Saama. Maintenance work on the existing road was carried out between Eton and Rentabao.

Efate Work Planned for This Week

The clearing operation will progress to the Mangaliliu turnoff. The side drain and pavement widening crew will continue working on both sides of the existing road from the Creek Ai hill progressing towards the Mangaliliu turnoff. The pavement overlay crew will finish placing basecourse in Tanoliu village, then work towards the Savannah Store. A small crew will continue to dress up and prepare sections between Siviri and Emua for sealing. As weather permits, the sealing operation will progress towards Siviri. The drainage team will continue to work on the special deep culverts at the top of the Creek Ai hill. The entrance crew will work between Lakenasua and Port Havannah.

Safe Employee For Month of May

The Downer EDI Works Safe Employee for the month of May was Alvin Verie. The award was to recognise Alvin's safe work practices when using a chainsaw. Alvin is from Siviri village and is part of the Clearing Crew. He was presented with his award by Site Superintendent Mark Blanchard at a recent workers meeting held at Meten Hill.

Complaints and Concerns on Road Works

MCA has received reports that aggrieved persons have caused damage to road furniture such as PVC pipes on driveways, and threatened road workers. The Contractor and Supervising Engineers are not responsible for grievances. MCA would like to remind individuals with concerns to please approach Chief Mor Mor or MCA-Vanuatu to deal with your grievances.

Other Contractual Works during Construction of the Efate Ring Road and Santo East Coast Road

On Monday 22 June 09, a JCB belonging to an unidentified owner was observed removing earth and clearing an area along the coastline at Laonkarai, directly across from work being done by the Contractor to construct driveways and shape the road. MCA-Vanuatu and Downer EDI Works would like to assure the public that the earth removal and clearance works are not part of road works. We hope that the activity that was undertaken does not damage the stability and protection of the coastline. The road on the particular stretch of **Laonkarai** was designed and built to be shifted to the right hand side of the road, retaining the vegetation, to avoid coastal erosion and promote sustainability of the road.

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Next update will be provided on **Thursday 2 July 2009**