Note for Editor: Intended for publication in period: 19 to 21 March 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 #12: Efate Ring Road & Santo East Coast Road

Highlights:

This week we have focused on constructing pavement.

Efate Work Done Last Week

We finally completed the side drains in the Malafau swamp area. We also shaped the road at Lakenasua and on the Siviri Hill and then moved our pavement team to the Malafau straight section to start placement of the basecourse overlay. Culvert construction is underway near Saama and will continue towards Emua. We have marked out the road Right of Way with blue topped sticks between Saama and Savaki. PWD and villagers are relocating several fences between Emua and Savaki.

Efate Work Planned for This Week

If weather permits we will continue placing the basecourse overlay and construct the pavement to its final shape commencing on the Malafau straight and working towards Meten Hill, then out towards Emua (in succeeding weeks). Side drains will also be cut to their final shape in this sequence. Culvert construction will continue in the Saama to Emua section and fence relocation will continue between Emua and Savaki. Clearing on the inland side of the road between Lelepa Hill and Tanoliu will recommence in a few weeks.

Malarua Quarry

Our subcontractor's crew is continuing to assemble the components of the crushing plant. This will take several weeks to complete.

Safety Message: Wandering Cattle

Currently PWD and local villagers are relocating some fences in advance of our starting work between Emua and Savaki. Cattle are naturally inquisitive and will soon find any gaps in the fences and wander onto the road. While fencing work is underway road users should watch out for cattle, especially at night.

Preliminary Design for Santo

We now have preliminary drawings for the entire Santo length (end of existing seal to Port Olry) and this week Downer EDI Works staff and designers from Maunsells have been on Santo with PWD's Allen lavro checking details and gaining some further information. MCA and the Engineer will work with Downer to finalize the designs for section A from the end of the existing seal to Matevulu.

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Next update will be provided on Thursday 26 March 2009

