

Note for Editor: Intended for publication in period: 11 to 13 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 #24 Efate Ring Road & Santo East Coast Road

Highlights:

Another week of fine weather and good progress on the road.
NZ\$14 million of additional funding from the Government of New Zealand.

Efate Work Done Last Week

The clearing, side drain and pavement widening crew reached Creek Ai on the seaward side of the road and continued to clear and widen on the landward side of the road between Savannah Store and Creek Ai. Widening and drainage work in Tanoliu village also progressed and is now substantially complete. The pavement overlay crew completed laying subbase and basecourse between the World War 2 Museum and Safaki. The drainage team repaired flood damage to the culvert adjacent to the Savannah store and completed all the culvert work between Tanoliu and Creek Ai.

Efate Work Planned for This Week

The clearing, side drain and pavement widening crew will continue work on the landward side of the existing road between Savannah Store and Creek Ai. They will also tidy up and finish off all the widening and drainage work in Tanoliu village. They will then move to work on the Creek Ai hill progressing back towards the Mangaliliu turnoff. A rock breaker will be used to cut the side drains on the landward side between Tanoliu and Savannah Store. The pavement overlay crew will do some final trimming between Siviri and Safaki to get the section ready for sealing. One crew from the drainage team will start work on the first special culvert (see item below) and the other crew will carry on installing culverts from Creek Ai working back towards Mangaliliu.

Special Culvert Construction

There are a number of drainage culverts that are especially deep and are much more difficult to construct than normal. All these culverts are on the existing road alignment and their installation will require a large excavation to be made in the existing road. To maintain traffic flows a temporary detour will be constructed around each site. This will be narrower than the existing road and warning signs will be installed in advance of each work site. A temporary speed limit will also be imposed. Several of the special culverts are located between the Mangaliliu turnoff and Creek Ai. Work on the first of these will start next week. Motorists are urged to drive with particular care when travelling through these sites. Road users may also experience slight delays during work hours as machinery and materials are moved around the site.

NZAID Signs Agreement with the Government of Vanuatu

On June 10 2009, the New Zealand High Commissioner signed an agreement with the Government of Vanuatu (GoV) for the New Zealand Agency for International Development (NZAID) to provide financial contribution of NZ\$14 million towards completing the road construction works under the MCA-Vanuatu program. This financial assistance is available for the duration of the MCA-Vanuatu program until April 2011. The GoV, through the MCA Steering Committee is indeed very grateful to the Government of New Zealand for this assistance and its recognition of the role of transport infrastructure in the alleviation of poverty and strengthening of rural development in Vanuatu.

Traffic Safety

This is another plea to the youth and children, and particularly to their parents, that it is very important to remain safe and off the road as construction proceeds. The road construction team have frequently observed and driven past youth and children riding their bicycles either close to the center of the road or at high speed, not appearing to take notice of heavy duty machines or dump trucks which are also using the road. Neither you nor we want to have any accidents.

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Next update will be provided on Thursday 17 June 2009