

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 #27 Efate Ring Road & Santo East Coast Road

Highlight:

8.6 km of road have now been sealed.

Efate Work Done Last Week

The clearing crew are 8 km from Klem's Hill, while the side drain and pavement widening crew reached the top of the Creek Ai Hill, which is 9 km from Klem's Hill. The pavement overlay crew progressed through Tanoliu village and past Samoa Point. A small team continued with seal preparation between Malatia and Emua. Sealing was carried out on four days and has now reached Malatia with a total of 8.6 km sealed. The drainage team completed two deep culverts near the top of the Creek Ai Hill. A subcontract crew continued to install access ways and driveways for access on and off the new road between Safaki and Tanoliu.

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 above the Creek Ai hill progressing towards the Mangaliliu turnoff. The pavement overlay crew will work past Samoa Point towards the Savannah Store. A small crew will continue to dress up and prepare sections between Siviri and Malatia for sealing. As weather permits, the sealing operation will progress towards Siviri. The drainage team will work on several conventional culverts then install another set of special deep culverts close to the Mangaliliu turnoff.

Longer term we expect to start clearing at Safaki heading towards Takara, Onesua and Epule in mid August and be working on Klem's Hill pavement in late September/early October.

Safe Employee For Month of June

The Downer EDI Works Safe Employee for the month of June was Joel Kalsal. The award was to recognise Joel for his role in training - roller drivers and safe operation of the Cat 950 loader. Joel is from Erakor village and is part of the pavement crew. He is one of the longest-serving Downer Vanuatu workers. Originally he started work as part of the pavement investigation team in June 2008. He will be presented with his award at a workers meeting next week.

Santo Road

Design and project planning has been progressing steadily since the Ground Breaking Ceremony and Santo residents will shortly see physical evidence of work commencing. Key people associated with the work on Santo and forthcoming program highlights are as follows;

Santo Staff

The following people will be closely involved with the Santo construction work

Downer Staff

Andrew Scoggins – Project Manager

Craig Smart – Stakeholder Liaison Manager

Bruce Watson – Santo Manager

Geoff Morris – Santo Supervisor

Subcontractor Flame Tree Staff

Glenn Wakeman – Subcontractors Project Engineer

Warren MacIver - Subcontractors Operations Manager

The Engineers Staff

Ambatha Paraliu – Santo Representative

MCA and SANMA Staff

Members of the MCA-Vanuatu team will make regular visits to the Santo works as the Accountable Entity responsible for the program on behalf of the Government. MCA-Vanuatu has an agreement in place with the SANMA Province to provide on-the-ground operational support under the leadership of Secretary-General Joel Path. Santo-based PWD, Lands, and Water officers will also provide assistance as required as part of MCA's agreements with these agencies. MCA and the Contractor have arranged for the SANMA HIV/AIDS Committee to deliver awareness training for the Contractor's workers and for villages adjacent to the roadworks.

The U.S. Government's MCC-Vanuatu team will also be on site for regular checks.

Santo Program Milestones

Tuesday 7 July, 11am- subject to all required approvals and consents, the first barge of equipment and materials is scheduled to arrive at Palekula Landing, Customs and Quarantine clearance will be followed by Welcome Ceremony on site arranged by SANMA Province
Wednesday 8 July – complete barge unloading
Thursday 9 July – health workshop and Project induction for staff
Monday 13 July - commence drainage work
Wednesday 22 July - commence clearing/earthworks/pavement

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Next update will be provided on Thursday 9 July 2009