

Note for Editor: Intended for publication in period: 12 to 14 February 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 #7: Efate Ring Road & Santo East Coast Road

Highlights:

The wet weather eased slightly this week and progress was able to be made on several off-postponed activities. The co-operation of all landowners and leaseholders along the route continues to be appreciated. A schedule has been prepared for a team trip to progress preparations for the Santo East Coast Road

Work Done Last Week

We have completed vegetation clearing as far as Emua and have completed the widening from Siviri almost to Saama. Two drainage culverts have been laid adjacent to Siviri Village and fence relocation work has made good progress near Malatia. The fence work will soon be complete. We have restarted pavement construction work near Marona Bridge and have continued to place bulk fill at the base of Meten Hill. Traffic is now using this new fill. This work has substantially reduced the slope of the road at the base of Meten Hill.

Work Planned for This Week

We will continue to construct drainage culverts and progress these all the way to Malatia before recommencing culvert work on the Malafau swamp. We expect to complete widening from Saama to Emua Villages as well. While weather dependant, we also plan to continue building pavement in the Marona Bridge area working towards the Malafau Village turnoff.

At Meten Hill bulk filling will continue at the base of the hill and the detour will continue at the top of the hill meaning that motorists should exercise particular care when driving anywhere on Meten Hill.

Malarua Basalt Quarry

With some better weather this week the hardstanding for the crusher platform is now 80% complete. The crushing plant is due to arrive on a barge in Port Havannah in early March.

Existing Road Maintenance

The recent heavy rains have caused several streams to flood and there has been some damage caused to the Creek Ai, Saamoa Point Creek and Epau Crossings. We have made a temporary repair at Epau and have placed warning cones or barriers at the other sites. There are also a number of places where the road has been scoured by flood waters. The main one of these is Klem's Hill and repairs to this section are currently underway. There are some other areas of uneven pavement and motorists should exercise caution and reduce speed at locations where flood waters have run across the road.

Road Realignment Proposals

Last year the procedure to gain approval for a realignment of the existing road prior to the MCA upgrading and sealing work starting were advertised in the Daily Post. The dates for submission of realignment proposals to PWD on either Efate or Santo have now passed and no further applications can be considered.

Santo East Coast Road

A joint team from MCA, MCC and Downer EDi Works are planning a further visit to Santo. This will be between 24 February and 2 March. The team will be meeting and confirming agreements with SANMA Province, assessing progress for PWD to hand over the road in 'trafficable condition', checking draft designs in the field, reviewing the RAP (Resettlement Action Plan), developing an STI/HIV/AIDS awareness program, finalising coral pit and water sources for construction, assessing any cultural sites on or close to the Right of Way, discussing draft arrangements for custom welkam and ground breaking ceremonies, and meeting with potential suppliers and subcontractors. A public meeting will be scheduled later in the trip.

The pavement investigation crew is making very good progress and is on schedule to reach Port Olry by the end of the month.

Enquiries to Craig Smart
Stakeholder Liaison Manager
Downer EDi Works Vanuatu
Phone 5585 002

craig.smart@downerediworks.co.nz

Next update will be provided on Thursday 19 February 2009

