

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 #8: Efate Ring Road & Santo East Coast Road

Highlights: Pavement Progress, Two New Faces and Safe Employee of the Month Selected

The wet weather eased slightly this week allowing further progress with pavement construction. Two senior appointments have been made to MCA Vanuatu positions and the Downer EDI Works Safe Employee of the month selected.

Work Done Last Week

We finished another 300 m of road to final shape and level and the pavement workfront is now on the Malafau Village side of the Marona Bridge. However due to the unsettled weather conditions we do not expect to be able to seal this stretch of road for some time yet. We completed laying drainage culverts in the Siviri Village area and also finished a culvert near the Malatia School.

We commenced clearing roadside vegetation between Tanoliu Village and Lelepa Landing. The road has become considerably overgrown in places and overhanging vegetation can reduce visibility for drivers and be a hazard to passengers riding on the back of trucks. We are concentrating on only removing the low value vegetation that has grown uncontrolled in the road Right of Way. Places where there are food crops, significant trees or fences in the Right of Way will be cleared as a separate operation when road widening work is due to begin.

Clearing the bulk of the vegetation away also opens up the road so that the surface dries out faster after rain. This clearing work will extend all the way to Snake Hill. Progress was also made with bulk fill at the base of Meten Hill.

Work Planned for This Week

We plan to lay three culverts in the Malafau swamp section, including a double culvert near the Moso Landing Road. We also expect to continue with pavement construction work across the Malafau swamp until we reach the base of Meten Hill. The vegetation clearing will proceed from Lelepa Landing towards Snake Hill.

Bulk filling will continue at the base of Meten 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

Placement of the hardstanding for the crusher platform is now complete and the site is ready to receive the crushing plant when it arrives in early March.

Santo East Coast Road

Final arrangements are being made for the MCA, MCC and Downer EDI Works joint visit to Santo from 24 February to 2 March. A public meeting has been scheduled for Thursday 25th February at 5pm, Venue will be confirmed and will be posted on the SANMA Provincial Council Offices Notice Board, or ring Craig below. The pavement investigation team has reached 47 km and are just past of Hog Harbour on the way to Port Olry. The investigation work should be completed by Thursday.

Some New Faces

Two people have recently joined the Project in senior positions. On Monday 16 February, Mr Johnson Wabaiat officially commenced as Program Director MCA Vanuatu. Johnson is an Economist with a long history of service at Director-General and Director levels with the Government of Vanuatu. On the same day Hans Euscher commenced as Project Manager/Advisor to MCA. He is an Engineer with extensive project management experience, notably in the Pacific region. Acting MCA Director Tony Sewen has returned to his duties as MCA Economist. Johnson and Hans both work out of the Ministry of Finance, MCA Vanuatu Office in the Constitution Building. The Road Team want to thank Tony for his contributions and support as Acting Program Director.

Safe Employee of the Month

Every month each Downer EDI Works Office or Project selects an employee who has done something special in the field of safety. During January truck driver Arnold Sarginson displayed extreme safety skills – driving his truck in very difficult weather conditions. His attitude to all safety aspects of his job is consistently high and a presentation will be made to Arnold this Tuesday at our regular on site “Toolbox” Safety Meeting.

Enquiries to Craig Smart
Stakeholder Liaison Manager

Downer EDI Works Vanuatu
Phone 5585 002

Next update will be provided on Thursday 26 February 2009

