

MCA Update #61 Efate Ring Road & Santo East Coast Road



Downer EDI Works staff constructing a gabion basket wall on the downstream side of the new triple barrel culvert at Dry Creek (just South of Eton).



The Astra Articulated Dump Truck (ADT) working just North of Eton village. This machine is operated by Samie Bethel from Paonangisu.



Flood Warning Sign. Drivers should exercise caution if it has been raining as the section of road ahead may be covered by flood water.



Flood Depth Indicator. The figures show the depth in meters that the flood water is above the normal road surface. Caution and judgment are required whenever driving through flood waters. If in doubt wait for the flood to pass.

Road Signs – What They Mean – Flood Warning & Flood Depth Signs

Flood Warning Signs and Flood Depth Indicators have been installed where the road has been sealed. The upgraded road incorporates the existing drainage structures for many of the creeks or streams that cross the road. Many of these structures are fords that water flows over whenever the stream floods and Flood Warning signs have been placed either side of the stream to advise drivers of this hazard. If it has been raining drivers should be prepared to slow down and stop before they reach the stream, as encountering even shallow water at speed may result in loss of control and/or damage to your vehicle. Remember that the flooding over the road could still be a hazard for some hours after the rain has stopped. Exercise special caution at night.

As it is very difficult to judge the depth of swirling brown flood waters, Flood Depth Indicators have been installed so drivers can judge whether they can proceed through the water or need to wait for the flood to subside. The Indicators show the depth in metres that the flood has risen to above the deck of the structure. Irrespective of water depth, driving through streams in flood is hazardous as flood waters carry debris that may impact with your vehicle. Caution and judgement are required. Floods in the streams that cross the road are quick to rise and generally subside within a few hours. If in doubt it is best to wait until the flood has passed. If you do drive through water check, and dry, your brakes once you are clear of the water.

Santo Work

Clearing has reached the 43 km mark and culvert installation has reached the 45 km mark and is now just North of Hog Harbour. Due to recurring wet weather the pavement construction remains at the 36 km peg. All operations will continue to progress North as weather permits.

Efate Work

Installation of a new triple barrel culvert is now underway at Dry Creek, just South of Eton village. Clearing and widening work has reached the 73 km mark just North of Eton village. Pavement construction is underway between La Cressonniere and Pang Pang. The final pour for the Klehm's Hill concrete pavement occurred last weekend but there will be several weeks of guardrail, drainage and tidy up work to do before the work is fully completed. Eton village water pipe relocation work will continue.

Safe Employees of the Month

Reflecting the high workload and sustained progress made during the month several awards were made for February, firstly traffic controllers – Margaret Jonathon, Stephanie Jonathon, Rose David and Maina Bani (all from Pang Pang) for safely controlling traffic on routes with large numbers of trucks working. Secondly Esra Kalo (another traffic controller but from Takara) for proactive safety reporting and thirdly Matthew Smith (from Paeroa) for conning off an area of road where branches from a wind damaged tree may have fallen. These people will be presented with their awards at a regular tool box meeting later this month.

Traffic Cautions

Traffic will be confined to one lane with twenty-four hour traffic control on Klehm's Hill while guardrail and drainage work is carried out. Road users are urged to comply with the safety signs and the directions of the traffic controllers on site. Again, we ask all drivers to refrain from speeding anywhere on the sealed road or where construction is underway. The roads are construction sites and used by pedestrians as well as vehicles.

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In addition further information can be found on the MCA – Vanuatu website at www.mcavanuatu.gov.vu.

Next update will be provided on Thursday 18 March 2010