

Note for Editor: Intended for publication in period: 15 to 17 April 2010

This is a regular update on progress with the Millennium Challenge Corporation Vanuatu Project compiled by MCA-Vanuatu and the Design and Build Contractor – Downer EDI Works Vanuatu Ltd on behalf of the MCA-V Project Team.

MCA Update #66 Efate Ring Road & Santo East Coast Road



Efate: Clearing underway South of Eton Village.



Santo: Widening the road South of Hog Harbour



Efate: New Zealand based sealing expert Phil Muir discussing bitumen sealing practices and safety procedures with Downer and sealing subcontractor staff at Second Lagoon.



Efate – Downer EDI Works Vanuatu staff taking a break at one of the food stalls set up in Eton that provide meals for the road workers. Village identity Pasa is in the centre of the photo.



Typical Village Entry signs, these advise drivers that they need to slow down to 30 km/hr or less, as they are entering a village.



Road Signs – What They Mean – Village Entry Signs

To warn motorists that they are about to drive through a village, a set of signs that have more impact than a single sign are installed. In addition to displaying the village name these signs also set a 30 km/hr speed limit to recognise that people, especially pikinini may be walking along or across the road.

To date entry signs have been installed in Tanoliu, Siviri, Emua and Takara villages. In future they will be installed in Epau, Pangpang and Eton villages on Efate and Suranda, Hog Harbour and Port Olry on Santo.

Santo Work

Culvert installation has paused at the 47 km mark just North of Hog Harbour. The road through Hog Harbour village has been cleared and widened to the 46 km mark. Pavement overlay has reached the 42 km mark and pavement finishing has progressed from 36 km to 38 km. All operations will continue to progress North as weather permits.

Efate Work

Culvert construction is underway at the 90 km mark. Clearing and widening work has progressed through Eton Village and has now reached the 83 km mark. Pavement progress has again been affected by wet weather and continues slowly between La Cressonniere and Pang Pang. Guardrail, drainage and tidy up work continue on Klehm's Hill. Rock lined drain work is underway near the 2 km mark. Preparations are being made to seal the road from Epule Quarry to Ekipe village. The existing road between Eton and Rentabao was again graded to restore a smooth surface for motorists after wet weather.

Traffic Conditions

Klehm's Hill is open to two way traffic overnight. During the day when guardrail, drainage and tidy up work is underway traffic restrictions may be required and controllers will be on duty between 6:00 am and 6:00 pm. 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 22 April 2010