

Note for Editor: Intended for publication in period: 3 June to 5 June 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 #72 Efate Ring Road & Santo East Coast Road



A Downer grader (operated by Johnathan How) and roller (operated by Edward Tasaruru) shaping & compacting pavement near Dry Creek in East Efate



The May Safe Employee Award was made to the Santo traffic controllers. Subcontractor Flame Tree Developments directors Glenn Wakeman (left) and Warren McIver (right) with Downer Santo Supervisor Geoff Morris (centre).



The sealed road through Epau Village



The Downer team gathered at Eton Beach to celebrate completion of the clearing and earthworks operations on Efate.

Santo Work

Final pavement placement and trimming has reached the 47 km mark North of Hog Harbour. There are now only 12 of the 750 mm diameter culverts left to lay. Rock lined drain work is underway at the 43 km mark. The Vatrath quarry is fully operational.

Efate Work

The pavement construction crew has passed Dry Creek and reached the 82 km mark. Sealing work has recommenced and has reached Epau village at the 55 km mark and will continue South to La Cressonniere as weather permits. The Lelepa Hill tidy up work is underway and rock lined drain work is progressing near the 8 km and 70 km marks. Work on the Neslep Crossing at Elownea Bay is now complete and the crossing will be reopened to traffic on Monday 7 June and the temporary detour then removed.

Traffic Calming

A consultation meeting was held at Paunangisu village, North Efate, on 28th May 2010, to promote awareness on trialing use of Rumble Strips along Paunangisu straight. The meeting was very welcomed and appreciated by the Chairman of Village Council, Watson Archie, and other members of the council and community. The meeting aimed at recommending to the community that Rumble Strips are safer than Speed Humps considering the nature of Paunangisu road being long and straight which appeals to drivers to drive very fast. Speed humps are considered even more dangerous for public transports or pick-up trucks carrying passengers and market produce and who may drive at high speed. This can cause a sudden collision on the speed hump and the cart load will all fall out and passengers can suffer serious injuries. Rumble strips are safer in these conditions as the bright color and increased noise from the strips

will naturally appeal to the driver to slow down. Rumble strips have never been applied on any roads in Vanuatu – this is the first of its kind to be trialed. Other trials will soon commence at Tanoliu.

Employees of the Month

The Safe Employee for the month of April was quarry bulldozer operator Roy Sarginson. Roy gained his award for using his initiative to cone off an excavation that was becoming a hazard to vehicles in the quarry area.

The Safe Employee for the month of May were all the traffic controllers employed by subcontractor Flame Tree Developments on Santo. They have provided a consistently high standard traffic control for this portion of the Project.

Traffic Conditions and Road Safety

Traffic is restricted to one lane on the Lelepa Hill as tidy up work is completed. Traffic controllers are on duty 24 hours per day to control traffic flows up and down the hill. Klehm's Hill is now open to two way traffic with only some short day-time restrictions as final tidy up work is also carried out there. A temporary speed limit of 30 km/hr applies to all the newly sealed sections of road.

Road users are urged to comply with the safety signs and the directions of the traffic controllers at the various work sites. 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 10 June 2010