

Note for Editor: Intended for publication in period: 12 to 14 August 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 #80 Efate Ring Road & Santo East Coast Road



Applying the first seal coat near Nangus (close to Eton Village).



Installing speed bumps in Tanoliu. These are a trial to see how the bumps perform, especially to determine how effective they are at slowing traffic down.



Tanoliu Bridge with the new deck timbers all in place. Work on the Ulei Bridge continues.



The new road has many uses, here the Mangaliliu PWMU Mamas Walkathon group pause on Klehm's Hill. They are walking to raise money for an extension to the PWMU building in the village



A Downer crew controlling the traffic and clearing away debris from a rockfall on Klehm's Hill after the earthquake. The new concrete pavement was not damaged during the earthquake.



One of the new signs installed on Klehm's Hill and Lelepa Hill to reinforce the message to drivers that the safe speed when going downhill is 20 km/hr.

Santo Seal

Last week the Minister for Finance and Economic Management Sela Molisa, the U.S. Ambassador to Vanuatu Teddy Taylor and the NZ Minister for Foreign Affairs Murray McCully announced that the seal width for the entire length of the upgraded road will be increased from 5 metres to 6 metres. This will cost

US\$648,000 and has been achieved through the collaboration, goodwill and good management of the Project parties.

To date the Santo road has been sealed as far as the Manioc Hill (approx 26 km from the start of the Project length) and when sealing resumes on Santo the pavement will be sealed to 6 m width. Once the first seal coat has been completed from Manioc to Port Olry, the sealing crew will go back and increase the seal width from the start of the Project to Manioc by adding a narrow strip to each side if the existing seal.

Santo Work

The pavement is now complete to the end of the Project length at Port Olry. Drainage work in Hog Harbour is well advanced and expected to be complete this week. Final trimming of the pavement to get it ready for seal is underway with sealing expected to resume in mid August – beginning with the length from Manioc to Port Olry.

Efate Work

Pavement overlay has now been completed on Efate, and final trimming and shaping of the pavement surface in preparation for sealing is now underway. The sealing has now reached Banana Bay at the 83 km mark. This means there are now just 9 km of first coat seal to go on Efate before the sealing crew relocate to Santo. After completing all the sealing on Santo the sealing crew will return to complete the second seal coat on Efate. Guardrail installation continues at the 67 km mark near Forari. Replacement of the timber deck on the Tanoliu Bridge has been completed and work is underway on the Ulei Bridge.

Earthquake

After recovering from the shock of Tuesday's earthquake Downer personnel patrolled the Efate Ring Road to check it for damage.

The most evident problem was at Klehm's Hill where rocks fell onto the road from the hill above and partially blocked one traffic lane. In total there was one medium sized and two minor rock falls in this section. The concrete pavement itself and ground below the road appear to be undamaged. Downer crews attended on site and cleared much of the debris away before dark. A large number of people were driving and walking up Klehm's Hill in the early evening because of tsunami concerns. On Wednesday Downer moved machinery to site to complete the removal of the fallen rock.

Traffic Conditions and Road Safety

Road users are urged to comply with the safety signs and the directions of traffic controllers at work sites. We also 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 other vehicles. "Slo Daon Spid Limit 20" signs have been installed on Klehm's and Lelepa Hills to remind drivers that the safe speed when descending these hills is 20 km/hr.

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In addition further information can be found on the MCA – Vanuatu website at [.mcavanuatu.gov.](http://mcavanuatu.gov.vu)

Next update will be provided on Thursday 19 August 2010