

**Note for Editor: Intended for publication in period: 19 to 20 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 #81 Efate Ring Road & Santo East Coast Road**



Final trim of the pavement near the 87 km mark at Erueiti to get it ready for sealing.



The roads have many uses – cars parked at Ewor Creek on Assumption Day as people picnic and play near by.



A Downer excavator operated by Kevin Ruben gently places basalt rip rap to improve the coastal erosion protection at Onesua.



Speed calming trial at Paonangisu. A one metre wide band of very large size sealing chip in the centre of the yellow patch is intended to make a rumble sound as vehicles travel over it.



Speed bumps made of plastic, instead of the conventional concrete are being trialled at Tanoliu.

### **Santo Work**

Now that all quarry extraction and pavement construction is complete the largest items of equipment have been transported by a local barge from the end of the Project length at Port Olry back to Luganville. The drainage work in Hog Harbour is also now complete and all the plant and equipment used for this work has been returned to Luganville.

Final trimming of the pavement to get it ready for seal is underway with sealing on Santo expected to resume in late August – beginning with the length from Manioc to Port Olry.

### **Efate Work**

Final trimming and shaping of the pavement surface in preparation for sealing continues. The first coat sealing has now reached the farmland at the 84 km mark. This means there are now just 8 km to seal on Efate before the sealing crew relocate to Santo. Guardrail installation continues at the 71.6 km mark opposite the La Cressonniere Ranch entrance. Replacement of the timber deck on the Ulei Bridge is complete.

While the most substantial work on the Project is now complete there is still a large amount of minor work to do. Speed bump installation, entrance construction, coastal erosion protection, quarry rehabilitation, a box culvert at Dry Creek, road-marking, additional information signs and general tidy up will continue to keep work crews occupied for some time yet.

### **Sealing**

The final major item of work remaining on both Efate and Santo is the sealing. Two coats of seal are required and we plan to complete the first seal coat on Efate and then transport the sealing equipment to Santo. We will then spray the first coat seal 6 m wide from Manioc to Port Olry, then increase the existing seal between the start of the Project and Manioc from 5 m wide to 6 m wide. When the widening of the existing seal is complete the crew will apply the second seal coat to the Manioc to Port Olry length. They will then return to Efate to apply the final length of second coat seal there. All the sealing work is expected to be completed in October.

### **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.

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

**Next update will be provided on Thursday 26 August 2010**