

Note for Editor: Intended for publication in period: 26 to 27 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 #82 Efate Ring Road & Santo East Coast Road



The new seal meets the old at the end of the Japanese Road. The first coat sealing crew reach the end of the Project length at the 92.6 km mark near Rentabao.



Cheers and applause as the truck placing the black stones reaches the Japanese Road. Sealing subcontractor Seaview Holding's General Manager "Nono" Cassart on left of truck and Downer Surfacing Supervisor Clinton Thombs on the right monitor the application of the black stones.



Spreading black stones on the freshly sprayed bitumen.



Downer workers gather as the last of the first coat seal bitumen is sprayed.



Transplanting grass into the table drain to encourage vegetation to grow near the Blue Lagoon. This work is being done by a crew of girls from Eton Village.



Smoothing out the ground around a newly transplanted clump of grass.

Efate Work

Another major Project milestone was achieved on 25 August when the first coat seal reached the end of the Project length at the 92.6 km mark near Rentabao. This means there is now a "black stone" road all the way around Efate.

The sealing crew will now relocate to Santo to complete the work there. The second coat seal between Eton and Rentabao will be completed when the sealing crew return from Santo in October. A crew from Eton Village are transplanting grass into the table drains near the village to encourage vegetation to grow and spread over the freshly placed coral.

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, 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.

Santo Work

Now that all the significant construction work has been completed, subcontract work crews have been completing minor tidy up work, transporting plant, preparing sealing chip, carrying out quality checks and erecting signs.

Arrangements are being made to barge the sealing equipment to Santo next week. Final preparations to get the pavement ready for sealing, and widen the existing 5 m seal to 6 m, are underway. Sealing will recommence at Manioc and proceed to Port Olry.

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 www.mcavanuatu.gov.vu.

Next update will be provided on Thursday 2 September 2010