



Australian High Commission
Vanuatu

29 September 2021

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

Torba road upgrade gets underway

The Minister for Infrastructure and Public Utilities, Jay Ngwele, and Australia's High Commissioner, H.E. Sarah deZoeten, were in Torba Province this week to celebrate the start of an exciting new road project.

The project will upgrade 3.74 kilometres of Vanua Lava's core road network connecting Sola's airport to the school, hospital, market, and the provincial headquarters. Importantly, the road's new surface will reduce travel time and connect businesses and communities in the largest population centre of the province.

The VUV250 million works, supported by the Australian Government, will make roads safer, require minimal maintenance, have improved drainage and a surface that will provide all-weather access to withstand severe weather events.

Caption: Minister for Infrastructure and Public Utilities, Jay Ngwele, and Australia's High Commissioner, Sarah deZoeten in Torba Province to mark the start of Vanua Lava's new road project.

Minister Ngwele was pleased to mark the start of the project and highlighted the impact that it will have on the local economy.

"We are delighted to be working in partnership with the Australian Government to deliver on our Public Roads Policy. This road upgrade will bring tangible benefits to the local community now and in the years to come."

Australia's High Commissioner, H.E. Sarah deZoeten, said she was excited about what the project would achieve.



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“Together we are able to make this major project a reality. The works will support local small businesses, employ local labour and leave a lasting improvement for the community. We know that reliable transport is essential to building a prosperous future.”

Several local small-scale contractors will each complete a section of the project. This approach is designed to ensure the employment of local workers and to maximise the use of local materials. The project will also upskill provincial engineers in the scoping, delivery, and supervision of concrete road projects.

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