



Vanuatu Rural Roads Access Framework

Policy Statement

Purpose

The Vanuatu Rural Roads Access **Policy** states how the Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Utilities (MIPU) will prioritise its rural road network investments in road maintenance, road rehabilitation and improvements and road network development. It also establishes road targets.

Context

Vanuatu Rural Roads Access Framework

The Vanuatu Rural Roads Access (RRA) **Framework** comprises:

- The Rural Roads Access **Policy** (the Policy)
- The Rural Road Access **Strategy** (the Strategy)
- The Rural Roads Access **Work Plans** (the Work Plans)

The RRA Framework is administered by MIPU under the *Public Roads Act 2013*. The Public Works Department (PWD) will implement the Framework on a day-to-day basis.

Policy Authority & Scope

The Policy is made by the Director General, MIPU under Section 12 of the *Public Roads Act 2013* (the Act). The Policy supports the Government of Vanuatu's *Vanuatu National Sustainable Development Plan*. The Policy pertains to public roads declared (or intended to be declared) 'arterial' roads and 'feeder' roads under the Act.

Rural road network investment priorities

Universal Basic Access

The highest priority is to maximise year-round basic access. '**Access**' means that people and goods can travel by local vehicle to their nearest commercial, services and transport hub in all but the worst weather. The principal consideration for '**basic**' access is year-round connectivity, regardless of how fast or slow, smooth or rough. Investments will include:

- Routine and periodic maintenance to keep roads year-round passable
- Spot improvements at locations where roads are impassable in wet weather.
- Rehabilitation of 'bad' condition and impassable road sections.

Economic Development

Investment in roads which will support the economic development ensures long-term sustainability and best return on investment. Investment strategies will support the economic development of the country by favouring road investments in the areas with comparatively greater economic potential in order to ensure maximum economic benefit.

Targets:

- 82% of all rural Ni-Vanuatu will have basic road access by 2030.
- Upgrade all impassable roads to passable.
- Maintain all roads to their defined standards and levels-of-service.



Road Selection

Year-round passable roads shall be the highest priority for routine and periodic maintenance.

Key selection criteria for upgrading impassable roads to year-round passable shall be:

- Providing basic access to the most number of people for the least cost.
- Alleviating severe hardship, including isolation from basic services.
- Potential for the economic development.

Commitments

- PWD will involve its **partners** and key **stakeholders** in planning, designing and delivering road works.
- PWD will **comply** with all the relevant health, safety, environmental and social protection laws and policies of Vanuatu in the planning and execution of road works.
- PWD will use **local** people, materials and resources in roadworks whenever feasible.
- PWD will address **climate change** and **disaster risk management** in the planning and execution of road works.