Largest Blast on Island to Date!

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St Helena Airport

BIG Blast planned on Prosperous Bay Plain – Friday 16th November

Basil Read will be carrying out a blasting operation on Prosperous Bay Plain at noon on Friday 16th November. This will be the largest blast under the project to date and certainly the largest blast on Island so far. As a comparison, there was a blast at Clingham's Quarry a few weeks ago which used 7 tonnes of explosives. On Friday Basil Read expect to use around 30 tonnes of explosives.

Should anyone from the public wish to view the blast, this will be possible from the Millennium Forest area. Project personnel will be on hand to talk you through the proceedings. Please assemble at the Millennium Forest by 11.45am.

The road from Millennium Forest corner to Bradley's will be closed from 11am to approximately 1pm. Members of the public are requested to adhere to the signage in place and to follow the directions of the Basil Read Flagmen.

One long continuous siren sound will be sounded to warn that the blast is taking place. The all clear is given when the siren sound stops.

PLEASE BE REMINDED THAT PROSPEROUS BAY PLAIN AND DRY GUT REMAIN CLOSED IN THE INTERESTS OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

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Other Airport News in Brief...

Extension of the Airport Development Area

A few weeks ago we reported on a proposal to extend the Airport Development Area (ADA) to include a 500m radius of inshore waters between Bay Point and Gill Point. Basil Read has identified that the cliffs around Prosperous Bay Plain show signs of extensive cracks. Whilst we cannot determine whether the blasting operations on Prosperous Bay Plain could result in rockfalls, we prefer to be extra cautious.

Following a period of public consultation, Governor in Council has now approved this proposal. The amendment to the ADA was published in Legal Notice No. 36 of 2012 on 2nd November. **The coastal area between Bay Point and Gill Point is therefore closed to the public until further notice.** We request your support in not entering this area. Please do not hesitate to contact the Access Office should you require further information.

The Permanent BFI

Work is continuing on the haul road to take the road to its final alignment. The fill material obtained from this work is then transported into Upper Ruperts (above the Quarantine Station) where it is being used to create the platforms for the permanent BFI. This work is still in its initial stages. Basil Read will have specialist teams arriving on-island in January 2013 and work will then pick up pace on this component.

April 2012—Before works started on BFI

Nov 2012—Construction of the platforms for the BFI

The Basil Read Lab at Ruperts

The engineering materials laboratory is the most important facility on the project when it comes to selection and approval of materials to be used to construct the airport. The tests carried out at the lab are essential to confirm that the materials used and the quality of work produced meet the standards required under the project.

The lab is subject to very strict quality control measures to ensure the accuracy of the testing. On-site personnel carry out ongoing checks on the equipment to ensure compliance. In addition, the lab is monitored by the South African company Soillab (Pty) Ltd which is part of the Australian, Snowy Mountain Engineering Corporation (SMEC). Once a year a calibration technician from Soillab performs an on-site calibration of all of the laboratory's equipment in accordance with the relevant standards.