

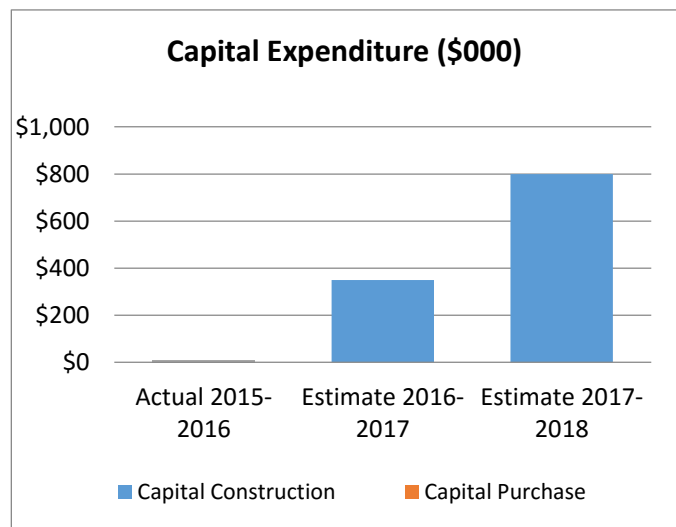
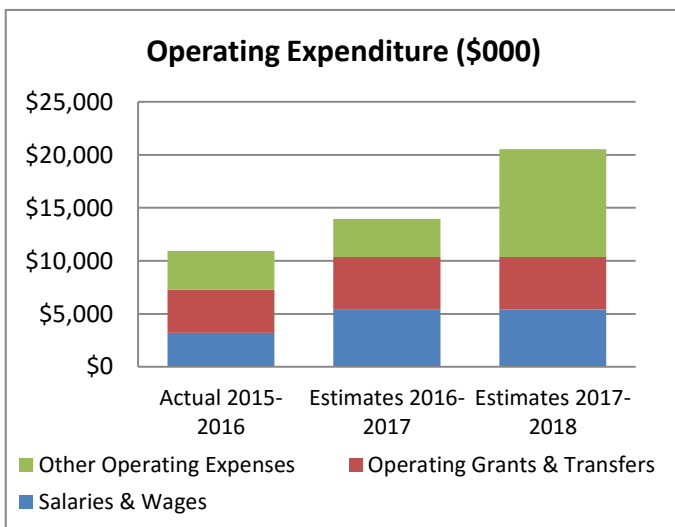


The Fijian Government Office of the Attorney General Budget Highlights

The Office of the Attorney-General, under the management of the Solicitor-General, supports the Attorney-General in carrying out the role of chief legal advisor to the Government. The office provides legal advice to Government and to all holders of public office on request, represents the State in court proceedings to which the State is a party, with the exception of criminal proceedings, drafts laws for Government, maintains the publicly accessible register of all written laws and performs other functions assigned by law, Cabinet or the Attorney-General.

The roles and functions of the Office of the Attorney-General are pivotal to ensuring that Government operates within the law at all times and that Fiji's laws and legal practices are aligned to the Fijian Constitution, as well as international conventions and best practices.

The total budget for Office of the Attorney-General in 2017-2018 is **\$22.3 million**, comprising **\$20.5 million** for operating expenditure, **\$0.8 million** for capital expenditure and VAT of **\$1.0 million**.



The increase of **\$7.6 million** in the 2017-2018 Budget is mainly attributed to:

- an increase in other operating expenses for the purchase of goods and services and special expenditures for Digital Government Transformation; and

- an increase in capital expenditure for upgrading and refurbishment works.

New Initiatives

- \$6.0 million is provided to deliver better digital government services to the Fijian people. This will involve establishing a program management office to oversee the implementation of the digital transformation over the next three years and to build and increase capacity in the areas of IT disaster recovery, security and infrastructure.
- \$100,000 is allocated to engage consultants for a review of occupational health and safety legislation in collaboration with the Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations and other stakeholders.
- \$500,000 is allocated to host the 55th Conference of Directors General of Civil Aviation, Asia and Pacific (DGCA) in 2018. This will provide opportunities for networking and capacity building and enhance Fiji's standing in the aviation sector.
- \$600,000 is allocated to commence major upgrading and refurbishment works on the Office of the Attorney-General headquarters at levels 5, 6 and 7 of Suvavou House in Suva.

Ongoing Initiatives

- Reforming and modernising Fiji's legal frameworks to address emerging challenges through:
 - Drafting of Laws: the drafting of Bills, as directed by Cabinet or the Attorney-General, for tabling in Parliament (\$500,000).
 - Law Reform: review laws and make recommendations for reform. Reviews are currently being carried out on the Copyright Act, the legal implications of climate change and land leasing agreements (\$650,000).
 - Revision of Laws: continuous revision of written laws to incorporate new amendments by Parliament or new regulations by Government (\$450,000).
- Supporting transparent and accountable institutions, including the development of robust and professional media organisations and media services in Fiji through:

- Operational Grant to Media Industry Development Authority: supports the operations of MIDA to ensure tasteful and balanced media coverage in Fiji (\$300,000).
- Operational Grant to Freedom of Information Commission: reviews issues relating to the public's right to access information held by Government and facilitate adoption of a freedom of information law for Fiji – the Information Bill is currently before Parliament (\$100,000).
- Regulating air transport in Fiji and expanding access to aviation services for the Fijian people through:
 - Operational Grant to Civil Aviation Authority: supports the operations of the Civil Aviation Authority to regulate activities of airport operators, air traffic control, air navigation service providers, airline operators, pilots, aircraft engineers, technicians, airports, airline contracting organisations and international air cargo operators in Fiji (\$2.5 million).
 - Domestic Air Service Subsidy: ensures reliable air services to Fiji's outer islands (\$1.85 million).
 - Vanua Levu Airport: funds to complete the preparatory works for the development of new airport on Vanua Levu (\$200,000).