



The Fijian Government

Ministry of Disaster Management and Meteorology Services

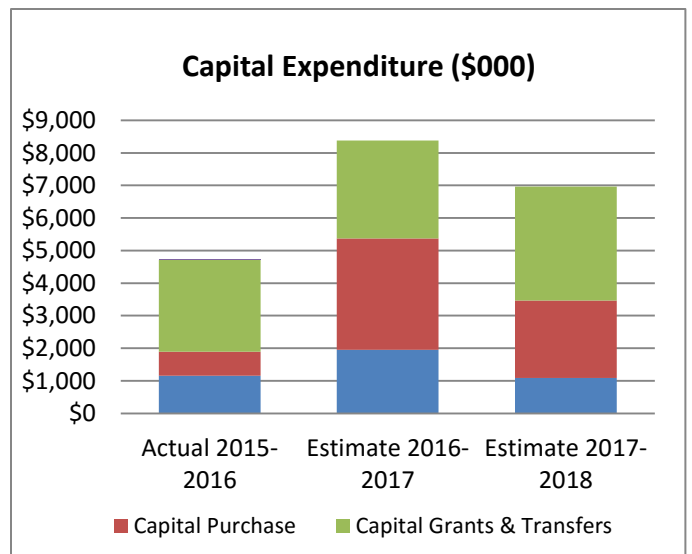
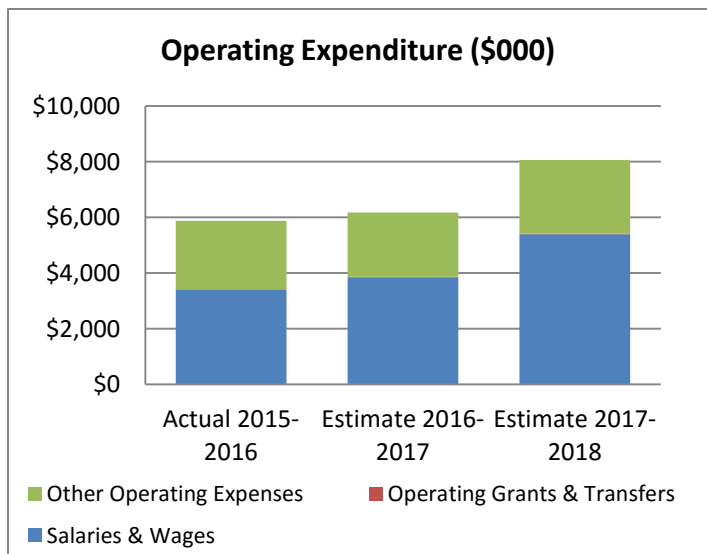
2017-2018 Budget Highlights

To better integrate the services that support disaster preparedness and response and recovery to natural disasters, the National Disaster Management Office and the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology have been merged to create the Ministry of Disaster Management and Meteorology Services.

Due to the effects of climate change, severe weather events, such as Cyclone Winston, are going to become more frequent and more severe. In light of this projection, the Ministry will work more seamlessly to coordinate emergency response operations in the aftermath of a disaster, and work to improve Fiji's resilience to natural disasters and the other severe effects of climate change.

Under the meteorology and hydrology portfolio, the Ministry will provide timely and reliable weather, hydrology and climate information directly to the public to improve overall preparedness prior to a disaster.

The budget of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Meteorology Services in 2017-2018 is **\$15.2 million**, comprising **\$7.7 million** for operating expenditure, **\$7.0 million** for capital expenditure and VAT of **\$0.5 million**.



Ongoing Initiatives

- Providing support to affected Fijians in the aftermath of a disaster through:
 - Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation Fund: funds immediate response, relief or rehabilitation efforts during national disasters (\$1.0 million).
- Building up Fiji's resilience to disasters through:
 - Disaster Risk and Climate Change Adaptation Fund: constructs or upgrades evacuation centres and sea walls in low lying areas; provides water tanks and rain water harvesters to homes in rural and maritime areas; and relocates villages and settlements in extreme cases. Funding is increased by \$0.5 million in 2017-2018 to supply more water tanks and carry out more evacuation centre upgrades (\$2.5 million).
- Providing timely and reliable meteorology and hydrology information through:
 - Multimedia Publication Awareness Program: funds the development of resource materials to educate students about meteorology, particularly on terms used in disaster warnings (\$99,000).
 - Upgrade of Outer Island Stations on Yasawa-i-Rara and Vunisea: secures the equipment, instruments and buildings at meteorological outstations to ensure that reliable information can be received in times of disaster for the entire Fiji Group. Funds will also go towards preserving a safe working environment for station officers and their families on site (\$350,000).
 - Construction of New Labasa Weather Office: completes construction of a new weather office at the current Vaturekuka Government Station near Labasa to enhance weather forecasting services in the Northern Division (\$0.7 million).
 - Supply and Installation of Water Level & Rainfall Telemetry Equipment: involves the continuous procurement and installation of water level and rainfall telemetry instruments at all hydrological stations located near major rivers around Fiji for proactive flood monitoring (\$0.28 million).

- Automatic Weather Observation System (AWOS) Replacement Project at the Nadi and Nausori International Airport: funds the replacement of AWOS in the upcoming budget cycle at the two international airports to improve weather monitoring for the aviation sector and communities living near the airports (\$1.5 million).
- Upgrade of Nadi Radar Antenna: funds the complete upgrade of the Nadi Radar Antenna in the upcoming budget cycle, which is a critical instrument used for domestic and regional weather forecasting (\$0.62 million).