

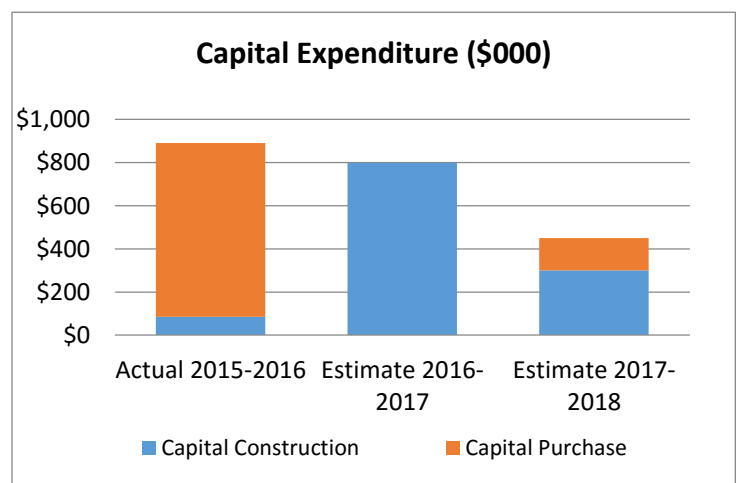
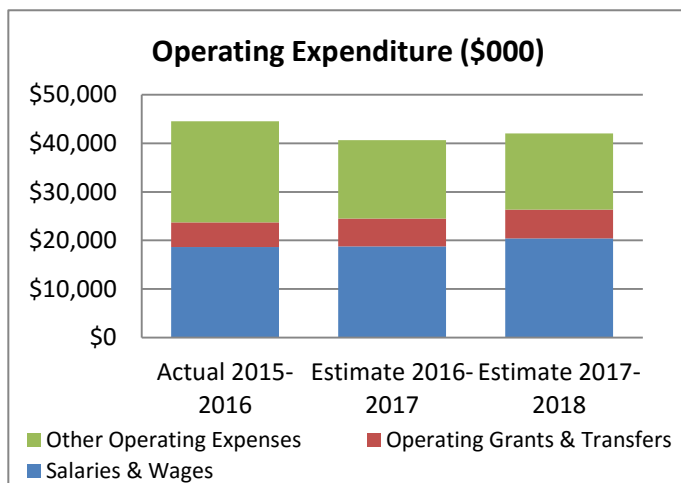


The Fijian Government Ministry of Foreign Affairs 2017-2018 Budget Highlights

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for carrying out Fiji's foreign policy by maintaining and strengthening Fiji's diplomatic relations, building bridges of cooperation with development partners and growing trade with other nations through its 17 overseas missions throughout the world.

Since adopting the "Look North" foreign policy, Fiji maintains diplomatic relations with 178 countries and has emerged as a globally respected advocate for small island nations, particularly on the issues of ocean preservation and climate change. Fiji successfully co-hosted the first-ever United Nations Conference on Oceans in June 2017. In November 2017, the Prime Minister will serve as President of the upcoming United Nations climate negotiations, COP23, where Fiji will seek to rally the community of nations to fully implement the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

The total budget for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2017-2018 is **\$43.9 million**, comprising **\$42.0 million** for operating expenditure, **\$0.5 million** for capital expenditure and VAT of **\$1.4 million**.



The increase of **\$0.9 million** in the Ministry's 2017-2018 operational expenditure is mainly attributed to:

- an increase due to adjustments to salaries and wages and regularisation of positions.

New Initiatives

- \$300,000 is allocated under Head 50 to upgrade and refurbish the Ministry's Headquarters at the GCC Complex.
- \$150,000 is allocated for capital procurements of office equipment and furniture for the mission in New Delhi.

Ongoing Initiatives

- Maintaining Fiji's strong leadership role in regional and international organisations and working to meet the goals of various international agreements through:
 - Membership in Regional and International Forums: maintains Fiji's membership and representation in international and regional forums, such as the United Nations and Melanesian Spearhead Group (\$4.6 million).
 - Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) Secretariat: funds the operation of the PIDF Secretariat in Suva. The PIDF is a regional partnership platform where leaders and representatives of Pacific Small Island Developing States and territories can address regional development challenges (\$1.3 million).
- Advancing Fijian interests through overseas and consular services through:
 - Procurement and Leasing of Vehicles: funds the procurement of vehicles in foreign missions. Funds will cover the replacement of vehicles in London, Seoul, Beijing, Kuala Lumpur and Port Moresby. New vehicles will also be procured for the mission in Tokyo in anticipation of the 2019 Rugby World Cup, the 2020 Olympics and Fiji's participation in Japan's eighth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting to be held in 2018 (\$569,681 - allocated under Head 50).
 - Capital Refurbishment of Mission Properties: funds the refurbishment of missions in Canberra and London, and the relocation of the Wellington mission due to structural damage from an earthquake in 2016 (\$300,000).