

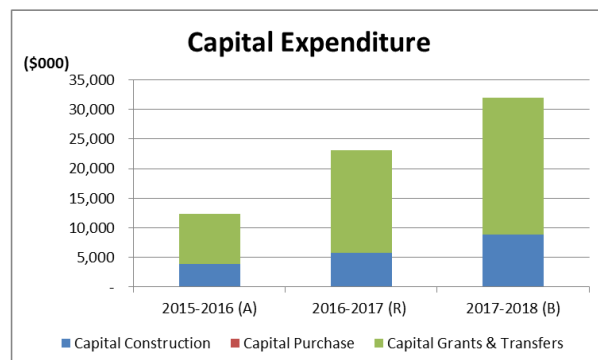
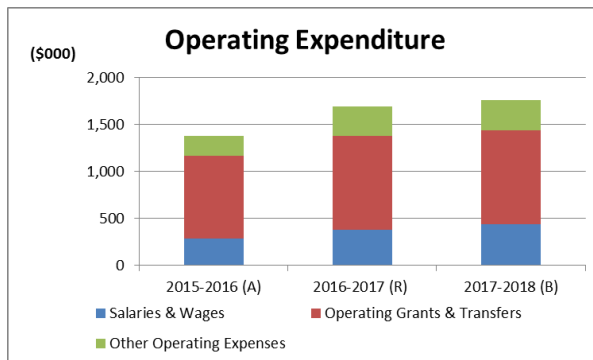


## The Fijian Government Department of Housing 2017-2018 Budget Highlights

The Department of Housing (DOH) works to meet Government's responsibility to take reasonable measures within available resources to realise every Fijians constitutional right to housing. The DOH constructs and maintains basic housing infrastructure services and creates affordable housing opportunities for low-income earners and those with special needs. The DOH is also responsible for facilitating forms of security of tenure.

The DOH works with the Housing Authority, Public Rental Board, HART and NGOs to provide housing to low and middle-income earners in urban and peri-urban areas.

The total budget for the Department of Housing is **\$34.6 million** in 2017-2018 comprising **\$1.8 million** for operating expenditure, **\$32.1 million** for capital expenditure and VAT of **\$0.8 million**.



The increase of **\$9.3 million** in the Ministry's 2017-2018 Budget is mainly attributed to:

- a marginal increase in operating expenditure to fund one new driver and the regularisation of three project positions;
- an increase in funding to Housing Authority [HA] and Public Rental Board [PRB] to increase the supply of housing lots and low cost housing units; and
- an increase in the level of assistance to Fijians living in squatter settlements, particularly through providing basic infrastructure and assistance with relocation.

## New Initiatives

- \$7,389,169 has been allocated to subsidise the land development cost of two new subdivisions of the Housing Authority, namely Nepani (Nasinu) and Davuilevu (Nausori). This development is expected to deliver 476 affordable housing lots by the end of 2018.
- \$1,310,000 has been allocated under the Informal Settlement Relocation Programme to relocate 300 families. This relocation will be guided by the new Informal Settlement Relocation Compensation Policy. Preparations will soon be underway for informal settlers living at Nabua (Fiji Muslim League land) to be relocated to Waidra (Baulevu).
- \$250,000 has been allocated for strata title home ownership in partnership with Fiji National Provident Fund and to increase the stockpile of public rental housing through partnership with the private sector (Head 50).

## Ongoing Initiatives

- Assisting informal settlements by drafting proper tenancy agreements and improving basic infrastructure through:
  - Town Wide Informal Settlement Upgrade: involves the upgrading of informal settlements on iTaukei land. Areas for upgrade include Waidamudamu, Wakanisila, Nadonumai, and Tauvegavega. More than 1,000 families are expected to benefit from this programme in 2018 (\$5,998,587).
  - City Wide Informal Settlement Upgrading: involves incremental upgrading of informal settlements. For 2017-2018, sanitary projects in Tavualevu Settlement (Tavua) and Wainiveidio Settlement (Navua), drainage upgrading for Vuci (Nausori) and Koronubu Settlement (Ba) and road upgrading at Baba Settlement (Levuka) have been prioritised. Projects expected to be completed in 2017 include Vunato Settlement and Kalili Sanitary Project (Lautoka), Beaumont Road Settlement Footpath and Sanitary Project (Nasinu), Matata and Valenicina Settlement Concrete Access Driveway Project (Lami) and the Natokowaqa Sewer Spillage Project (Lautoka) (\$436,000).
  - Informal Settlement Upgrading: involves the development of informal settlements by providing basic infrastructure and security of tenure. Works expected to be

completed in 2017 include Omkar (Nasinu), Ledrusasa (Nadi) and Cuvu (Sigatoka). Projects in Caubati (Nasinu) and Sasawira (Nasinu) are projected to be completed in 2018. Clopcott and Nakama are in the final design stage and are envisaged to be completed in 2019 (\$2,774,000).

- Increasing the market supply of low-cost housing units through:
  - PRB Subsidy: operating grant to subsidise the rental obligations of PRB tenants in all four divisions (\$1,000,000).
  - Simla Housing Development Project: funds allocated for the completion of 36 single unit PRB rental flats in Kuata Street, Lautoka, to cater for the increased demand for rental housing. The project is expected to be completed in 2018. Other PRB projects expected to complete in 2017 include Kalabu in Nasinu (36-one bedroom flats) and Naqere in Savusavu (48-one & two bedroom flats) (\$2,347,761).
  - Grant to HART: funding for the completion of four new HART flats in Makoi and for the general maintenance of the existing 825 homes under the programme (\$500,000).
- Supporting sustainable income generation in squatter settlements through:
  - Sustainable Income Generating Project: aims to control rural-urban drift which feeds the formation and expansion of squatter settlements by supporting income generating activities in targeted rural communities. The project is implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Rural & Maritime Development and Department of Social Welfare. The support to developing income generating enterprises in five pilot areas (Vanuakula, Vunisinu, Nakoro, Nakama and Naboutini) will be completed in 2018 (\$300,000).
- Boosting home-ownership for the Fijian people through:
  - First Home Buyers: assists individuals seeking to buy or build their first home. Over 1,000 recipients have already benefited from this scheme (\$10,000,000).

- Social Housing Policy: involves the settling of housing loans for clients held by the HA who have paid more than 1.5 times the principal amount, those who have retired or who can prove genuine financial difficulty based on low-income or medical grounds. The Government and HA share the write-off on a 60:40 basis (\$500,000).
- Support to ordinary Fijians during times of crisis through:
  - Housing Assistance to Fire Victims: This initiative is intended to assist fire victims with rebuilding their homes through a grant of \$5,000. The assistance is available to Fijians with a household income below \$50,000 and who have proper leases, but lack insurance (\$500,000).