



The Fijian Government Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources 2017-2018 Budget Highlights

The Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources is responsible for developing, reviewing and adopting flexible and market-driven policies to address the challenges faced by land developers, tenants, investors and indigenous landowning units in accessing and utilising land.

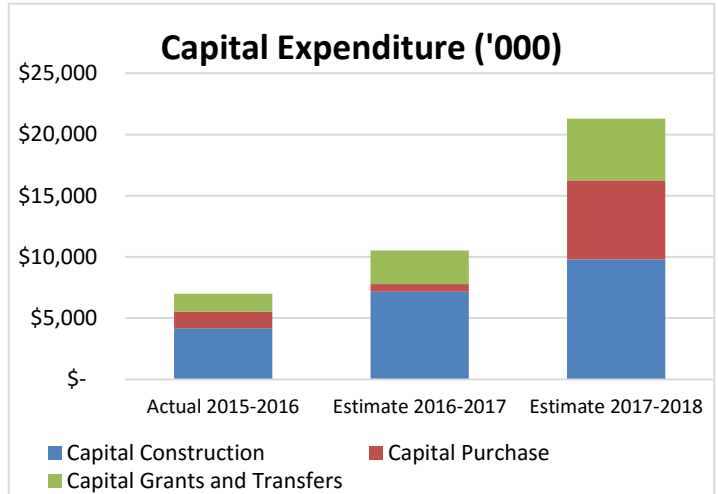
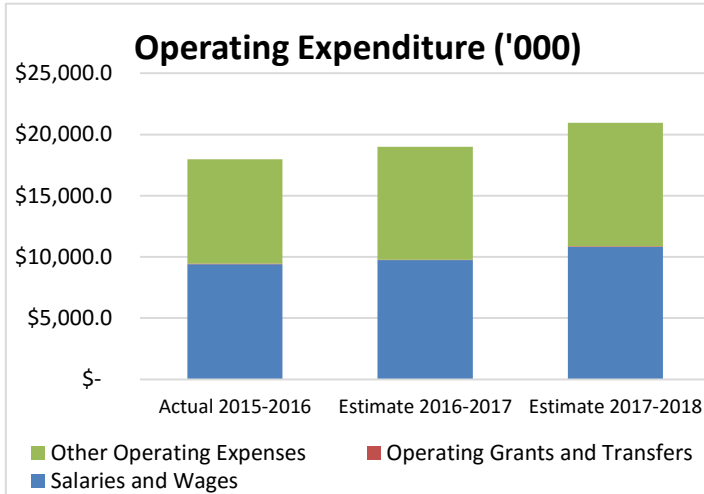
The Ministry has authority over two departments, the Department of Lands & Survey and the Department of Mineral Resources.

The Department of Lands is responsible for the effective and efficient administration, development and management of all State land in Fiji. The Department's Land Use Unit assists iTaukei landowners to put viable land that is currently idle to more productive use, granting equitable returns to landowners and improving the security of tenure for tenants.

The governance of State Land is provided under the provisions of the State Lands Act, Property Law Act, Lands Sales Act, Land Transfer Act and Agricultural Landlord and Tenant Act (ALTA).

The Department of Mineral Resources oversees and facilitates development of the country's mineral and groundwater resources. It undertakes studies in relation to geological hazard assessment which includes landslide, earthquake and tsunami monitoring, mineral, rock and groundwater development and manages the development of the mining and quarrying sector with a mandate under the Mining, Petroleum (Exploration and Exploitation), Quarries, Explosives and Continental Shelf, and International Seabed Mineral Management Acts.

The total budget for the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources in 2017-2018 is **\$42.3 million**, comprising **\$21.0 million** for operating expenditure, **\$19.0 million** for capital expenditure and VAT of **\$2.8 million**.



The increase of **\$11.3 million** in the Ministry's 2017-2018 Budget is mainly attributed to:

- an increase due to six new capital projects, including the purchase of machinery to support groundwater activities; and
- an increase in funding towards ongoing capital projects 'Development of State Land' and 'Land Bank Investment' as part of Government's effort to make more land available for development (residential, commercial, industrial, etc).

New Initiatives

- \$260,000 is allocated to construct a Core Repository Warehouse to centralise storage of samples located at eight core sheds around the country. The facility will allow more effective analysis and assessment on the minerals and will also enable the Department of Mineral Resources to provide information on mineral prospects.
- \$4,420,000 is allocated to purchase machinery to support groundwater assessment and development for both small and large islands. The machines include multi-drilling rigs, support truck/vehicles, and a compressor.
- \$180,000 is allocated to procure and upgrade technical equipment and software at the Tailevu Seismic Station. Software upgrading is critical for compatibility with the system used both in Vanuatu and Hawaii (the main centre that issues geological hazards warnings).
- \$600,000 is allocated to purchase satellite images for remote sensing to address the need for more up to date maps. Through the use of satellite stereo images, the Department of

Lands & Survey will be able to acquire heights and elevation (contours) to be able to better map out land features.

- \$200,000 is allocated to purchase large format scanners to protect historical lands information records from deteriorating over time. Some of the older lands records include survey plans from the late 1800's and early 1900's.
- \$340,000 is allocated to purchase survey software (AutoCAD & 12D Model) that will be distributed across all divisions. Staff will be trained to use the software with the intent of reviving the engineering design aspect of surveying which is presently being outsourced to the private sector at high cost.
- \$240,000 is allocated for the procurement of specialised vehicles to support the monitoring of Gravel and Sand extraction around the country. Unsustainable extraction is a threat to ecosystem biodiversity causing disturbance and discharge of contaminants to land, vegetation, river beds and coastal marine areas.

Ongoing Initiatives

- Providing access to reliable waters sources and strengthening the capabilities of the Department of Mineral Resources through:
 - Groundwater Assessment and Development on Small Islands: covers the construction of water reticulation systems, maintenance of boreholes and provision of technical training on managing borehole systems in the maritime regions (\$554,000).
 - Groundwater Assessment and Development on Large Islands: cover the construction of water reticulation systems, maintenance of boreholes and provision of technical training on managing borehole systems on Viti Levu and Vanua Levu (\$1,001,000).
 - Mineral Investigation: assesses the potential of mineral sites and encourages foreign companies to undertake exploration work. Information on the potential sites is showcased during public awareness programs, including international and local mining and geological conferences (\$235,000).
 - Purchase of Technical Equipment: procures equipment for use in geological and geotechnical investigations throughout Fiji, seismic monitoring, mines software, and

monitoring of mineral/groundwater investigations. This supports exploration activities and provides accurate information on major climatic/geographic occurrences such as earthquakes and tsunamis (\$300,000).

- Making more land available for development through proper surveying through:
 - National Geodetic Infrastructure: links unconnected areas to the National framework system and upgrades existing areas to ensure that survey control marks are accessible to surveyors to carry-out survey works (\$150,000).
 - Survey of Government Property on iTaukei Land: facilitates the issuance of registered leases. Since 2008, 88 out of 277 stations have been surveyed (27 in the Central/Eastern Division, 46 in the Northern Division and 15 in the Western Division) (\$455,059).
 - Survey of Mahogany Plantations: surveys mahogany plantations to provide valuable information for sustainable use and management. The survey of the Galoa plantation (total area is 7,382.3 ha) was completed in 2015. The survey of Nukurua is 54.8% complete (total Area is 8,440.68 ha with 4,626.79 ha surveyed) while Naboutini is 65.7% complete (total area is 4,729 ha with 3,108 ha surveyed). All 14 mahogany plantations are on iTaukei land with the above mentioned areas prioritised according to the harvesting schedule of Fiji Hardwood Corporation Limited (FHCL) (\$512,486).
- Addressing the underutilisation of land through land development through:
 - Development of State Land: develops underutilised state land, specifically Field 40 in Lautoka and Vakamaisuasua in Labasa (\$4,400,000).
 - Maintenance of Existing Subdivisions: improves subdivisions on state land which lack sufficient infrastructure and utility services after which these are transferred to the relevant authorities to maintain (\$540,000).
 - Land Bank Investment: supports the development of lands that are deposited with the Land Bank (\$2,500,000).

- Supporting the Department of Lands and Survey by improving current capacities through:
 - Upgrade of the Geodetic Datum: upgrades and maintains a high standard of Geodetic Survey Control Network for Fiji as base for a sound and reliable Cadastral Survey System and upgrades the local map datum to an international system and standard (\$1,395,540).
 - Purchase of Survey Equipment: replaces obsolete equipment and others beyond repair to ensure that land survey works are carried out successfully. The current survey equipment has a short life span (3-6 years) (\$180,000).
 - Landuse Master Plan: facilitates the collation of all data on land use and land utilisation in Fiji into a data repository which is then entered into the Landuse database and transformed into map form (\$240,000).