



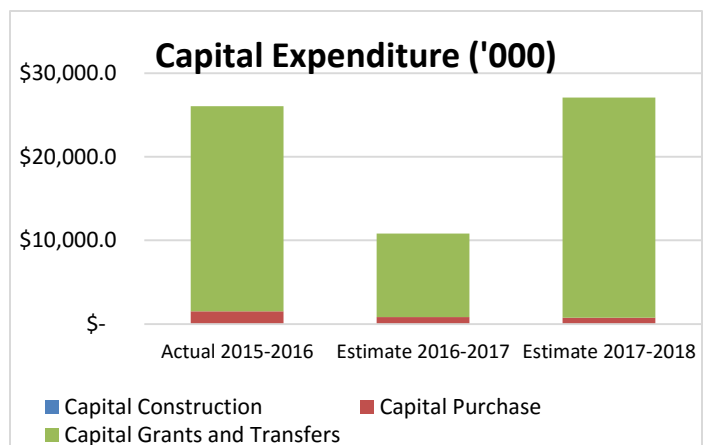
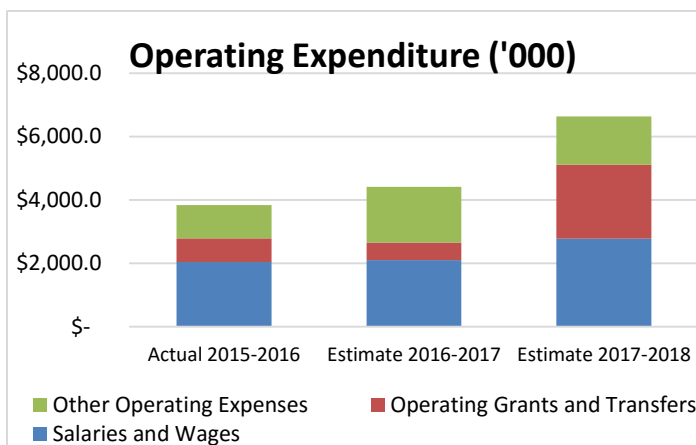
The Fijian Government Ministry of Local Government and Housing 2017-2018 Budget Highlights

The Ministry of Local Government and Housing is responsible for formulating and implementing local government urban and rural planning policies that accommodate Fiji's future economic and demographic growth. The Ministry has authority over three Departments: Local Government, Town & Country Planning and Housing (under Head 23)¹.

The primary responsibility of the Department of Local Government is to improve local governance through a review and effective implementation of the Local Government Act 2005 [Cap. 125]. It is also responsible for the provision of policy advice and support services to the National Fire Authority to enable the Authority to respond quickly and effectively to fire emergencies.

The Department of Town and Country Planning (DTCP) is responsible for the overall administration, planning and regulation of land use in Fiji through the Town Planning Act Cap 139 and Subdivision of Land Act Cap. 140. It is responsible for strategic planning for the development of urban and rural areas and ensuring compliance with development laws.

The total budget for the Ministry in 2017-2018 is **\$33.9 million**, comprising **\$6.6 million** for operating expenditure, **\$27.1 million** for capital expenditure and VAT of **\$0.2 million**.



¹Major Budget Highlights for the Department of Housing is captured under the Department of Housing Flyer.

The increase of **\$18.4 million** in the Ministry's 2017-2018 Budget is mainly attributed to:

- new capital expenditures to fund the construction of proper markets, new state assets and sporting facilities;
- the procurement of additional garbage trucks to improve waste management; and
- a general increase in funds to develop growth centres in town and cities.

New Initiatives

- \$960,000 is allocated for the Roadside Minimarkets (Municipal Councils) to fund the construction of standardised minimarkets in eight identified locations: Cuvu (Sigatoka), the Old FNPF Building (Lautoka), Tavakubu (Lautoka), Savusavu, Nakasi (x2), Nailaga and Princess Road (Tamavua).
- \$1,000,000 is allocated for the construction of an Indoor Sporting Facility in Lautoka for people to use for physical activity and other civic engagement.
- \$1,000,000 is provided for the construction of a new swimming pool in Narere, Nasinu.
- \$2,260,000 is allocated for the redevelopment of Govind Park in Ba to ensure the facility meets OHS Compliance.
- \$350,000 is allocated as waste collection grants to subsidise municipal councils in the collection of rubbish from informal settlements and in areas within town boundaries that are managed by the local authority.
- \$2,600,000 is allocated for the upgrade of the Namaka market.

Ongoing Initiatives

Department of Local Government

- Supporting the vital work of the National Fire Authority to maintain public safety through:
 - Emergency Ambulance Services – National Fire Authority: an operating grant that subsidises the operational expenses of Emergency Ambulance Services during fires and emergencies. This allocation includes a \$1,200,000 increase to cover the

administrative and operational expenses of nine ambulances acquired by NFA for emergency services that are stationed in each fire station (\$1,641,455).

- Purchase of Fire Hydrants for National Fire Authority: 271 fire hydrants are set for installation in strategic locations around the country (\$200,000).
- National Fire Authority Capital Grant: procures fire equipment, ambulances and apparatus kits to effectively equip fire-fighters during emergency operations. Funding will also be directed towards the construction of a pilot staff barracks at the new Taveuni Fire Station (\$1,500,000).
- Improving the capacity of all municipal councils to effectively administer town-planning responsibilities through:
 - CEO Salaries for Municipal Councils: covers the salaries of Special Administrators and CEOs of various municipal councils for effective governance of municipal councils to ensure effective service delivery to ordinary Fijians (\$238,000).
 - Review of Town Planning Act: a review that will be undertaken to support and strengthen the capacities of municipal councils to deliver town planning services to the public (\$60,000).
 - Challenge and Investment Fund – Town/City Councils: to support capital investment for all municipal councils (\$4,689,554).
 - Ongoing Construction – Valelevu Sports Stadium: funding provided for the construction of the new Valelevu Sports Stadium (\$850,000).
 - Ongoing Construction – Lautoka Botanical Garden Swimming Pool: covers the completion of the construction work for this project (\$3,000,000).
 - Completion of Rakiraki Market: covers the completion of the construction work for the new double storey market in Rakiraki (\$840,000).
 - Ongoing Construction for Laqere Market: covers the construction work for the Laqere market in Nasinu (\$2,000,000).

Department of Town and Country Planning

- Developing smaller urban centres in order to relieve the pressure on the basic infrastructure and environment in major urban centres through:
 - New Town Development: town centres will be developed in areas identified as growth centres within rural and remote areas. Civil works for Nabouwalu in Bua and Korovou in Nausori will commence alongside the construction of roads and other infrastructure. Relocation of the new bus stand and market for Korovou is also part of this work programme. The allocation will also fund the preparatory work for Seaqaqa in Macuata and Keiyasi in Nadroga/Navosa, which includes zone creation for future development (\$5,615,660).
- Ensuring disaster risk reduction and disaster management response plans are developed for all urban centres through:
 - Purchase of GIS Equipment: covers funds to acquire GIS equipment that will assist the department in collating baseline data for spatial planning in hazard mapping and the development of scheme plans for towns (\$574,100).