



The Fijian Government Ministry of Waterways 2017-2018 Budget Highlights

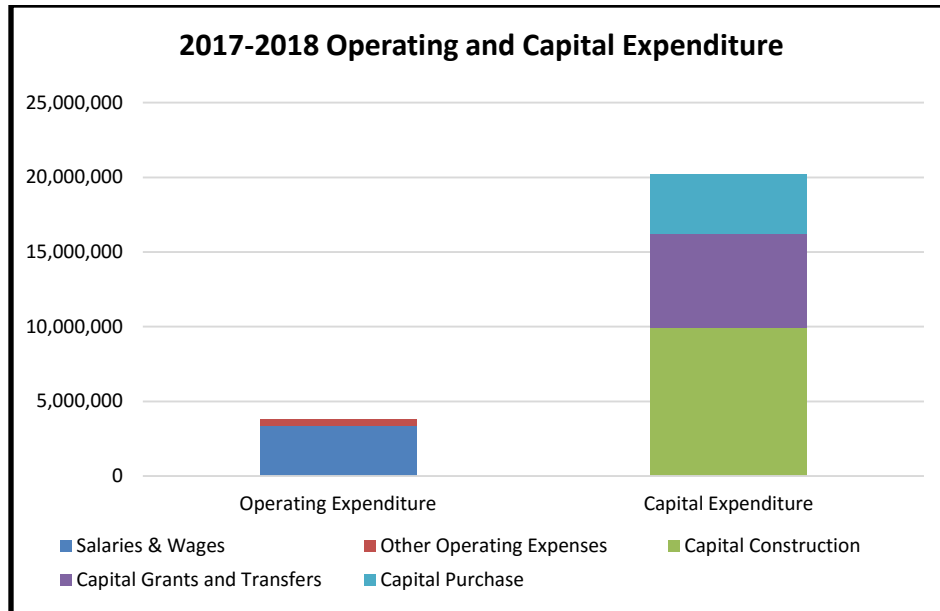
The new Ministry of Waterways has been established by the Fijian Government to address the growing threat that flooding poses to Fijian communities, a threat that is projected to worsen due to the effects of climate change. The Ministry is responsible for the maintenance of drainage systems and management of waterways in Fiji, including creeks, tributaries and rivers.

The Ministry's mandate covers urban and rural communities. In its work to improve storm-water management, mitigate flooding and improve irrigation, the Ministry will incorporate aspects of hydrological forecasting, drainage surveillance and realignment, waterway dredging and river-embankment management.

The high social and economic costs of flooding can be exacerbated by poor waterway and drainage systems. The Ministry will work to address the fundamental issues that are putting Fijian communities at risk by developing more effective flood management systems, introducing smart agricultural irrigation solutions, dredging waterways and developing modern drainage guidelines and regulations.

All existing drainage and dredging work in Government has been taken in under this Ministry, including the Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) Division, which has been transferred from the Ministry of Agriculture.

The total budget for the Ministry of Waterways in 2017-2018 is **\$24.2 million**, comprising **\$3.8 million** for operating expenditure, **\$19.2 million** for capital expenditure and VAT of **\$1.2 million**.



New Initiatives

- \$10.0 million is allocated for the detailed design for the Nadi Flood Alleviation Project. The allocation will fund capacity development initiatives, geotechnical investigations, topographic models, surveys and a project-management consultancy. The budget is allocated under Head 50.
- \$2.0 million is allocated for the maintenance and construction of infield drainage and the installation of culverts in waterlogged sugarcane farms around the country.
- \$3.0 million is allocated for the purchase of dredgers to dredge rivers and tributaries as part of flood mitigation strategies to protect communities living around waterways.

Ongoing Initiatives¹

- Maintaining irrigation schemes around the country through:

¹Ongoing initiatives for this new Ministry are the programmes/projects transferred from the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Local Government and Housing.

- Maintenance of Completed Irrigation Schemes: involves upkeep of irrigation systems through the installation of new flood and flap gates, desilting of drains and canals and rehabilitation of irrigation structures (\$1.5 million).
- Clearing and improving drainage systems and watersheds for flood control measures through:
 - Drainage and Flood Protection: involves works to reduce flood risk in low lying and agricultural farming areas by dredging rivers, carrying out engineering investigations and designs, constructing river bank boulders to prevent coastal erosion and conducting necessary environment impact assessments (\$7.0 million).
 - Drainage Subsidy: involves the rehabilitation of existing sugarcane farm drainage systems within the cane-growing and major agricultural farming regions around the country to minimise flood risk and crop damage (\$3.0 million).
 - Maintenance of Drainage - Municipal Councils: upgrades drains and creeks for the upkeep of drainage under all municipal councils to mitigate flood risk in urban and peri-urban areas (\$1.3 million).
 - Watershed Management: involves initiatives to optimise water resources for agricultural production in tandem with managing domestic usage in drought-prone regions during dry seasons and increasing water yield and water quality (\$1.4 million).