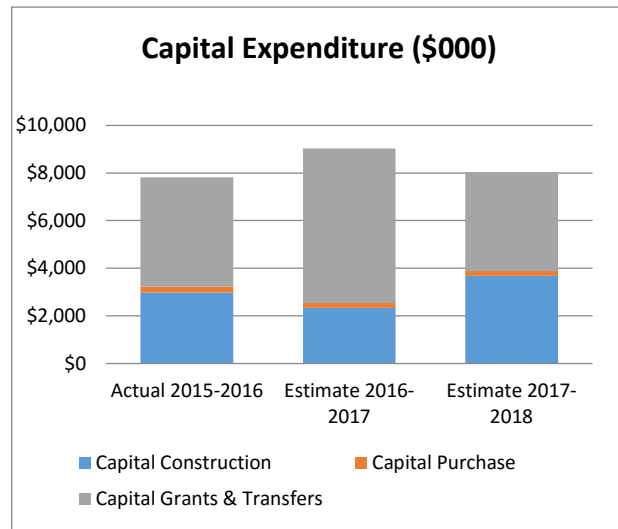
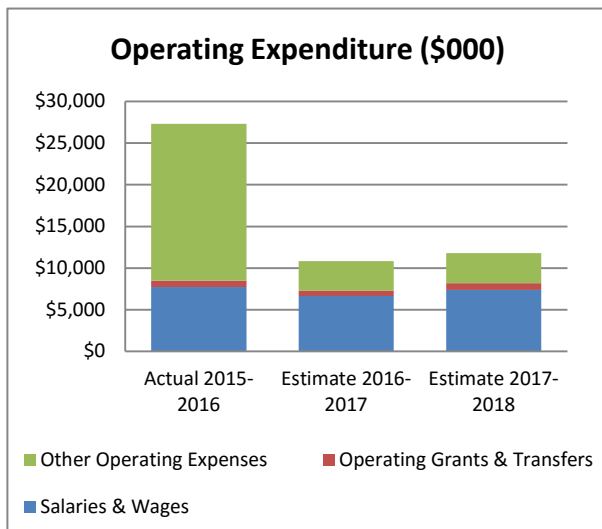




The Fijian Government
Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development
2017-2018 Budget Highlights

The Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development is responsible for implementing development strategies that bring Fijians living in rural and maritime regions the same level of access to essential services and economic opportunity as anywhere else in the country.

The total allocation for the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development in 2017-2018 is **\$20.5 million**, comprising **\$11.8 million** for operating expenditure, **\$8.0 million** for capital expenditure and VAT of **\$0.7 million**.



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

- an increase due to adjustments in the salaries and wages; and
- an increase in other operating expenses to host regional meetings and for District Councilor Allowances and Government Road Shows in remote rural locations.

The net decrease in capital expenditure of \$800,000 is attributed to:

- a decrease in capital grants due to the transfer of the Committee on the Better Utilisation of Land Subsidy to the Ministry of Agriculture and of the divisional

development projects for the construction of health facilities in rural and maritime areas to the Ministry of Health and Medical Services; and

- an increase in the capital construction expenditure to build community access roads, footpaths, footbridges and additional government stations.

New Initiatives

- \$120,000 is allocated to host the 33rd Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) Technical Committee Meeting. CIRDAP promotes regional cooperation and plays a supplementary and reinforcing role in supporting and furthering the effectiveness of integrated rural development programmes in Asia and the Pacific. The Ministry is the designated CIRDAP Liked Institute for Fiji.
- \$700,000 is allocated to commence construction of the Assistant District Office for the Wainikoro Government Station to improve access to government services in Macuata.

Ongoing Initiatives

- Upholding the right of every Fijian – regardless of location or socioeconomic background – to access transportation networks, essential services and reliable infrastructure through:
 - District Advisory Councilor Allowance: funds the biannual meetings of the 17 district advisory councils and monthly allowances for 287 district advisory councilors to take action on the concerns and needs of the communities they represent (\$740,030).
 - Government Road Shows in Remote Rural Locations: raises awareness of government services and expands the reach of services offered by Government, the private sector and NGOs directly to communities in remote rural locations (\$200,000).
 - Training of Rural Carpenters: funds workshops held by Fiji National University that train 20-25 rural carpenters annually to construct cyclone resilient homes (\$231,000).
 - Water Carting: increases water supply to remote rural and maritime areas by carting water during prolonged drought periods (\$500,000).

- Community Access Roads, Footpaths and Footbridges: improves community access to the main transportation network, markets and essential services. An additional \$500,000 is provided to cater for footpaths and footbridges that also create economic opportunities by improving access to major transport networks and schools. These access roads are not the rural roads used by public transport that are being upgraded by the Fiji Roads Authority; they are smaller access roads connecting rural communities, including farmers, to Fiji's main centres (\$2.0 million).
- Grant to Self-Help: funds community projects that support socio-economic development in rural and maritime areas, namely water and sanitation projects, walkways, agriculture and fisheries projects and the provision of outboard and inboard engines (\$1.5 million).
- Rural Housing Assistance: provides assistance on a cost sharing basis (1/3 cash or in-kind contribution by applicants) for the construction of homes in rural and maritime areas. The funds cover the rebuilding and repair of homes that are destroyed in disasters or fires, and also construct homes for families under the Family Assistance Scheme, as referred by the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation (\$1.0 million).
- Wainua Government Station: completes the tender process to start construction of an Assistant District Office to service 24 villages and 5 Tikinas in rural Naitasiri (\$0.85 million).
- Kubulau Government Station: improves access to essential services through the Assistant District Office at Kubulau in Bua. Funding is allocated to support the relocation of the Post Office by Post Fiji to this Government Station (\$0.23 million).