



Budget 2018–2019 Head No. 8: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Background

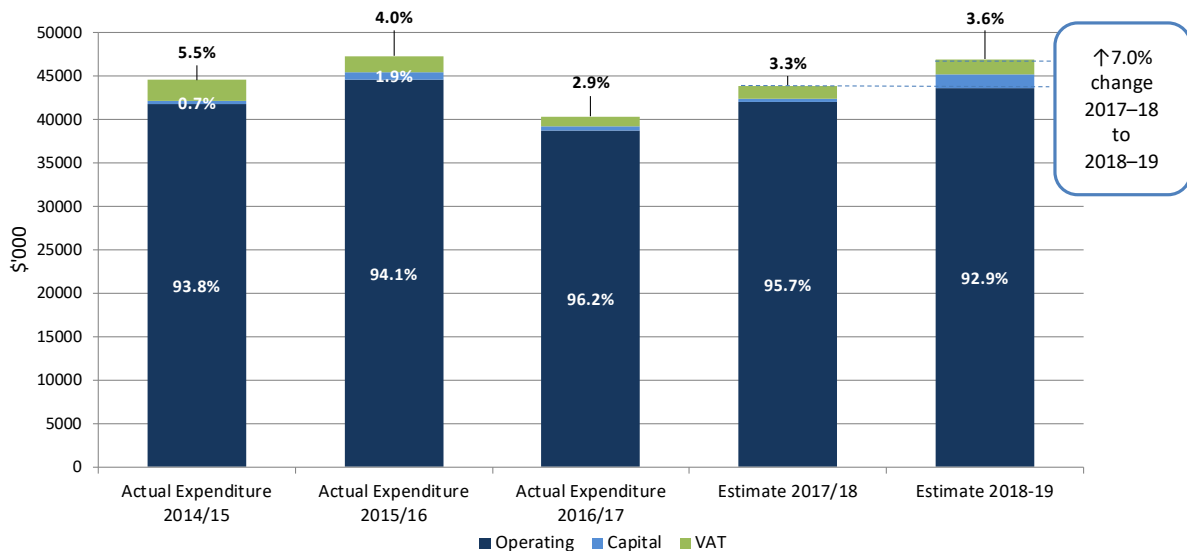
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs ('Ministry') is responsible for carrying out Fiji's foreign policy agenda by maintaining and deepening Fiji's diplomatic relations, building bridges of cooperation with development partners and increasing trade with other nations through its 17 overseas missions and one roving ambassador. The Ministry also provides consular services to Fijians living overseas, organises high-level meetings and visits to Fiji, as well as being charged with the logistical coordination of international events and conferences within Fiji.

Trends

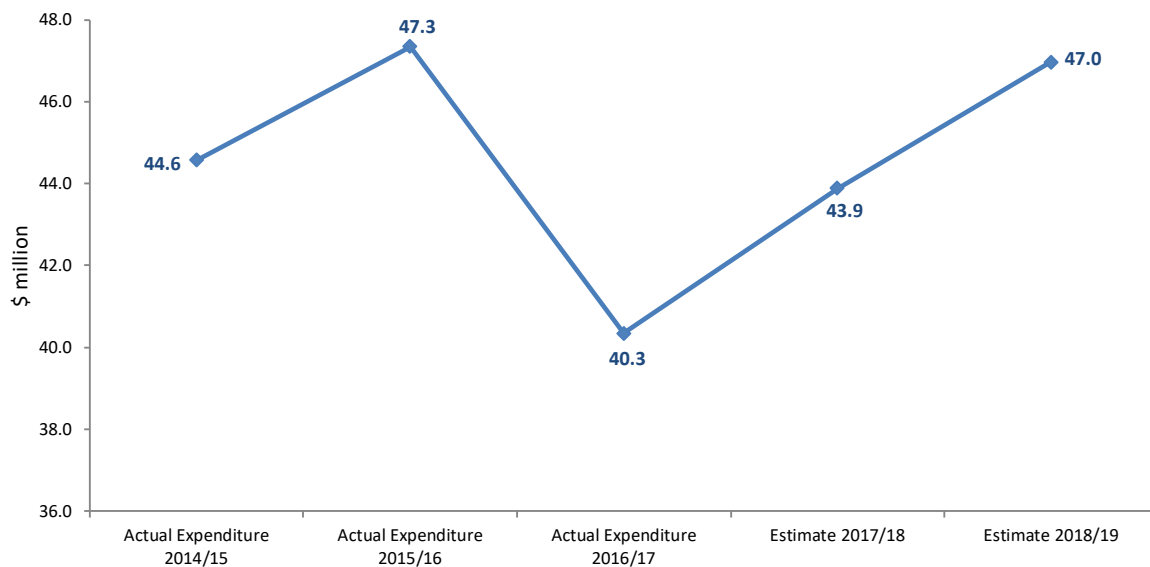
The Ministry's total budget allocation for 2018-2019 is **\$47.0 million**, comprising **\$43.6 million** for operating expenditure and **\$1.6 million** for capital expenditure. This is an increase of 7.0 per cent (**\$3.1 million**) compared to 2017-2018.

The following graphs show funding trends over the past five years.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs expenditure by type, 2014-2015 to 2018-2019



Ministry of Foreign Affairs total expenditure, 2014-2015 to 2018-2019



Budget announcements and allocations

New initiatives in this budget for the Ministry include:

- **\$1.0 million** for an upgrade of the Wellington Mission;
- **\$300,000** to contest a seat in the UN Human Rights Council Elections in October 2018; and
- **\$160,000** for the digitisation of the Ministry's document management system.

Major ongoing initiatives include:

- **\$3.9 million** to maintain Fiji's membership in regional and international forums; and
- **\$1.3 million** to fund the secretariat of the Pacific Islands Development Forum.

In addition, an extra **\$600,000** has been allocated to increase executive salaries.

Sources

- Fijian Government (2018) *Budget estimates 2018–2019*, Ministry of Economy, 28 June 2018. [Hard copy.]
- Fijian Government (2018) *General administration sector: 2018–2019 Budget kit*. [Hard copy.]
- Sayed-Khaiyum Hon. A (Minister for Economy) *Budget address 2018–2019*, 28 June 2018. [Hard copy.]

July 2018

DISCLAIMER - This information is provided to Members of Parliament in support of their parliamentary duties. It is a general briefing only and should not be relied on as a substitute for specific advice. The Research and Library Team shall not be liable for any errors or omissions, or for any loss or damage of any kind arising from its use, and may remove, vary or amend any information at any time without prior notice. The Research and Library Team accepts no responsibility for any references or links to, or the content of, information maintained by third parties.