



# FIJI ROADS

Fiji Roads Authority

BETTER ROADS, BETTER ACCESS, BETTER BUSINESS

ISSUE 10

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FIJI ROADS AUTHORITY

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER, 2014

## FRA Chairman maintains momentum

KEEPING up the momentum created by the previous Fiji Roads Authority Chairman is important to the new incumbent, the Permanent Secretary for the Public Service Commission, Mr Parmesh Chand.

"This is the challenge, to follow the work of the previous Chairman who is now our Minister, Honourable Pio Tikoduadua, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport and to build on the momentum he has established," said Mr Chand.

### Meeting the challenge

Mr Chand is meeting the challenge by gaining a first-hand understanding of the progress on capital projects and of additional, complementary work that could be included this year or be planned for in 2015, as evidenced by his recent two-day fact-finding tour of Vanua Levu.

### Progress

"The purpose of our trip was, firstly, to see the progress on the existing capital works programmes, including the main Nabouwalu - Dreketi roads and secondly, to identify complementary road projects, or upgrading projects as well as rehabilitation works, to compliment this major project.



Roko Tui Macuata, Ratu Aisea Katonivere, applauds as FRA Interim Chairman, Mr Parmesh Chand, officially opens the Labasa bus stand during his most recent trip to Vanua Levu.

### Infrastructure

"For example, the Nabouwalu Road stops at the township. There is a need to provide sufficient infrastructure in terms of roads, footpaths and drainage to improve the township to help the community there.

"There is also the Government Centre up the hill at Nabouwalu that has a dirt road. There is a scope for improving that road, with a possibility of sealing it so that it is easier for the public to access the services at the Centre and putting in railings at Nabouwalu jetty itself to improve on safety."

### Nabouwalu-Dreketi

Mr Chand inspected the Nabouwalu Road, to Solevu and the Wailevu West

Coast Road as far as Wainunu to see what improvements could take place as sealing the Nabouwalu - Dreketi Road "is giving a whole lot of spin offs that we need to develop and capitalise on the related infrastructure."

Mr Chand said that he had the opportunity to observe the Siberia Road, roads in the Savusavu, Labasa and Vunivalu areas, as well as travelling across from Wainunu to Nasorowaqa and inspecting, with representatives from MWH, a number of bridges and culverts that would need upgrading.

"They were two days well spent. There are a number of works that have been pursued within the context of existing maintenance and capital works contracts and new work will be taken up as a part of the next year's programme.

### Good governance

"With the corporatisation of FRA, there is a good structure with good governance in place. There is a good management team and a Board that complement each other to ensure that the large amounts of investments that are involved are administered correctly, with accountability, to achieve the desired outcomes," said Mr Chand.

## Improved Labasa bus stand ready for Christmas



Labasa bus stand ready for opening.

With the official opening of the new Labasa bus stand the people who transit through are benefitting from its new,

improved, safety features just in time for the Christmas holiday season.

There is safer access for pedestrians with a zebra crossing and raised platforms for safe entry and exit from buses.

The constructed road surface is suitable for use all year round and the new layout can accommodate up to 25 buses, providing them with channeling that allows an orderly line up.

This "worthwhile" investment came at a cost of \$1 million dollars, including the cost of the temporary bus stand.

In his opening address, Mr Parmesh Chand, the Interim Chairman of Fiji Roads Authority (FRA), reminded everyone present of the commitment that Government, through the Local Councils and statutory bodies like FRA, is undertaking to improve services for all Fijians.

## Minister endorses Fiji Roads Authority

“THE buzz word here is continuity and I would like to see the continuation of the work that FRA is presently doing.”

Honourable Pio Tikoduadua, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport.



CALL US FIRST FOR INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR ROAD ON SHORTCODE 5720

# CEO's Message

AS the Christmas and New Year holiday season draws near, it is time to once again pause and take stock of all that has been set in action and all that has been achieved over the past year.

2014 began with extreme weather events, as Cyclone Kofi followed hard on the heels of Cyclone Ian, impacting the delivery of the normal works programmes. Despite this early challenge, it has been a year of an extraordinary output of work.

Fiji Roads Authority has continued to deliver on its original promise to provide all Fijians with a better land transport network that is comprised of affordable, integrated, safe, responsive and sustainable network of roads,

bridges and jetties.

This is only made possible if the appropriate funding is available, and I want to thank Government for its endorsement of the Authority's efforts as evidenced in the 2015 Budget Allocation.

It is also made possible by the support of our consulting engineers, MWH Global and the efforts of the contractors, whose work crews are out in all weathers, 24/7, doing the physical work that brings about the welcome improvements to Fiji's roading network.

I am pleased to acknowledge

the growth in skills and knowledge that has resulted in local contractors winning tenders for substantial contracts during the year as this is an area of development I am both interested in and personally committed to.

To the FRA staff, management team, Board and Chairman, past and present, vinaka vakalevu for all your support and hard work. Seasons greetings, for a safe and happy holiday, to you and your families.



FRA CEO Mr Neil Cook.

## Green transport - important for future



Transport stakeholders contributed to the National Transport Forum.

WITH the theme 'Green Transport – Our Future' the 13th National Transport Consultative Forum took place, 13th-14th November, Novotel Lami, transport stakeholders were asked by

the Honourable Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Mr Pio Tikoduadua, to work together to map out a "vibrant transport industry that can launch our economy and sustain our environment for

our future generations."

Fiji Roads Authority (FRA) Subdivisional & Development Planning Officer, Mr Eric Singh, who attended the forum said that the emphasis was on finding a way forward that would balance modern, efficient transport systems with a minimum negative impact upon the environment.

"The purpose of the Forum was to see how road, sea and air transport could all become more environmentally friendly, reducing both our fuel bill and

the lead and sulphur content in our fuel and so reduce pollution," said Mr Singh.

"The older cars on the road are not compatible with the newer, cleaner fuels and hybrid cars need to be able to recharge along main highways. There is no simple, fast fix. But with Infrastructure and Transport under the one Ministry, we should be able to better coordinate planning and enhance communication across the various sectors," said Mr Singh.

## Tender for Denarau bridge awarded

WITH work planned to begin in 2015 on the Denarau Bridge, soon overseas visitors will experience a more attractive arrival at the resort complex as seen in the above artist's impression, (right).

FRA Program Manager Bridges & Jetties, Mr Nixon Toremana, said that the tender to reconstruct the Denarau bridge has been awarded to Pacific Marine & Civil Solutions.

Until the reconstruction takes place, the addition of a frame above the existing bridge makes it safe for traffic to use by redistributing the load of vehicles, but this has always been



An artist's impression of the proposed new Denarau bridge in Nadi.

a temporary measure.

Mr Toremana said that the

approximately \$8.6 million project was being funded by the Fiji Government.

# Strengthened Vanuabalavu jetty open

THE Lomaloma Jetty in Vanuabalavu is now open for public use.

Ian Hunter, Fiji Roads Authority (FRA) Capital Projects Manager, confirmed that local contractor, Pacific Marine and Civil Solutions, has completed the work on the jetty that now has new steel piles, beams and a steel plate decking. The work took about one week for the contractor to complete.

A team from FRA, including Structural Engineers from MWH Global, visited Lomaloma to carry out final inspections and determine whether or not the structure was ready to start accommodating boats.

The team also briefed local law enforcement and two village headmen



*The Vanuabalavu jetty has been strengthened and is open in time for the holidays.*

from Lomaloma and Sawana on the importance of observing proper use of the jetty by both the local community and the boats that berth there.

Speaking to Fiji Roads Authority, Police Officer, Waisea Sivoinama, said the people of Vanuabalavu were happy and praised the crews that worked day

and night to get the jetty ready in time for Christmas.

“We are happy with how quickly the work was completed, I have also been briefed by FRA Staff on the importance of following the safety instructions in place for the use of this jetty. Overall we are just happy that the jetty is now open and we eagerly await the arrival of the MV Liahona,” he said.

“We are always challenged by the impact that some closures and restrictions have on the local community particularly where bridges and jetties are concerned, however we are happy to confirm that at least for the people of Vanuabalavu, the repairs are in time for Christmas” says Mr Hunter.



*FRA Program Manager Bridges & Jetties, Mr Nixon Toremana.*

MR Nixon Toremana, FRA Program Manager Bridges & Jetties, has travelled a considerable distance since the day when, at the age of five, he began paddling a canoe to attend primary school.

“If the sea was rough, we stayed close to shore or walked to school by foot, otherwise, we just paddled to get there on time,” said Mr Toremana whose home island Santa Isabel is one of the main islands in the Solomons.

## Nixon paddles his way to FRA

After paddling his way to primary school for six years, Mr Toremana next attended Selwyn College and then King George Sixth High School in the Solomons before winning a scholarship to attend New Plymouth Boys High School in New Zealand.

Mr Toremana then attended Massey University in Palmerston North for a year completing foundation in engineering and three years at the Wellington Polytechnic College where he achieved New Zealand Certificate in Engineering Civil (NZCE) and a Diploma in Technology Civil. After 10 years in the workforce, he then undertook four years of study at Canterbury University where he graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Civil Engineering (Hons).

He has worked for engineering companies

in Samoa, New Zealand and the Solomon Islands and under the auspices of the then named AusAID, worked as Water and Civil Works Manager for the Nauru Utilities Authority (NUC).

“I had just finished three years on Nauru and was not looking for a new position immediately. But a friend persuaded me to apply for this position at Fiji Roads Authority and next thing, I had an interview,” said Mr Toremana who has now been with FRA for three months.

As Mrs Toremana is living and working in Samoa, she and Mr Toremana are still travelling.

“But there is a regular weekly flight to Samoa so we can always get together,” said Mr Toremana.

## FRA Budget allocation good news for all

IN the first reading of the 2015 National Budget on November 21st a record capital grant of \$635.6 million was allocated to the Fiji Roads Authority (FRA) for the development and upgrading of the roading network throughout Fiji. This budget allocation is good news not only for the Authority, but also for all rural and urban dwellers who look to FRA to improve their roads, bridges and jetties. Amongst the planned work for 2015 is the Vatuwaqa bridge in Suva.



*An artist's impression of the new Vatuwaqa bridge.*

# Communication changes perceptions

ONARINA Umu, Fiji Roads Authority (FRA) Communications Officer, said that she has observed a shift in the public's perception of FRA's role and the work that is being carried out over the past (almost) two years that she has worked with the Authority.

"Today, there is a definite change in what people are saying about FRA as they slowly start to understand the work the Authority is doing. People are beginning to acknowledge that FRA

is working for them, to help improve their lives by improving their roads. But we still encourage people to communicate with us directly and to contact FRA first with any queries or concerns, never assume anything" she said

We have worked hard to become more proactive rather than reactive in our approach and throughout the year we have openly talked about FRA's 2014 work programme, the contracts that were awarded and the progress

being made out in the field.

2015 will be another big year for FRA. With a big budget comes a lot more work and we are ready to continue this great work. A key objective for communications in 2015 is to ensure that all our stakeholders, including our very own staff, consultants and contractors are kept informed of the progress.

While we work day to day to get things done, it becomes important



FRA Corporate Communications Officer, Ms Onarina Umu.

that we acknowledge the achievements of our teams carrying out the work. These are our champions, we want them to know that we are proud of what they are doing for Fiji." she said.

## Creche benefits from FRA staff donation



CWM Nursing Staff receive the donation from FRA.

Ms Margaret Leong, Manager Nursing Services at the CWM

Hospital, said that all the items, including the washing

machine, donated by Fiji Roads Authority, (FRA) staff to the CWM Creche Unit would be put to good use.

FRA staff raised \$1,300 during a fundraising auction, following which they voted to give back to the CWM Creche unit that was introduced in 1996 to cater for newborn

babies who are abandoned at birth and later adopted.

As part of the "Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative" working mothers, including nurses, doctors and administration staff, are also provided a space that allows them to breastfeed their babies for up to six months.

## The FRA Tender Process: Scoring and the Evaluation Process

*IN the three previous issues of FIJI ROADS we have covered the supplier selection methods, lowest price conforming and weighted attributes and have addressed the tenderer's attribute information. This concludes the series of articles.*

### Scoring:

The Request for Tender (RFT) should state how the scores will be used. In general, attributes will be scored out of 100. In most cases, a score of 35/100 for any attribute will mean failure and no further consideration will be given to that tender.

But be aware that in some cases, a higher score may be the 'fail' cut-off point.

### The Evaluation Process:

A Tender Evaluation Team (TET) is appointed by the Fiji Roads Authority (FRA)

and is usually made up of three senior staff from the consultant who consider the submitted attribute statements and who must agree on the scores given.

In some cases it may be necessary to hold a pre-award meeting with the preferred tenderer.

When the evaluation is complete, the Evaluation Team writes a recommendation to FRA.

The Board of FRA is responsible for the awarding of all contracts over \$1 million.

Further information can be obtained from the Operations Manual at the FRA website: [www.fijiroads.org](http://www.fijiroads.org)

## Women create career pathways

HELPING women realise their potential and the contribution they can and do make to society was the message delivered by



Dr Nur Bano Ali.

motivational speaker Dr Nur Bano Ali, President of Women in Business (Fiji) when she recently addressed the staff of Fiji Roads Authority (FRA).

Dr Ali reminded the women in the audience that by seizing offered opportunities they

are creating career pathways that other women can follow in the future.

They are not alone in the challenges they face, and that by sharing

experiences, they can help and support each other and as they pave the way forward, they can help other women progress in their careers.

FRA is an equal opportunity employer, with a 30% female workforce.

## Chairman wins award



FRA Interim Chairman, Mr Parmesh Chand, (6th from left), was one of four graduates awarded the Order of Merit

by the Australia Institute of Company Directors. Twenty-three executives graduated from the course.

Follow us on  and 