

Vunivaivai Bridge construction has begun

CONSTRUCTION has begun on a new bridge to replace the aged Vunivaivai Bridge in Nakelo, Tailevu.

The new \$2.5million bridge is part of a \$16.5m contract awarded to Fletcher Construction to construct four long bridges this year. This is in line with Fiji Roads Authority's (FRA) focus on bridges in the 2015 budget, where bridges are a priority area. Bridge renewals and



Vunivaivai bridge has been closed in the interests of public safety.

related works are allocated \$47.5m (VEP) in FRA's 2015 budget.

Apart from the Vunivaivai Bridge, Fletcher Construction will design and build Vunidilo Bridge, Lomawai 1 and Cogeloa FSC1.

The decision to close the bridge was not taken lightly but it had to be done in the interest of the safety of the traveling public.

The bridge and intersections leading to Vunivaivai have been signposted to advise motorists of the dangers ahead.

The new bridge is expected to open in December.

Jetty upgrade programme under way



The new, safe Natovi jetty will benefit hundreds of passengers using it daily.

FOUR jetties around the country are on the radar for structural upgrades costing millions of dollars.

Nabouwalu, Savusavu and Vunisea jetties are earmarked

for major structural overhauls this year. The Natovi jetty on the other hand was demolished and rebuilt in 2014. The jetty is now in full operation to the satisfaction of commercial boat

operators that use it.

The Natovi jetty contract, worth \$2.2million, was initially intended to be an upgrade and renewal project, but when work started, it was discovered that the piles supporting the structure were not sound.

The contractor, Pacific Marine and Civil Solutions, put forward an alternative design to provide a new jetty, mooring dolphin and widened ramp, as well as allow room for future planning.

The new Natovi jetty is now safer and will benefit hundreds of travellers that use it daily.

Savusavu jetty is a \$2.8million project but will not see much activity this year except for the design of a replacement structure. Design will be outsourced and the full construction budget will be reflected in next year's Budget.

Nabouwalu jetty, a \$2.9 million project, will be a hive of activity, as it will be implemented this year.

FRA's 2015 Corporate Plan budgets \$12.08m (VEP) for the jetty renewal programme this year. Included in that are the actual capital works, design and scoping reports for 2015.

355 kilometres of road renewals programmed

WITH an allocated budget of \$100million, 870 sites will be attended to under Fiji Roads Authority's (FRA) Road Renewals Programme this year.

"This will see a total of 355km of sealed and unsealed roads renewed using the methods of resealing, rehabilitation, re-gravelling and in some areas, replacement footpaths," said Mr Cook, FRA CEO.

He said the overall road network in Fiji is improving.

"Of course there are parts of the network we have not been able



The improvements as seen here in Nabua are an example of the road renewals programme benefiting the urban sector.



to fix yet. This is a 10-year plan and we are working as fast as we can within the allocated budget for each year."

CEO's Message

THE flood of public opinions, requests, complaints and compliments that come to FRA are always taken in good faith. As an organisation that works very closely with the community in building and maintaining land infrastructure that affects everyone's daily lives, FRA is always mindful of the feedback from the people. It is now easier to communicate with us by using our shortcode 5720.

Day in, day out, we receive requests for road works, new and old, streetlights, bridges, crossings and traffic signal repairs.

FRA put forward a \$650million request to Government for the 2015 work programme. People remind us every day

that this is a lot of money that demands a lot of work. We have to work to a plan and make decisions looking at what should be done first. This is our job. We try to make decisions that fairly benefit the whole of Fiji and all its citizens.

Where there are immediate safety concerns or where access is compromised, particularly for bus services, work is carried out on an immediate reactive basis. For cost effectiveness and efficiency, work that is not urgent is programmed for completion in a suitable timeframe.

In some cases, it may seem a long time, but the reality is that programming non-urgent work in this way saves money in the long run.

It means some jetties will be prioritised over others. It means increasing access to many villages that didn't have access before while others will be developed in future years.

So with FRA looking after 11,000km of road and all other assets on it, we have to make decisions on what we can do now and what can be done in the future.

Ultimately, we have the same goals. Government wants improved access for its people and FRA is the agency to deliver this.



FRA CEO Mr Neil Cook.

Sakoca upgrade first 2015 recovery project

UPGRADE work at Sakoca settlement on Khalsa Road in Tacirua is progressing well.

This is the first project to get underway under the Fiji Roads Authority's Road Recovery Plan for 2015, carried out by Fulton Hogan Hiways Joint Venture (FHHJV).

FHHJV is working in cooperation with the Water Authority of Fiji and Fiji Electricity Authority to undertake services relocation in conjunction with the works within the shared road space. There has been drainage work and strengthening of the road pavement over the past few weeks.

The project is expected to cost \$1.3million and will result in better road access to residents living in the area.

FRA's Recovery Plan for 2015



Upgrade works on Khalsa Road are the first for 2015 under this year's Road Recovery Plan.

has a budget of \$156million.

"The Plan is set out in our Asset Management Plan, one of our set of manuals that guide everything we do," CEO Mr Neil Cook said.

"This Plan is reviewed and updated every year to meet changing priorities and new challenges. We are now in the second year of the 10-

year recovery plan. It has been designed to reverse the deterioration of our assets and put them on a sustainable footing," Mr Cook added.

FRA's mission to address the backlog of work needed is now focused on two key areas:

1. Establishing a preventative maintenance programme, which systematically directs work to

where it is required; and

2. Renewing infrastructure that has become obsolete or is degraded to a point where the costs of keeping it going would be more than the cost of renewing it.

"An example of renewing infrastructure is the improvement to the sealed road network through a method called rehabilitation. Sealed roads undergoing rehabilitation are ripped up and rebuilt giving them a prolonged design life period. If you happen to live in Sakoca Subdivision in Tacirua outside Suva, you would probably notice the construction activity taking place on this road. The road portion to be rehabilitated stretches about 1.1km and serves a community of thousands," said Mr Cook.

Buca Bay Road work progresses



The work on the Buca Bay road will be completed this year.

WORK progressing on the final twenty kilometres of road works between Naqere and Kasavu will see Package Two of the Buca Bay Road project completed.

The project contract, awarded to China Railway First Group (Fiji) Company Ltd, is split into two packages covering a total of 30 kilometres of road.

Package One includes 10km that runs from Nagigi to Naqere

as well as two 26m bridges. Package Two is a seal extension for another 20km from Naqere to Kasavu and three 12m bridges.

China Railway contractors say it was difficult to get surface base materials from Vanua Levu so they had to resort to getting them from Suva and Lautoka.

The total cost of the project is \$99million.

ADB requirements clarified at workshop

SIX Fiji Roads Authority (FRA) Capital Works department staff attended the Environmental Safeguard, Land Acquisition and Gender Equality workshop to learn about contract procedural requirements for Asian Development Bank funded capital works projects.

The workshop was held at Holiday Inn Hotel in Suva from March 9-12.

FRA's Contracts Management Engineer & Tender Board Secretary, Mr. Ripon Baral, said ADB contract guidelines and requirements are very strict and are continuously improved to ensure greater transparency.

"The main focus of the workshop was on environmental safeguards, land acquisition

and gender equality mainstreaming by sector - that is, transport, energy and water. With every project proposal, it is necessary to have an Environmental Impact Assessment. Without EIA and an Environment Management Plan (EMP), project implementation cannot proceed.

"So, the workshop provided details of what ADB requirements are on the environmental aspects of contracts," Mr. Baral said.

"These are very detailed, very clear guidelines explaining the types of supporting documents needed and other necessary requirements the contractors



Six FRA staff were amongst those at the well-attended ADB workshop on procedural requirements. Six FRA staff were amongst those at the well-attended ADB workshop on procedural requirements. must prepare when they apply for tender for a project funded by ADB," he added.

"Previously, land compensations were made on very broad terms. Now, things are very detailed, for example the types of crops on the land and their value, buildings etc. are taken into account when compensation is determined. Everything is calculated separately and if the

payment will be delayed, we have to make extra payment for that, so we have to know how that is calculated," said Mr Baral.

The workshop also covered other aspects of contracts such as planning, different models of tender and types of draft tender documents required and an overview of models used in other countries.

Apikali-woman engineer at Fiji Roads Authority



Apikali Raicebe, FRA Assistant Maintenance Works Engineer.

AS Fiji Roads Authority's (FRA) Assistant Maintenance Works Engineer, Apikali Raicebe counts herself as one of Fiji's privileged few.

Not only is she a woman

working in a field dominated by men, she gets an opportunity to experience civil engineering in a very different form.

"I have 12 years' experience in assisting in design and supervision at construction level," said Ms Raicebe. "With FRA, I get a chance to work in a totally different area from what I used to do. It's an opportunity that I grabbed with both hands and which I am enthusiastic about."

Apikali obtained her Diploma and Advanced Diploma in Civil Engineering from Fiji Institute of Technology (now FNU) in

2004 and worked with NLTB, Bluecope Lysaght (Fiji) Ltd, followed by seven years with Suva City Council before joining FRA last year.

"My role is to ensure that the operation and maintenance of the roading network and maintenance of other selected improvement projects contributes to the FRA objective of providing cost-effective transport services that are safe and environmentally sustainable and enhance access to the services and markets," said the Noco lass.

"It is a very challenging

role but I always welcome challenges as a gift to grow and get to the next level," she added.

Although only a few months into the job, she is already aware of how very specialised road engineering is. "I am enjoying it," said Apikali, who hails from Naqarani in Noco.

A former student of Xavier College in Ba, where she grew up, Apikali has always been drawn to the construction field, a career fully supported by her father.

Few women may venture into a male-dominated career but for Apikali, it is a normal part of her daily work life.

Collisions cause costly damage to infrastructure

FIJI Roads Authority (FRA) cautions motorists of the need to be careful when driving. Not only has Fiji lost valuable lives through tragic road accidents, millions of dollars in road investments have also been wasted.

Case in point are the two accidents in a row at the main Samabula/Waimanu Road intersection where two horrific accidents in a span of two months resulted in costly damage to the main traffic controlling devices at the site.



Careless driving damaged the traffic light control box at Makoi causing weeks-long inconvenience.

Last December, six vehicles, including two trucks and a bus, crashed into each other taking out one of the traffic lights. Two months later, five vehicles met

with the same fate, flattening the traffic light post as they drove into each other.

Days later, a similar accident in Makoi damaged the traffic

light control box and caused inconvenience to traffic for weeks.

FRA is doing its best to bring Fiji's road network up to standard and that includes upgrading traffic lights systems. A new traffic light signal costs well over \$100,000 and replacing a damaged controller unit, such as the one in Makoi, costs FRA approximately \$50,000. The appeal to drivers is to take pride in our infrastructure and be mindful of the investments that have been made to improve the state of Fiji roads.

Working together in shared road space

FIJI Roads Authority (FRA) supported the efforts of Water Authority of Fiji in fixing the major damage to the main sewerage trunk line between Suva and Kinoya following heavy rains in December.

The coordinated and cooperative emergency response was an excellent example of organisations under the Ministry of Infrastructure & Transport working together to solve a problem in their shared road space.

The work was subcontracted to Fulton Hogan Hiways Joint Venture (FHHJV) who then liaised closely with the Water Authority of Fiji for the very urgent repairs. The trunk line had collapsed into the Cunningham creek and it took seven weeks to fix.

A number of subcontractors were employed to do everything from organise the fittings, erect scaffolding, control traffic, do concrete work and drilling, decontaminate the area and build a pumping facility.



An example of shared road space is seen here. The replacement pipeline lies on top of the bridge.

Bailey bridge components on hand



Bailey bridges will be used as temporary and emergency response structures.

THE procurement of Bailey bridges in late 2014 by Fiji Roads Authority (FRA) is aimed at a programme that provides immediate relief to Fiji's ageing bridge infrastructure and the real need to plan for some form of redundancy in the wake of extreme situations like cyclones and floods on the network. FRA procured \$1.9million worth of Bailey bridges from Mabey, a manufacturer in the United Kingdom, with the stock arriving in February this year. The bridge stock, which

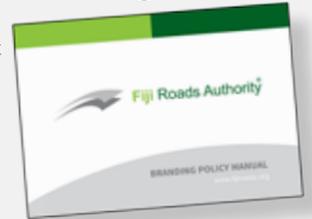
now includes two 30 metre doubled truss bridges and three 18 metre single truss bridges, will be used as temporary structures when needed and also as an emergency response

for bridges damaged or destroyed during cyclones or floods.

The added benefit saw an Engineer from Mabey travel to Fiji to train the staff of Fulton Hogan Hiways Joint Venture on how to assemble and launch the Bailey bridge. The bridge stock is stored in portable kits at the FHHJV Rewa Depot. The portable bridge kit makes it easier to transport to site where it can be assembled and launched from one end of the river bank to the other.

FRA branding book

BRANDING is an important part of any organisation and for FRA, this is an area in which it has put increasing focus.



A branding policy manual is being produced that details the usage of the Fiji Roads Authority brand.

"FRA is investing in its brand, its people and its culture. We recognise that it is important to protect our image," said Corporate Communications Officer, Ms Onarina Umu.

The branding policy manual is a guideline detailing FRA's logo specifications and how and where it may be used.

International Women's Day celebrated by giving



Staff of Homes of Hope receive the \$1,147 donation from FRA staff as part of International Women's Day celebrations.

FIJI Roads Authority (FRA) celebrated this year's International Women's Day with a very successful cupcake drive

that resulted in the donation of \$1,417 to the Homes of Hope.

This initiative is in line with FRA's commitment with raising

the profile of women as outlined in the 2015 plans. "The cupcake drive was a huge success.

We got

the cupcakes baked for us and set a sales target of 84 dozen," said Onarina Umu, FRA Communications Officer.

"We ended up selling 109 dozen which was better than we expected. We had a competition to see which department could sell the most. Team Finance came in first place, selling 44 dozen. FRA's plans for 2015 to raise visibility and empower women within the organisation comes with full support from our CEO and all our male colleagues," said Ms Umu.

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