

MEDIA RELEASE

RECONSTRUCTION OF NEW MARKET BRIDGE IN LEVUKA TO COMMENCE NEXT WEEK

7 April 2017

The reconstruction work on the new Market Bridge in Levuka will commence from next week Monday (April 10).

This was confirmed by the Fiji Roads Authority (FRA) Chief Executive Officer John Hutchinson.

In the interim, motorists are advised to use the detour posted along Bobbis Lane, Bowling Green Road and Chapel Street.

"The Fijian government is committed to protect and maintain Levuka- the World Heritage Site, hence the construction of new road infrastructure is vital and has been among the top priorities for the FRA."

He said the original bridge was not safe for vehicle and pedestrian use due to the deteriorating condition of the bridge superstructure and required an immediate replacement.

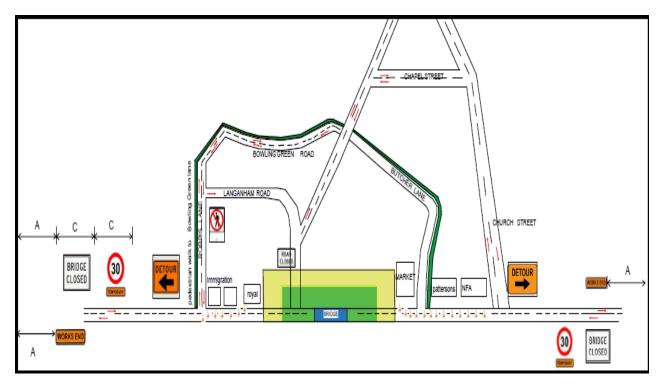
"The bridge is considered to be a heritage site and it will have the same features as the old bridge; a dual lane bridge with a single pedestrian walkway which will benefit close to 9000 people as the bridge is in the centre of the town."

Mr Hutchinson said the cost of the bridge is approx. \$3m and is part of the Design and Construction of Six Short Bridges programme.

"The FRA will work to keep disruptions to a minimum and we ask the public for their patience during the reconstruction period."

The new bridge is expected to be completed by December, weather permitting.

NB: Map and Picture Attached Below



Motorists are advised to use the detour posted along Bobbis Lane, Bowling Green Road and Chapel Street.





Picture Caption: The old Market Bridge in Ovalau, Levuka needing immediate replacement

-END-

For more information please contact the Communications Team at <u>communications@fijiroads.org</u> or Onarina Umu on +679 9991969 and Zafiya Shamim on +679 9275960.