



MEDIA RELEASE

FRA'S IMMEDIATE RESPONSE PLAN

18 February 2023

Fiji Roads Authority (FRA) Acting Chief Executive Officer Sonal Goundar says the FRA personnel and contractor around the country including the maritime islands are currently undertaking a reconnaissance of the damage sustained by the FRA infrastructure from the torrential rain and resulting floods in the last three days.

“In addition to this, the FRA team is also monitoring flood water levels for planning and deployment of contractors for remediation works.”

Where practical, Mr Goundar said their teams are working around the clock to ensure that the roads are accessible for emergency and recovery services. However, fit-for-purpose remedial works will commence as soon as the weather favorable for construction is observed.

“The initial damage assessments suggest that the damage to low-level crossings was caused by flood debris building up against structures and diverting the flood waters to the road approaches which caused the structural damage and washout of approaches.”

He said moreover, there is widespread loss of gravel from the unsealed roads which has made the roads unsafe to use in rainy/wet weather.

“This will impact most of the bus routes and consequently, bus services will be affected in most places, especially around the interior routes of the Western and Northern Division.”

Mr Goundar said the FRA is unable to deploy heavy equipment such as rollers and graders to some of the affected areas as these will exacerbate damage to the roads.

“We will require dry conditions to effectively repair most of the unsealed roads and we will be deploying the road crews to the badly affected areas as soon as practical. Nonetheless, our strategically placed satellite teams will be attending to immediate response to situations as reasonably practicable.”

In the time being, Mr Goundar has urged heavy vehicle owners to avoid haulage using unsealed roads as these will damage the saturated pavement and worsen the road conditions.

- *Members of the public can contact the FRA on the toll-free number 5720 or email info@fijiroads.org*
- *FRA GIS dashboard link below shows the status of the road network. This is a live link, please check to see if the status has changed. Link: rb.gy/0vzdst*
- *Keep up-to-date with the latest situation by following #FRAupdate on Facebook: Fiji Roads Authority and Twitter: @FijiRoads*