

Budget 2018–2019 Head No. 5: Ministry of iTaukei Affairs

Background

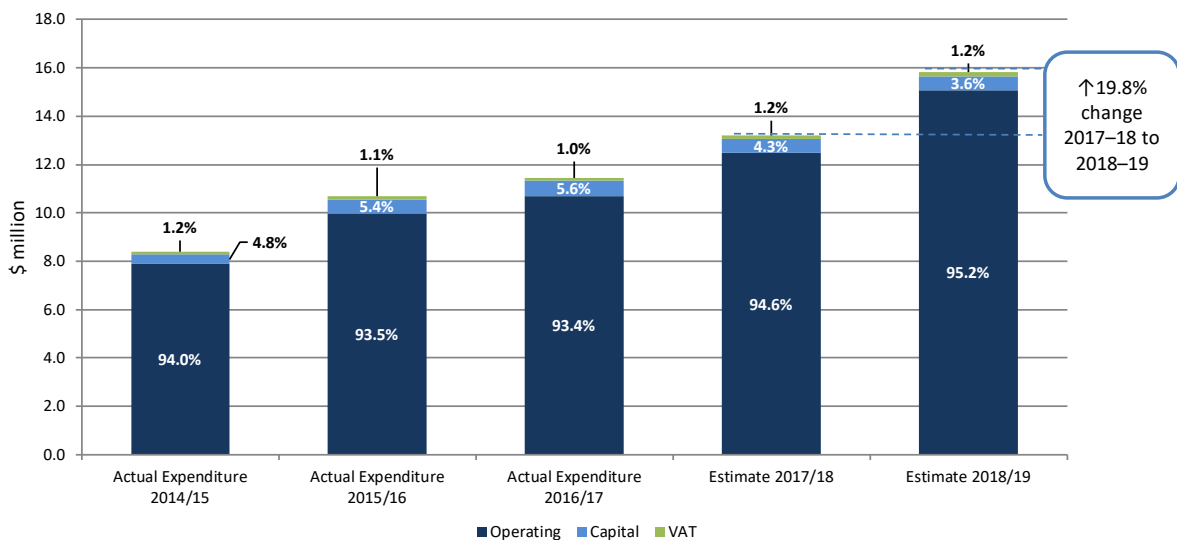
The Ministry of iTaukei Affairs ('Ministry') is responsible for upholding the inalienable rights of iTaukei as enshrined in the Fijian Constitution, including over their land and fishing grounds. The Minister of iTaukei Affairs serves as the chairperson of the iTaukei Land Trust Board, which is the trustee responsible for administration of customary land on behalf of iTaukei landowners.

Trends

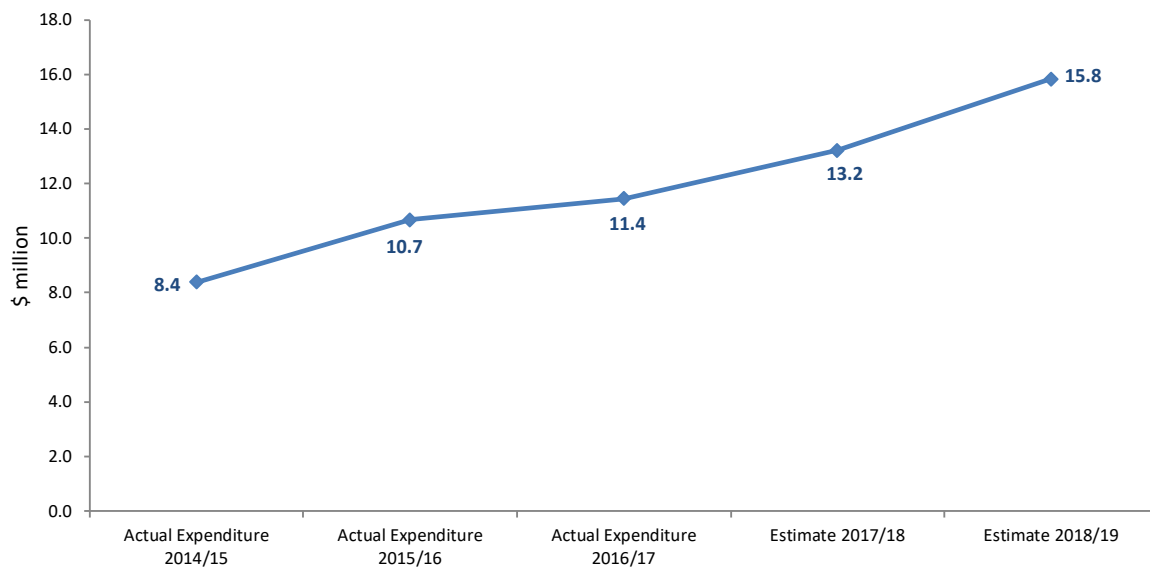
The Ministry allocation for 2018-2019 totals **\$15.8 million**, comprising **\$15.1 million** in operating expenditure and **\$600,000** in capital expenditure. The total allocation represents an increase of 19.8 per cent on the last financial year (**\$2.6 million**), and is mainly attributable to a \$2.1 million increase in operating grants and transfers due to the Job Evaluation Exercise increase for the iTaukei Affairs Board (iTAB) and provincial councils.

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

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



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



Budget announcements and allocations

Tabua Shop

The Budget allocates **\$100,000** of new funding to support the Tabua Shop's mission to protect and promote Fijian cultural heritage. The funding includes the purchase of an engraving machine and other recurring costs.

National iTaukei Resource Owners Council

\$50,000 is to be provided through a new initiative to the National iTaukei Resource Owners Council to advise the National Environment Council on any environmental matters affecting iTaukei resource owners.

Operational Grants

A total of **\$9.1 million** is provided to the iTAB, Provincial Councils, Turaga-ni-Koros, Mata-ni-Tikinas and Na Mata for a variety of purposes. This is an increase of \$2.1 million compared to 2017-2018 as a result of the additional grants for the iTAB and provincial councils, as noted above.

Institute of Language and Culture

The Budget gives **\$1.2 million** to the Institute of Language and Culture to fund its activities of preserving and spreading iTaukei culture and language. This is an \$88,100 (8.0 per cent) increase on 2017-2018, primarily as a result of additional funding for Cultural Awareness/iTaukei Festival and the Cultural Mapping Programme.



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.]

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.