

# STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE

# Consolidated Review Report of the Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission 2019-2020, 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 Annual Reports



# PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

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# Acronyms

FCCC - Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission

KSL - Kina Securities Limited

LPG - Liquified Petroleum Gas

MOPS - Means of Platts Singapore

PCM - Price Control and Monitoring Department

SDG - Sustainable Development Goals

SO - Standing Order

WBC - Westpac Banking Corporation

# Chairperson's Foreword

The Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence (the Committee) hereby submits to Parliament the Consolidated Review Report of the Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission's (FCCC) 2019–2020, 2020–2021, and 2021–2022 Annual Reports.

The FCCC is an independent statutory body established under the FCCC Act 2010. It is mandated to protect both consumers and businesses from restrictive trade practices and to regulate prices in markets with limited competition. The Commission's core objectives include promoting consumer interests, ensuring fair competition, supporting efficient industry development, and securing equitable returns for businesses through fair pricing. In regulated industries, the FCCC also seeks to balance economic efficiency with environmental and social considerations, while ensuring non-discriminatory access to essential infrastructure.

On 15 March 2025, the Committee was formally referred these reports for review, with the task of analyzing their contents and providing a consolidated report to Parliament at a future sitting. As part of its review process, the Committee convened a face-to-face public submission session with the FCCC on 6 May 2025. To further engage stakeholders and the general public, the Committee also conducted Talanoa sessions in Kadavu, Beqa, Sigatoka, Tavua, and Rakiraki, focusing on the issues raised in the annual reports under review. These consultations brought forward key concerns, which are reflected in the findings of this report.

This report outlines significant trends across the reporting periods and presents nine recommendations for Parliament's consideration.

The Committee extends its sincere gratitude to the CEO of FCCC, Ms. Senikavika Jiuta, and her team for their cooperation and valuable contributions throughout the review process. I also acknowledge the members of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence for their dedication in compiling this bipartisan report and thank the Secretariat for their ongoing support.

On behalf of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, I respectfully submit this report to Parliament.

Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua

Chairperson

# Recommendations

- 1.0 The Committee recommends that FCCC establish a permanent supply chain monitoring and rapid response framework to proactively address future disruptions, prevent price manipulation, and ensure timely access to essential goods during crises (reference to point 3.3.1).
- 2.0 The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Trade, Co-operatives, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications expedite the review and amendment of the FCCC Act 2010 to align with current market realities and digitalisation demands, enabling FCCC to implement timely and effective regulatory reforms (*reference to point 3.3.4*).
- 3.0 The Committee recommends that FCCC enhance public communication (including vernacular) and transparency around its pricing methodology by developing accessible educational materials and regularly publishing explanatory updates, to improve consumer understanding of price setting in the context of global and domestic cost influences (reference to point 3.3.5).
- 4.0 The Committee recommends that the relevant Ministry prioritise the finalisation and tabling of the Landlord and Tenancy Bill to provide a clear legal framework for rental market regulation. The Committee commends FCCC as it continues to strengthen its public awareness campaigns, particularly targeting landlords, to promote compliance and the adoption of uniform tenancy agreements (reference to point 3.3.6).
- 5.0 The Committee recommends that FCCC, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, undertake a comprehensive market study on the pharmacy sector to assess viability, identify pricing disparities, and develop targeted strategies that promote fair competition and protect local businesses from rising operational costs (*reference to point 3.3.7*).
- 6.0 The Committee recommends that FCCC proactively engage with stakeholders under the Free Medicine Scheme to identify and address any pricing discrepancies and establish a clear mechanism for monitoring and synchronizing prices to ensure transparency, protect patients, and support the effective implementation of the PPP Scheme (*reference to point 3.3.8*).
- 7.0 The Committee recommends that FCCC establish a dedicated toll-free complaints line within the next financial year to enhance accessibility, improve responsiveness to consumer issues (reference to point 3.3.9).
- 8.0 The Committee recommends that the Government reinstate FCCC's authority to issue spot fines for enforcement breaches to expedite penalties for minor pricing violations. The Committee commends FCCC's work towards reviewing fare adjustment processes to improve timeliness and fairness, thereby enhancing consumer protection and support for vulnerable groups affected by price fluctuations (*reference to point 3.3.10*).
- 9.0 The Committee recommends that FCCC prioritize the recruitment and training of additional enforcement officers and explore innovative enforcement strategies, such as regional partnerships and technology-enabled monitoring, to enhance enforcement capacity and ensure effective coverage across Fiji's diverse geography (reference to point 3.3.11).

#### 1.0 **Committee Remit and Composition**

Under Standing Order 109(2)(e) the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence is mandated to look into matters related to Fiji's relations with other countries, development aid, foreign direct investment, oversight of the military, and relations with multi-lateral organizations. The members of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence are

as follows:



Hon. Lenora Qeregeretabua Chairperson

Deputy Speaker of Parliament Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs



Hon. Rinesh Sharma **Deputy Chairperson** 



Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu Member

Assistant Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Heritage and Arts



Hon. Penioni Ravunawa Member

Assistant Minister for Health and Medical Services



Hon. Virendra Lal Member

# 1.1 Committee Secretariat Team

Supporting the Committee in its work is a group of dedicated Parliament Officers serving as the Committee Secretariat. These officers are appointed and delegated by the Secretary-General to Parliament by Standing Order 15(3)(i). The Secretariat officers are as follows:

- Mrs. Susana Korovou Senior Committee Clerk
- Mrs. Elesi Tabuyaqona Deputy Committee Clerk

# 2.0 Background and Terms of Reference

The Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence (the Committee), was referred the Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission (FCCC) 2019-2020, 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 Annual Reports on 14 March 2025. The referral of the Annual Reports were done in accordance with SO 38(2), whereby the Committee was assigned to investigate the contents of the report and provide a report to Parliament at a future Sitting. This report is outside the usual mandate of the Committee, but the referral was made to help ease the workload of the other Standing Committees.

# 2.1 Procedure and Program

# Public Submission (written and oral submission)

In relation to Standing Order 111 (1), the Committee is committed to upholding public trust in Parliament, by ensuring that there is public participation and that all such participation is given due consideration. The Committee had called for an oral public submission from FCCC on 06 May 2025. This session was broadcast live on the Parliament's Facebook page and aired on the Walesi Parliament channel. The Committee also organized Talanoa sessions with the general public in Kadavu, Beqa, Sigatoka and Tavua to discuss the annual reports under review.

A summary of the submission is provided in a later part of this report, under the heading 'Committee's Deliberation and Analysis'. Copies of the written submission and the verbatim from the meeting can be obtained from the online Appendices of this report, which can be accessed from the Parliament website: <a href="www.parliament.gov.fj">www.parliament.gov.fj</a>.

# 3.0 Committee Deliberation and Analysis

# 3.1 Introduction

The Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission (FCCC) is an independent statutory body established under the FCCC Act 2010 to protect consumers and businesses from restrictive trade practices and to regulate prices in markets with limited competition. Its core objectives include promoting consumer interests, ensuring fair competition, supporting efficient industry development, and securing equitable returns for businesses through fair pricing. For regulated industries, FCCC also aims to balance efficiency with environmental and social considerations and ensure non-discriminatory access to essential infrastructure.

FCCC's functions cover access agreements and regimes, including advising the Minister, maintaining agreement registers, facilitating negotiations, and arbitrating disputes. It also oversees license conditions in regulated industries when delegated. Additionally, FCCC promotes consumer awareness, handles complaints, investigates deceptive practices, and disseminates information to consumers and suppliers.

# 3.2 Summary of FCCC's 2019-2020, 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 Annual Reports

#### 3.2.1 Economic Regulations

As Fiji's Economic Regulator and Competition and Consumer Protection agency, the Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission (FCCC) plays a vital role in implementing government policy by addressing market failures, promoting fair competition, regulating prices of essential goods and services, and protecting consumer rights. The Economic Regulations Department oversees price determination for regulated sectors such as fuel, utilities, and transport, conducting independent analyses and reviews.

During the reporting periods, key initiatives included monthly price restatements for industries like petroleum and LPG to ensure domestic price alignment with international market trends. Fuel prices were based on Means of Platts Singapore (MOPS), exchange rates, and freight charges, while LPG prices followed the Saudi Aramco Contract Price and related cost factors. Table 1 shows a summary of major activities undertaken for the years 2019-2020, 2020-2021 and 2021-2022:

<b>Major Activities</b>	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
<b>Monthly</b> Price	4 reviews were	The Pharmaceutical	4 reviews were
<b>Reinstatement</b> conducted for the		sector continued to	conducted for the
	review of regulated	be monitored with a	review of regulated
	pharmaceutical	total of 4 reviews	pharmaceutical
	products.	conducted.	products.
Petroleum and	10 price	A total of 12 price	A total of 12 price
<b>LPG Price Reviews</b>	reinstatements for	reinstatements were	reinstatements
	fuel and 7 price	carried out for Fuel	were carried out
	restatements for LPG	and LPG products.	for Fuel and LPG
			products.

	products were		
	conducted.		
<b>Industry Review</b>	FCCC conducted seven industry reviews during the reporting period		control orders were reviewed, covering
	across key sectors:  Marina Sector,  Telecommunications	2 industry reviews including (1) Cement, (2) LPG	Products, Postal Services, Sugar,
	Sector, Transport Sector, Postal Sector, Electricity	Products, (3) Ports Management Services, and (4)	LPG Products,
	Sector, Steel Sector and Cement Industry.	Marina Management Services for	Reinforcement Steel Rods,
	muusuy.	Passengers on Commercial Ships and Cargos.	

# 3.2.2 Technical Regulations

The FCCC is authorized to regulate, license, and enforce compliance for all electrical installations and power generation systems, including Grid Systems, Standalone, and Backup Generator Systems, in accordance with NZS3000 Standards. All systems require a five-year electrical license, with the most common applications being for Backup and Grid-Connected Systems, which are reviewed and inspected before licenses are issued. For the years under review, FCCC reported on the following:

Type of		No. of L	icenses Issued	
Generation	2019	2020	2021	2022
Grid Connect Solar	Unreported	29 Licenses	27 Licenses	14 Licenses
Backup Generator	Unreported	48 Licenses	44 Licenses	38 Licenses
Off-Grid Diesel	Unreported	14 Licenses	7 Licenses	1 License
TOTAL	Unreported	91 Licenses Issued	78 Licenses Issued	53 Licenses Issued

#### 3.2.3 Price Control and Monitoring

The Price Control and Monitoring Department (PCM) is part of FCCC, responsible for administering price control, rent control, and monitoring compliance with Part 5 of the FCCC Act 2010 under the FCCC Five-Year Strategic Plan (2018–2023). Its key roles include periodic review of price-controlled items, issuing price control orders, determinations, and authorisations with ministerial approval, receiving and deliberating on

consumer complaints, conducting routine price inspections across Fiji, and carrying out market surveillance, investigations, awareness, and studies to evaluate or propose price control where competition has weakened. The Table below shows a summary of reviews conducted during the years under review.

#### a. Price Control Section

<b>Outcome of Price Review</b>	No. of Reviews				
	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	
Price Increase	477	700	748	Unspecified	
Price Decrease	316	281	368		
No Trigger	504	504	508		
First Pricing	347	549	183		
Others	185	31	7		
TOTAL REVIEWS	1,829	2,065	1,814	2,724	

For the periods, a total of 1,829 product price reviews were conducted in 2018/2019, followed by 2,065 in 2019/2020, and a slight decline to 1,814 in 2020/2021, before surging to 2,724 in 2021/2022, a movement in price review activity possibly influenced by global events such as the Ukraine war, which disrupted supply chains and contributed to increased market volatility.

# b. Monitoring Section

The Monitoring section oversees price inspections, market surveillance, investigations, consumer complaints, and awareness activities under the FCCC Act 2010 in Fiji. Table 4 shows a summary of inspections from 2019-2022:

Areas of Inspections	Trade Inspections		
	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022
Urban and Rural	14,041	10,621	17,927
Maritime	987	546	1,311
TOTAL INSPECTIONS	15,028	11,167	19,238
<b>Total Breaches</b>	1,615	372	1,167
Infringement Notices	1,230	110	846
Prosecutions	386	262	321

The data shows that total trade inspections fluctuated over three years, peaking at 19,238 in 2021/2022, with urban and rural areas consistently having the highest numbers; while breaches and infringement notices decreased sharply in 2020/2021, they rose again in 2021/2022, reflecting ongoing compliance challenges.

#### c. Market Surveillance

Market surveillances targeted items under duty reduction and zero-rated VAT categories from the 2021–2022 Budgets, as mandated by Section 53A of the FCCC (Budget Amendment) Act 2020, to ensure consumers benefit from over 1,942 price-reduction measures.

#### d. Rents Section

The Rent Section enforces rent control under the FCCC Act 2010, covering residential and ground leases not governed by specific land acts, and primarily focused during the review period on implementing the 2020 Rent Increase Restriction Order, an extension of the rent freeze initiated in 2007. The Rents Complaints Summary is tabulated below:

Types of Complaints	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022
Formal Complaints	318	536	174
Informal Complaints	1196	1050	1366
<b>Total Complaints</b>	1514	1589	1540

The Rent Complaints Summary shows that total complaints remained relatively stable over the three-year period, averaging around 1,550 annually. Formal complaints peaked at 536 in 2020/2021 but declined sharply to 174 in 2021/2022, while informal complaints consistently made up the majority and rose to 1,366 in 2021/2022. This trend suggests a shift toward informal reporting, possibly reflecting increased public awareness and accessibility of the complaints process.

# 3.2.4 Competition and Compliance

The Competition and Compliance Department investigates consumer complaints related to unfair and restrictive trade practices under the FCCC Act 2010, with a focus during the review period on price gouging by traders, including pharmacies, hairdressers, and mobile money agents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

# a. Complaints Handling

No. Complaints	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022
Central	445	Unspecified	146
Western	154		248
Northern	91		35
TOTAL	690	542	429

The number of complaints received declined steadily over the three years, from 690 in 2019/2020 to 429 in 2021/2022. The Central Division saw a sharp drop from 445 to 146, while the Western Division experienced an increase in 2020/2021 before declining. The Northern Division consistently recorded the fewest complaints, with a significant decrease in 2021/2022. Data for the Central Division in 2020/2021 is unspecified, limiting a complete year-on-year comparison.

#### b. Merger and Acquisition

Thorough assessment of mergers and acquisitions is crucial in Fiji to prevent anticompetitive behavior, as the FCCC Act 2010 prohibits acquisitions that could lead to market dominance; FCCC's role is to evaluate such cases to ensure they do not reduce competition in the market. A summary of merger and acquisition activities undertaken during the years review are tabulated below:

	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022
Activities	FCCC assessed and approved	FCCC approved the	FCCC approved
Undertaken	two major acquisitions. The	acquisition of the	the internal merger
	first involved Pacific Neptune	Fijian operations of	of FMF Foods'
	Lines acquiring Pacific Direct		subsidiaries,
	Line, with concerns about	Corporation (WBC)	Biscuit Company
	reduced competition in	J	of Fiji and Bakery
	shipping and agency services	Kina Securities	Company of Fiji,
	markets. These were addressed	Limited (KSL).	as it posed no
	through stakeholder		competition
	consultations and a binding		concerns and
	undertaking to prevent anti-		aimed to reduce
	competitive behavior. The		operational costs.
	second acquisition involved		Additionally,
	Basic Industries acquiring		FCCC granted
	Pacific Cement, both FHL		conditional
	subsidiaries, aimed at		approval for
	improving efficiency through		Telstra's
	vertical integration, despite		acquisition of
	PCL's declining financial		Digicel Fiji after
	performance.		assessing potential
			market impacts,
			particularly in
			upstream and downstream
			telecom services,
			with ongoing monitoring to
			prevent anti-
			competitive
			behavior.
			ochavior.

# 3.2.5 Legal, Risk Management and Governance

The Legal, Risk Management and Governance Department is responsible for all litigation matters against and by the FCCC.

# a. <u>Litigation Matters</u>

During the reporting periods, FCCC reported on the following:

Years	Pending Cases	Pending Cases- Outsourced	Files Closed	Charges Filed	Total Value of Fines Imposed
2019/2020	400 matters			\$50,000.00	
2020/2021	421	41	114	155	\$138,220.00
2021/2022	492	33	71	169	\$144,792.00

# 3.2.6 Human Resources

	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022
Human Capital Headcount	78	75	80
Employee Turnover %	Unspecified	2.6%	11%
Diversity	Female: 44%	Female: 44%	Female: 44%
	Male: 56%	Male: 56%	Male: 56%

Between 2019/2020 and 2021/2022, the FCCC's human capital headcount remained relatively stable, fluctuating slightly from 78 to 80 employees. Employee turnover was low at 2.6% in 2020/2021 but increased notably to 11% in 2021/2022. Throughout this period, gender diversity remained consistent, with females representing 44% and males 56% of the workforce.

# 3.3 Committee Findings

The Committee's findings are outlined below:

# 3.3.1 COVID-19 Impacts

The Committee noted that the COVID-19 pandemic significantly disrupted global and domestic supply chains, necessitating immediate regulatory interventions to combat price gouging, hoarding, and to ensure continuous supply and affordability of essential goods.

#### 3.3.2 Resource Constraints

The Committee noted that resource constraints, persistent funding limitations, and enforcement capacity challenges affected the broader implementation of regulatory and awareness activities, thereby requiring strategic prioritisation and efficiency improvements.

# 3.3.3 Dynamic Market Conditions

The Committee noted that dynamic market conditions and the growing complexity of digital market regulation demanded substantial capacity building and adaptation of existing regulatory frameworks to remain responsive and effective.

#### 3.3.4 Outdated Legislations

The Committee noted that while the Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission (FCCC) had incorporated some recommendations from the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs relating to its 2018 and 2019 Annual Reports, provisions of the FCCC Act 2010 remain outdated. The Committee further noted that despite the evolving market dynamics and digitalisation needs, legislative amendments are still pending with the Ministry of Trade, Co-operatives, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications, which continues to delay necessary regulatory reforms.

#### 3.3.5 Pricing Mechanisms for LPG and Petroleum

The Committee understands that the FCCC employs a product-specific regulatory pricing methodology, primarily using the cost-plus method for food and imported goods such as petroleum and LPG, with allowable markups determined after accounting for landing, clearance, and distribution costs. Pricing decisions are governed by sections 39, 41, and 44 of the FCCC Act and must be assessed prior to sale to prevent breaches. The Committee further noted that external factors such as global commodity prices, freight, and foreign exchange fluctuations significantly influence domestic pricing, and emphasized the importance of improving public understanding of these dynamics. Despite consistent methodology, perceived pricing imbalances, such as slower price reductions, are often due to offsetting costs. The Committee acknowledged FCCC's role in balancing supplier returns with consumer protection under challenging market conditions.

# 3.3.6 Landlord and Tenancy Bill

The Committee was informed that the FCCC, in collaboration with the Solicitor-General's Office and the Ministry of Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, had drafted the Landlord and Tenancy Bill in 2018 and conducted extensive public consultations with over 2,000 submissions, resulting in amendments to the draft, which remains under review by the relevant Ministry. In the absence of enacted legislation, the FCCC continues to monitor rent receipts, tenancy agreements, bond conditions, and enforce the existing rent freeze order. The Committee also noted ongoing efforts by the FCCC to raise public awareness through consumer education campaigns across multiple media platforms and recognized the need to further strengthen outreach and promote uniform tenancy agreements, particularly targeting landlords. The Committee further noted that while policy papers have been prepared and submitted, the Bill is still awaiting progress through the relevant Ministries.

#### 3.3.7 Fair Trade Policy

The Committee noted the need to protect local businesses from rising costs such as import duties, VAT, and rent, which affect sustainability and consumer pricing. It also noted the pricing disadvantage faced by pharmacies compared to supermarkets for zero-rated over-the-counter items due to bulk buying. While the FCCC now licenses pharmacies and collaborates with relevant bodies, it has yet to conduct a full market study on pharmacy viability. The Committee encouraged further assessment to ensure fair competition and support for the sector.

### 3.3.8 FCCC-Regulated pricing for Pharmaceutical Products

The Committee noted concerns regarding price discrepancies under the Free Medicine Scheme between retail pharmacies and FCCC-regulated pricing. While the FCCC has not received formal complaints to date, it confirmed its readiness to investigate any reported cases and take enforcement action. The Committee emphasized the importance of price synchronization to ensure transparency, protect patients, and support the effective implementation of the Private Public Partnership (PPP) Scheme.

#### 3.3.9 Establishment of a Toll-Free-Line

The Committee noted public concerns on the absence of a toll-free line for lodging complaints directly with the FCCC, particularly in cases involving power fluctuations damaging household goods or pricing issues at retail outlets. While the FCCC currently receives complaints through its website, email, social media, and has an MOU with the Consumer Council for toll-free referrals, the Committee encouraged the establishment of a dedicated toll-free line to improve accessibility, responsiveness, and consumer confidence. The FCCC acknowledged the recommendation and committed to pursuing its implementation within the current financial year.

# 3.3.10 Court Cases Backlogs

The Committee noted concerns about court backlogs and challenges faced by consumers seeking justice through the Small Claims Tribunal, including perceptions of unfair outcomes and the high cost and time involved in pursuing cases. While the FCCC previously had powers to issue spot fines for enforcement breaches, this authority has lapsed, and the FCCC is advocating for its reinstatement.

# 3.3.11 Enforcement Capacity Challenges

The Committee noted that while the FCCC's staffing levels have increased, enforcement capacity remains limited, with only 20 of 86 employees dedicated as Enforcement Officers. The Committee acknowledged the challenges in conducting inspections across Fiji, including maritime islands, and noted that during major operations, the FCCC mobilizes its entire staff to maximize coverage. The Committee further noted that the FCCC consistently requests additional resources in budget submissions to strengthen enforcement capabilities.

### 3.3.12 Price Disparities in Rural and Maritime Areas

The Committee noted that fuel price fluctuations significantly impact both vulnerable Fijians and transport operators, particularly given the lengthy fare adjustment processes. The FCCC conducts ad-hoc fare reviews during periods of rising fuel costs to ensure fares fairly reflect increased expenses while maintaining affordability. The Government supplements these efforts through targeted interventions, such as temporary fuel subsidies and direct support to public transport providers, including schemes like fuel rebates to provide interim relief. The Committee recognized regional disparities in fuel subsidies, such as \$0.10 per litre in the Northern Division versus \$0.02 elsewhere, which are determined by the relevant Ministry based on factors like logistics, remoteness, and socio-economic conditions. The Committee also noted enforcement challenges in addressing small overcharges due to the lengthy court process and supported reinstating spot fines to enable quicker, more effective penalties for minor pricing breaches.

#### 3.3.13 Digitisation

The Committee noted that the FCCC plans to improve its services by prioritizing digitalization to streamline internal processes and reduce bureaucratic delays. There is a strong focus on strengthening enforcement and expanding awareness campaigns, targeting specific groups to enhance public understanding. Despite current staffing limitations (86 staff), the FCCC aims to grow its workforce to around 200 to better maximize resources. Additionally, the Committee highlighted the need for reviewing and reforming regulatory frameworks based on 12 years of industry regulation to ensure more effective and impactful oversight moving forward.

# 4.0 Sustainable Development Goals

# 4.1 Relevance to SDGs

The FCCC's strategic operations consistently aligned with key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), and SDG 13 (climate action). Efforts included promoting fair market practices and consumer protection, advocating responsible environmental marketing, enforcing actions against misleading claims, and integrating environmental and climate change criteria through inter-regulatory reviews to demonstrate a commitment to sustainability.

# 4.2 Gender Equality in Parliamentary Scrutiny

The Parliament of Fiji Standing Orders 110 (2) requires the Committee to give full consideration to the principle of gender equality so as to ensure all matters are considered with regard to the impact and benefit on both men and women equally.

FCCC maintained a progressive stance towards gender diversity, with steady female representation around 44% of total employees across the reporting period. Notably, key leadership roles, including the position of General Manager Operations and later Acting CEO held by Ms Senikavika Jiuta, underscored FCCC's commitment to gender equality and female empowerment in senior management positions.

# 5.0 Conclusion

The Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence has conducted a thorough review of the Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission 2019-2020, 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 Annual Reports. The Committee report is bi-partisan and has nine recommendations for consideration. The Committee is grateful and commends the Commission for being up to date with its Annual Reports.

# 6.0 Committee Members' Signatures

Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua Chairperson

Hon. Rinesh Sharma **Deputy Chairperson** 

Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu **Member** 

Hon. Penioni Ravunawa **Member** 

Hon. Virendra Lal **Member** 

# 7.0 Annexure

# **Published evidence**

Written evidence, transcripts, and supporting documents can be viewed on the Parliament website at the following link:

https://www.parliament.gov.fj/committees/standing-committee-on-foreign-affairs-and-defence/