



Honorable Ro Filipe Tuisawau

Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services & Transport

**MINISTERIAL RESPONSE TO PARLIAMENTARY WRITTEN
QUESTION 71/2025 – HON. JONE USAMATE**

Hon. Jone Usamate to ask the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – With the ongoing disruptions to the regular water supply leading to the engagement of water carting services to supply water to households, can the Minister inform Parliament on the following –

- (a) the total cost incurred for water carting per year from 2022 to 2024;**
- (b) the number of trucks currently engaged in watercarting; and**
- (c) the mode through which payments are made to the contractors providing this service.**

I thank the Honourable Member for his question.

The Water Authority of Fiji (WAF), under the Ministry of Public Works, Meteorological Services, and Transport, continues to provide critical

support to affected households during periods of water supply disruption. In response to the question posed, I wish to inform this Honourable House of the following:

(a) Total Cost Incurred for Water Carting Services from 2022 to 2024:

The cost of water carting includes both Operational Expenditure (OPEX) and Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) associated with engagement of contractors, fuel, logistics, and fleet maintenance. The total annual expenditure is as follows:

<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>OPEX (FJD)</i>	<i>CAPEX (FJD)</i>	<i>Total (FJD)</i>
<i>2021/2022</i>	<i>1,769,894.18</i>	<i>3,126,553.83</i>	<i>\$ 4,896,448.01</i>
<i>2022/2023</i>	<i>5,037,316.16</i>	<i>3,291,181.27</i>	<i>\$ 8,328,497.43</i>
<i>2023/2024</i>	<i>3,061,787.92</i>	<i>4,394,133.94</i>	<i>\$ 7,455,921.86</i>

It must be noted, Mr. Speaker Sir, that the increase in costs reflects the heightened frequency and severity of climate-induced disruptions such as prolonged droughts and high turbidity events.

(b) Number of Trucks Currently Engaged in Water Carting:

At any given time during water supply disruptions, WAF engages between 40 to 50 contracted trucks for carting services across Fiji. In addition, 29 vehicles are routinely deployed to serve non-metered and rural communities on a weekly basis.

This scale of deployment ensures critical water access continuity for our most vulnerable populations.

(c) Mode of Payment to Contractors Providing the Service:

In line with Government's drive toward digital financial governance and efficiency, all contractor payments for water carting services are made electronically. WAF has transitioned fully to online bank-to-bank transfers, thereby eliminating the issuance of cheques and reducing payment delays.

Mr. Speaker Sir, water carting remains an emergency measure. The Authority continues to invest in long-term infrastructure resilience and treatment plant upgrades to reduce over-reliance on this costly and reactive intervention.

Vinaka vakalevu. God bless Fiji.