

Hon. Sakiasi Ditoka
Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster
Management

Response to Written Question 217/2025
– Tuesday 4 November 2025

Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua to ask the Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management – Can the Minister inform Parliament with respect to the following –

- (a) number of rural road crossings constructed for the period January 2023 to June 2025;
 - (b) number of rural road crossings under construction to date; and
 - (c) number of rural road crossings maintained for the period January 2023 to June 2025.
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BACKGROUND

1. The Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management continues to drive its mandate of reducing rural isolation and improving connectivity through two major programmes - the **Community Access Roads, Footpaths and Footcrossings (CARFF)** Programme and the **Rural and Outer Island Development (ROI)** Programme.

- a. **Community Access Roads, Footpaths and Footcrossings (CARFF) Programme**

The CARFF Programme strategically targets communities that remain **physically and economically isolated** due to inadequate access infrastructure. It focuses on constructing and upgrading community access roads, footpaths, and footcrossings to provide safe and reliable connections between villages and rural settlements to critical public services such as schools, health facilities, and markets.

Importantly, CARFF is a **community-driven initiative**, anchored on the principles of **self-help, ownership, and sustainability**. Communities identify their priorities, contribute labour or local materials, and play an active role in maintaining completed projects. This participatory model ensures cost-

effectiveness, enhances community responsibility, and promotes long-term infrastructure sustainability.

b. Rural and Outer Island Development (ROI) Programme

The ROI Programme provides a **broader and a more integrated development framework**, focusing on multi-sectoral infrastructure interventions that promote rural economic growth and improve service delivery in outer islands and remote communities.

ROI supports the construction of rural roads, bridges, jetties, and other enabling infrastructure that facilitate mobility, market access, and inclusive participation, particularly in Fiji's economic systems.

It also serves as the Ministry's flagship mechanism for **inter-ministerial and donor coordination**, aligning national priorities with sectoral strategies for agriculture, trade, fisheries, and forestry.

Strategic Impact and Alignment

2. Together, CARFF and ROI underpin the Ministry's **strategic vision** to foster inclusive and resilient rural communities. These programmes directly contribute to the implementation of the revised **Integrated Rural Development Framework (IRDF)**, the **National Development Plan (NDP)**, and Fiji's **Vision 2050**.
3. The outcomes achieved through these interventions are not only improving physical accessibility but are also catalysing economic activities, strengthening social cohesion, and reinforcing disaster resilience at the community level.
4. In essence, these programmes remain key instruments for **transforming rural livelihoods**, bridging development gaps between urban and rural Fiji, and advancing the Government's broader agenda of **leaving no one behind**.
5. The information provided here are only relating to CARFF, as the details for ROI will be in the response to the Written Question 241/2025.

(a) Number of rural road crossings constructed for the period January 2023 to June 2025:

Division	January 2023 – July 2023			August 2023 – July 2024			August 2024 – July 2025			Total
	Roads	Footpaths	Footbridges	Roads	Footpaths	Footbridges	Roads	Footpaths	Footbridges	
1. Central	3	2	1	5	2	6	11	2	1	33
2. Eastern	1	0	2	2	2	4	4	7	1	23
3. Northern	3	0	1	9	0	1	9	1	1	25
4. Western	7	0	1	14	1	2	12	0	1	38
Total	14	2	5	30	5	13	36	10	4	119

(b) Number of rural road crossings under construction to date:

Division	August 2025 – July 2026			Total
	Roads	Footpaths	Footbridges	
1. Central	8	4	1	13
2. Eastern	3	1	6	10
3. Northern	9	0	2	11
4. Western	9	1	2	13
Total	29	6	11	46

(c) Number of rural road crossings maintained for the period January 2023 to June 2025.

6. The Ministry does not have a specific budget allocation dedicated solely to the maintenance of rural roads. However, the upgrading and improvement of existing access roads are often undertaken as part of broader rural infrastructure projects implemented under the Ministry's programmes. These upgrading works are therefore captured within the data provided under questions (a) and (b), which include both new constructions and improvements to existing community access roads.

END.