



MPWMST

MINISTRY OF
PUBLIC WORKS, METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES
AND TRANSPORT



Honorable Ro Filipe Tuisawau

Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services & Transport

Tuesday, 25 November, 2025

Written Question 277/2025

Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure to ask the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister update Parliament on the following –

- (a) how many desalination plants are in operation throughout Fiji; and
- (b) their location per Division.

Ministry Response:

Mr Speaker, I wish to update the Parliament that there are **four small-scale desalination plants** strategically installed on our maritime islands across the three regions. These plants have a design capacity to produce **between 17,000 and 30,000 litres of clean drinking water per day**. The islands where these facilities are located include **Viwa Island in the Yasawa group, Kavewa and Kia Islands in Macuata, and Vanuavatu Island in Lau.**

At present, **only the plant on Vanuavatu Island is operational**, while the remaining three require **urgent servicing and maintenance**, including necessary upgrades to their protective shelters. These plants were commissioned in 2013, and their day-to-day operations have been entrusted to **trained village water committees**, with technical support provided by the **Water Authority of Fiji** as and when required.

Regrettably, the operational standards have not been consistently maintained, and this is an area that demands improvement. To address these challenges, **spare parts have been procured**, and restoration works are scheduled to commence in **January 2026**. Furthermore, **refresher training programs** are being organised to ensure the continuous upskilling of the water committee operators responsible for these desalination plants

Mr Speaker, in addition, a large-scale desalination plant, with a design capacity to produce 60,000 litres of clean drinking water per day, is located at Navaca in Southern Taveuni. While the plant remains structurally intact, it has been decommissioned since 2022 due to excessive monthly operational costs, compounded by frequent mechanical breakdowns and leakages within its distribution system.

In the interim, water carting operations continue to ensure that communities in Southern Taveuni have access to safe drinking water. A long-term and sustainable solution has been identified under the Water Sector Strategy 2050, and the Water Authority of Fiji is actively pursuing this initiative as a matter of urgent priority.

Their location per Division

There are 4 small-scale Desalination Plants located on Viwa Island in Yasawa in the Western division, one each on Kavewa Island and Kia Island in the Northern division and one on Vanuavatu island in Lau, Eastern division.

One large scale desalination plant is located in Navaca, on the Southern part of Taveuni.