



STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Review Report on the 2019 Tavua Town Council Annual Report



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI
Parliamentary Paper No. 148 of 2025

November- December 2025

Published and printed by the Department of Legislature, Parliament House, Government Buildings, SUVA

Table of Contents	Page
CHAIRMAN’S FORWARD.....	3
ACRONYM.....	5
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	6
1.0 INTRODUCTION	7
1.1 Committee Procedures	
2.0 BACKGROUND Tavua Town Council	8
3.0 KEY FINDINGS	9
4.0 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION	10
5.0 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND GENDER ANALYSIS	11
6.0 CONCLUSION	12
7.0 COMMITTEE MEMBERS SIGNATURE	13
8.0 ANNEXURE	14

CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

I am pleased to present the Standing Committee on Social Affairs *Review Report on the 2019 Tavua Town Council Annual Report*.

The Standing Committee, in its review of the Annual Report, identified critical issues affecting municipal governance and service delivery.

These include delays in infrastructure maintenance, lack of a sewerage system, and challenges in relocating the Municipal Market, Bus station, Taxi and Carrier stand, as well as financial constraints following the repeal of the Business Licensing Act. The Committee also noted gaps in performance reporting and the need for environmental compliance for the proposed landfill site at Koro No. 1.

To address these concerns, the Committee recommends urgent collaboration between Tavua Town Council, relevant ministries, and agencies to expedite the Environmental Impact Assessment process, improve coordination with the Fiji Roads Authority, and prioritize the sewerage reticulation project. Furthermore, the Committee calls for strengthened performance reporting, decisive action on Market, Bus, Taxi and Carrier Stand relocation and measures to restore revenue streams lost due to legislative changes.

These recommendations aim to enhance municipal services, promote sustainable development, and improve the quality of life for the people of Tavua.

To conclude, I sincerely thank the Acting Chief Executive Officer of Tavua Town Council and officials for their services and contributions to this review process.

I thank the Hon. Members of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure, Hon. Alipate Tuicolo, Hon. Alikia Bia, Hon. Viam Pillay, and Hon. Parveen Bala, for their invaluable input and support. I extend my appreciation to Hon. Jone Usamate for his contribution and support as an alternate member.

On behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs, I commend this report to Parliament.



.....
Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu
Chairperson

ACRONYM

MP	Member of Parliament
SO	Standing Order
TTC	Tavua Town Council

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Standing Committee on Social Affairs (‘Committee’) is established under Section 70 of the Constitution of the Republic of Fiji and Standing Order 109. The Committee’s mandate and functions are provided under SO 109 (2) and 110 (1) (a)-(d) & (f).

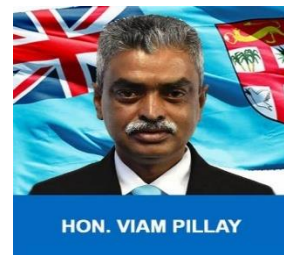
The Members of Committee are:



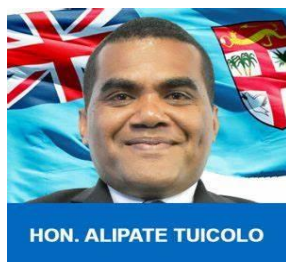
Chairperson



Deputy Chairperson



Member



Member



Member



Member

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Tavua Town Council Annual Report was tabled in Parliament on 2nd December 2024.

Standing Orders 109 (2)(b) allows the Standing Committee on Social Affairs to examine matters related to health, education, social services, labor, aviation, culture, and media.

1.1. Committee Procedures

Deliberations on the Report commenced in October 2025. The Committee read the report, prepared questions and sought clarifications on key issues of interest from the Tavua Town Council

The Committee held Public Submission with the Executives of Tavua Town Council Officials on 23rd October 2025.

Upon receipt of all pertinent information pertaining to the Committee's queries, which was subsequently endorsed on 19th November 2025.

The Committee received responses from the Tavua Town Council can be viewed at the following link <https://www.parliament.gov.fj/committees/standing-committee-on-social-affairs/>

2.0 Background Tavua Town Council

2.1 Introduction

The town of Tavua is one of the smallest towns in Fiji. Tavua was declared a town on the 27th of April in 1992. Tavua town in Fiji is 91 kilometres from Nadi and 9 kilometres from the gold mining settlement of Vatukoula.

The Council for the last twenty-six years has been striving to improve its services to its ratepayers, business houses as well as to the visitors of Tavua Town. Every year, the Council devotes serious efforts to achieve and better its service delivery as this has been shown in the winning of the Small Clean Town category for 4 years since 2012. The award has been a positive indication that has moulded its workers to raise the standard of their performance.

3.0 KEY FINDINGS

The key findings of the Committee were -

- 3.1 The Committee noted that the Tavua Town Council has identified a site for a landfill at Koro No.1
- 3.2 The Committee observed that the Tavua Town Council's requests to the Fiji Roads Authority for road markings, signage, and related infrastructure maintenance have experienced significant delays.
- 3.3 The Committee noted that there is no sewerage system within the municipality of Tavua.
- 3.4 The Committee noted that the Tavua Town Council's Annual Report does not provide a clear alignment between its stated strategic plan targets and the corresponding achievements. [OBJ]
- 3.5 The Committee noted that the Tavua Town Council faces a significant challenge with the relocation of the Municipal Market, Bus Station, Taxi and Carrier Stand.
- 3.6 The Committee noted that the Tavua Town Council experienced a significant reduction in revenue following the repeal of the Business Licensing Act in 2020, which eliminated a key source of income for the municipality

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 The Committee recommends Tavua Town Council collaborate with the Ministry of Local Government and Ministry of Environment to expedite the full EIA process to ensure compliance with environmental regulations for the new landfill at Koro No.1.
- 4.2 The Committee recommends that the Fiji Roads Authority establish a structured coordination mechanism with Tavua Town Council to ensure timely response to municipal requests and efficiently addresses the rate payers and the general public concerns.
- 4.3 The Committee recommends that the Government and relevant agencies prioritize the sewerage reticulation project for Tavua Town to prevent further delays and support sustainable urban development.
- 4.4 The Committee recommends that the Tavua Town Council strengthen its performance reporting framework to ensure clear alignment between strategic plan targets and actual achievements for future Annual Reports.
- 4.5 The Committee recommends that the Tavua Town Council, in collaboration with their line ministry to work with relevant authorities in terms of relocation of the Municipal Market, Bus Station, Taxi and Carrier Stand
- 4.6 The Committee recommends that the Government urgently review and implement measures to restore or replace the revenue stream lost due to the repeal of the Business Licensing Act during COVID.

5.0 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND GENDER ANALYSIS

Tavua Town Council commitments towards the SDGs.

The three departments within the Council: 75% of the Finance and Administration and 50% of the Health and Building departments are staffed by females, and all our General Workers are male.






TTC is also very conscience of its obligation to the SDGs three focus areas, being: environmental protection; economic stability and social well-being of the people and those who live within the Greater Tavua area.

6.0 CONCLUSION

The Tavua Town Council faces significant challenges in infrastructure, revenue generation, and service delivery. Immediate government intervention and legislative support are essential to ensure sustainable urban development and improved quality of life for Tavua residents

COMMITTEE MEMBERS' SIGNATURE

We, the Members of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs, hereby agree with the contents of this report:

Committee Member	E-Signature
Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu Chairperson	
Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure Deputy Chairperson	
Hon. Alipate Tuicolo Member	
Hon. Viam Pillay Member	
Hon. Parveen Bala Member	
Date: 19 th November, 2025	

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-social-affairs/>

[VERBATIM REPORT]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

TAVUA TOWN COUNCIL

SUBMITTEE: **Tavua Town Council**

VENUE: **Committee Room, Parliament**

DATE: **Thursday, 23rd October, 2025**

VERBATIM NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS HELD AT THE COMMITTEE ROOM (EAST/WEST WING), PARLIAMENT PRECINCTS, GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS ON THURSDAY, 23RD OCTOBER, 2025 AT 3.00 P.M.

Interviewee/Submittee: Tavua Town Council

In Attendance:

<u>(Names)</u>	<u>(Position)</u>
1) Mr. Sireli Korovulavula	- Acting Chief Executive Officer
2) Mr. Rajendra Raghu	- Special Administrator
3) Ms. Praveen Lata Prakash	- Manager Corporate

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Honourable Members, members of the public, secretariat, viewers, ladies and gentlemen, a very good morning to you all. It is a pleasure to welcome everyone here in this room, especially the viewers who are watching this public hearing session.

At the outset, for information purposes, and pursuant to Standing Order 111 of the Standing Orders of Parliament, all Committee meetings are to be open to the public. Therefore, please note that this submission is open to both the public and the media and will be broadcast live on the Walesi platform, as well as streamed live on our Parliament website and social media platforms.

For any sensitive information relating to the matter before us that cannot be disclosed in public, such information may be provided to the Committee either in private or in writing. However, please be advised that Standing Order 111 permits non-disclosure of information in the following circumstances:

- Matters relating to national security;
- Third-party confidential information;
- Personnel or human resources matters; and
- Committee deliberations and the development of the Committee's recommendations and reports.

I believe I have made myself clear on that note. This is a Parliamentary meeting, and all information gathered here is covered under the Parliamentary Powers and Privileges Act of 1965. However, please bear in mind that we do not condone slander or libel of any kind. Any information brought before this Committee should be based on facts.

In terms of the protocol for this Committee meeting, please ensure that the use of mobile phones is minimised and that all devices are set to silent mode while the meeting is in progress. I would also like to remind Honourable Members and our guests present this morning that all questions are to be addressed through the Chairman. With that, I now invite the Honourable Members of the Committee to introduce themselves.

(Introduction of Honourable Committee Members)

MR. CHAIRMAN.- Today, the Committee will be hearing submissions from the Tavua Town Council. Before us are representatives from the Tavua Town Council, and I would like to thank them for appearing before this hearing this morning.

(Introduction of representatives of Tavua Town Council)

MS. P.L. PRAKASH.- We use the Rakiraki one.

HON. RATU J.B. NIUDAMU.- What I have gathered from the Ra Provincial Council is a complaint regarding the Tavua Town Council bringing all the garbage and dumping it in Rakiraki. What plans does the Tavua Town Council have in relation to its rubbish dump?

MR. S. KOROVULAVULA.- Mr. Chairman, Sir, the concern of the Rakiraki Town Council is shared by Tavua. If you go to the Naria rubbish dump, you will see that it is almost saturated. Tavua has, in fact, identified a piece of land known as *Koro No. 1*. It is a state lease, and the owner has given us an offer to purchase the land for that purpose. We have conducted an environmental impact screening test there, and the authorities have requested a full Environmental Impact Assessment. I am aware that the Government has a policy regarding the dumping of rubbish in the Western Division, and I will be covering that as well.

MS. P.L. PRAKASH.-

2. Can you provide insights into the major expenditures and how they contributed to operational efficiency?

Waste collection and disposal costs contribute to a cleaner and more sustainable environment.

Expenditure – Operational and Administrative Costs — These are costs related to the day-to-day running of municipal departments, including office supplies, utilities, and general administration.

How it contributes to efficiency — Efficient administration of operations reduces dependency and improves decision-making. Careful management of office supplies, utility usage, and other operational expenses ensures that funds are allocated effectively without unnecessary overheads.

Policy and Regulatory Changes

3. What major policy changes were implemented during this period, and how did they impact services?

The enactment of the *Business Licensing (Repeal) Act 2020* effectively removed a critical revenue stream that had been available to the Council under the *Business Licence Act 2004* and its subsidiary legislation. As a result, Tavua lost between 10 percent and 1 percent of its annual income.

To cushion the effect of this situation, the Council has initiated discussions with ratepayers and stakeholders on a new regime of fees and charges. When gazetted, this would provide some relief; however, the need for the removal of the Repeal Act remains urgent.

4. Were there any amendments to the regulations that directly affected ratepayers?

There were no amendments to the regulations that directly affected the rate base. The Council did not allow any discount on rates in the year 2019, as there has been no increase in rates since 2002.

Infrastructure Development

5. What were the key infrastructure projects or capital works undertaken in 2019?

In 2019, a grant of \$100,000 was received from the Water Authority of Fiji (WAF) for the repair and maintenance of drains. This project was completed in 2020.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, Sir, is that from the Water Authority?

MS. P.L. PRAKASH.- From Water Authority of Fiji

HON. P.K. BALA.- They gave you \$100,000? Are you sure?

MS. P.L. PRAKASH.- Yes, in 2019

HON. J. USAMATE.- That is very interesting, Mr. Chairman, Sir, because normally drainage is the responsibility of the Fiji Roads Authority on the roadside. That is why it is interesting.

MS. P.L. PRAKASH.- In the year 2019, we signed an agreement with the Water Authority of Fiji. This is not on the side of the road. It concerns the discharge into Tavualevu Village, and that is the matter we are referring to. If you go past Tavua, you will see — towards the north of the road, or to your left when coming in from Ba—there is a restaurant called Tigers Restaurant. Just before Tigers Restaurant, there is a culvert, and that is where the town is discharging a significant amount of its wastewater. At times, there is spillage from that discharge point.

HON. J. USAMATE.- It is wastewater.

MR. S. KOROVULAVULA.- It is wastewater and also sewerage. There is a lot of leakage there.

MS. P. LATA.-

6. How does the Tavua Town Council ensure sustainability in its infrastructure development plans?

The transportation infrastructure and public activities are maintained by the Fiji Roads Authority through the normal cycle of its programmes, while the Council continues to work on its own structures such as the Garvey Park Stadium, multi-purpose court, children's park, market, and office building. A crucial infrastructure development that the Council is convinced needs to be undertaken is the establishment of a sewer reticulation system for Tavua. The Council also recognises the need for a new market complex.

HON. J. USAMATE.- Mr. Chairman, Sir, for this, the public utilities are maintained by the Fiji Roads Authority. Is that still the case today? Is the FRA still maintaining them?

MR. S. KOROVULAVULA.- If I am allowed to answer, Sir, the Fiji Roads Authority is still doing it, but in almost all cases, any corrections are initiated by the Council. It is not automatic or immediate; we have to keep urging them, reminding them that Tavua is still there and that it remains a town.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Supplementary question, Sir. Just on Item No. 6, this is not a blame game, and I have raised this in Parliament, for example, if I am a ratepayer, I may not know the roles of the Fiji Roads Authority and the Tavua Town Council. I would like to know from you what structures are in place. For instance, if I have an issue with roads or anything managed by the Fiji Roads Authority, is there a structure within the Tavua Town Council to handle complaints? How do you manage such issues, and how do you liaise with the Fiji Roads Authority to ensure that they are addressed?

MR. S. KOROVULAVULA.- Mr. Chairman, Sir, we always have direct communication with the Fiji Roads Authority, but the urgency with which they attend to our requests can vary. It often takes quite some time for them to complete the required work. I can assure you that we are receiving complaints from the public, and we will be addressing them with the urgency they require.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, Sir, during the last Town Hall Talanoa Session, or whatever we choose to call it, residents raised an issue that there is no proper marking in front of *Shop N Shave*. Can you provide us with an update on that?

MR. S. KOROVULAVULA.- Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a problem with the markings. The markings are the responsibility of the Fiji Roads Authority. We have raised the issue with them through an official letter. We have also spoken to them and even met with them during meetings to try to get these matters programmed. It is not just the road markings, Sir; it is also the street signs. The street signs and all associated infrastructure are the responsibility of the Fiji Roads Authority.

MR. R. RAGHLU.- Deputy Chairman, Sir, just to add to what the CEO has said, I strongly agree with what Honourable Bala has stated, as this issue has persisted. We have been raising it through official communications with the Fiji Roads Authority. This concerns not only road markings but also footpaths, streetlights, and other amenities managed by the Fiji Roads Authority. The response from the Fiji Roads Authority, to be very frank, is that they work according to their budget and plan. That is the challenge we are facing. They are not able to attend to our requests immediately, but we have a good relationship with the manager West, and communication is very open. We raise the issue whenever there is a complaint. Residents bring concerns to the Council, and we respond immediately. According to the Fiji Roads Authority, they are working according to their plan and budget.

Currently, the Fiji Roads Authority is upgrading the village side of the footpath from Tavua College to the bridge. They are on the verge of completing work on the village side. After that, they will move to the town side of the footpaths and undertake upgrades there. Regarding the respective signs and markings, we have already communicated with them. Upon completion of the current works, they will attend to those issues. That is what we have been informed. We remain in touch with the Fiji Roads Authority regarding all concerns raised by the ratepayers.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Deputy Chairman, Sir, supplementary question. You have indicated that there is a good relationship, which is commendable. These matters will be tabled in Parliament along with our key findings and recommendations. Can we state that the Fiji Roads Authority is unable to fulfil its responsibilities because of the reasons you have outlined?

Can we advise Parliament that the Fiji Roads Authority should work closely with municipal councils to ensure that works are completed promptly, rather than leaving them pending for months? This is the source of complaints from ratepayers and the general public.

MR. S. KOROVULAVULA.- Deputy Chairman, Sir, I have spent the last two years with the Council and have attended workshops where all Councils are in attendance. One thing that concerns me greatly, Deputy Chairman, is the way small Councils are treated. It is as if they are invisible. The major focus is on large municipalities such as Suva, Nasinu, and Lautoka. For small towns such as Tavua, Rakiraki, Levuka, and Savusavu, it appears that we simply take whatever is provided to us.

Regarding the question about Fiji Roads Authority priorities, they are probably too focused on responsibilities in the larger municipalities. They seem to have forgotten that we also exist and require financial assistance. As for the Tavua Town Council, Honourable Members, you will know that we do not have the capacity to hire personnel of the calibre required to serve as quality assurance officers for infrastructure projects.

If I may allude to, Sir, the FRA Bill currently being circulated: I am not a lawyer, but from what I have read, the FRA intends to shift some of its functions to the Council. The Council would

then need to obtain financing from the FRA. I may be mistaken, and I stand to be corrected, but that is how I interpret it. Section 4 of the FRA Act addresses the functions of the FRA. Section 7 outlines the powers of the FRA, and Section 8 discusses the delegation of those powers to various bodies. My concern is that, instead of simply shifting functions to municipalities without adequate preparation, we first need qualified personnel capable of performing those functions and the financial resources to do so efficiently. We should not be placed in a position where we must request funds, only to account for them later to the Government. That is a brief addition to our contribution.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, Sir, just one clarification. You mentioned that the FRA has given you a Bill. Which Bill are you referring to?

MR. S. KOROVULAVULA.- Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a Bill that was presented to us.

HON. J. USAMATE.- I think the FRA Act is being amended.

MR. S. KOROVULAVULA.- Yes, it appears that way, or it is an operational matter that they are attempting to delegate to us. It refers to the delegation of power. However, when you read through it, it seems to be the delegation of functions without the necessary resources.

MS. P.L. PRAKASH.-

7. Were there any delays or budget overruns on major projects, and what measures were taken to mitigate them?

There were no major overruns. Tavua Town Council, having limited revenue, always strives to remain within budget. Most projects are either government-funded, or we seek support from donor agencies for any projects undertaken.

Rates Collection

8. What initiatives or policies were introduced to improve debt collection in 2019?

- Tavua Town Council (TTC) began adopting digital payment platforms, allowing ratepayers to pay their bills online. This led to an increase in timely payments.
- The Council also sent reminders and notices to individuals with overdue rates.
- Flexible Payment Options - The Council allowed installment payment options for ratepayers unable to pay their rates in full. This plan enabled individuals to pay over time, which helped reduce the burden on low-income households and allowed the municipality to collect revenue over a longer period.

9. Were there any changes in revenue from rate collection by TTC?

There were no changes in revenue or rate collection. Tavua is a small municipality with a limited revenue base, and the Council continues to make every effort to collect all outstanding revenue.

Public Engagements and Transparency

10. How did TTC engage with the public and stakeholders to ensure transparency in decision-making?

The Council held regular meetings with relevant Government ministries, statutory bodies, and international agencies on matters related to infrastructure (drainage and road rehabilitation), harmonisation of market operations (M4C), and waste management (JICA). The Council also engaged business houses and the district administration on general operational matters relating to district administration.

11. Were there any public consultations or feedback mechanisms concerning development within the TTC boundary?

Yes, through monthly District Heads of Government meetings chaired by the District Officer.

SDGs and Gender

12. How well has TTC addressed the Sustainable Development Goals, such as gender equality?

Of the three departments within the Council, 75 percent of staff in the Finance and Administration Department and 50 percent in the Health and Building Department are female. For operational reasons, all of our general workers are male.

TTC is also conscious of its obligations to the SDGs, focusing on three main areas:

- Environmental protection;
- Economic stability; and
- Social well-being of its townspeople and residents within the greater Tavua area.

Performance

13. Please explain how well you have performed against the targets of your operational and strategic plans.

Performance has been good, with confidence in achieving target revenues. TTC continues to reduce arrears through persistent and sustained follow-ups. The Council continues to submit mandatory reports on time and will continue to do so.

HON. J. USAMATE.- Deputy Chairman, Sir, do you have a strategic plan for Tavua covering five to ten years?

MR. S. KOROVULAVULA.- Deputy Chairman, there is a five-year plan that expires this year.

HON. J. USAMATE.- Would you have the targets in the plan and show how well you have performed against each target? Why is that not reflected in the report?

MR. S. KOROVULAVULA.- Mr. Chairman, Sir, I apologise. We have been focusing on developing a new strategic plan for the next five years.

HON. J. USAMATE.- Let me turn that question around. For 2019, was there strategic planning in place?

MR. S. KOROVULAVULA.- Yes.

HON. J. USAMATE.- There was a plan, but you are not reporting against the targets of that plan in this report. You are just reporting activities, is that correct? If it was not done, that is all right; we just want to know. It has not been done?

MR. S. KOROVULAVULA.- No, sir.

MS. P. LATA.-

14. How does your Council perform when compared to other Councils in Fiji?

In terms of the collection of rates and other charges, Tavua Town Council has been performing well. In other areas of operation, however, the Council's restricted revenue sources are a major limiting factor compared to other Councils, particularly the larger and medium-sized municipalities.

HON. J. USAMATE.- Do you know that 100 percent of all Councils during that period received only qualified financial opinions in the audit by the Office of the Auditor-General? So, when you say that you are doing well relative to all the Councils, it is important to note that none of them met the requirements. You also need to be aware that, in the Office of the Auditor-General's review of Councils in the 2017 report, all of them had ineffective budgets and did not meet the guidelines. Therefore, when you say you are doing well relative to others, it essentially means that all are failing. Do you understand what I am saying?

MR. S. KOROVALAVALA.- Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman, Sir. We have been trying to make improvements by increasing our staff members.

HON. J. USAMATE.- You should understand the comments, because the way this is written suggests that we are doing well relative to others. Again, this is based on the Auditor-General's Report and the Annual Reports of the Councils from 2017 to 2020.

MR. S. KOROVULAVULA.- Yes.

HON. J. USAMATE.- That is just the feedback for you to know.

MS. P. LATA.- Deputy Chair, issues that led us to have a qualified opinion.

HON. J. USAMATE.- Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like to point out that the same issues are repeated year after year. I believe there is a systemic issue that needs to be addressed. You are talking about VAT, your receivables, the reconciliation of the receivables, and another matter that I cannot recall. There is clearly a systemic issue, and I hope that you will be able to demonstrate that it has been addressed by now.

MR. S. KOROVULAVULA.- Sir, we are confident that soon we will be overcoming those issues with our limited staff members.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Thank you for those responses, with respect to the questions that were sent to you by the Committee. I understand that you have a presentation for the Committee. Before we proceed with that, Honourable Members, are there any other supplementary questions regarding the questions that were sent?

HON. J. USAMATE.- Deputy Chairman, Sir, I noticed that in your financials for the revenue and income statements for the year 2019, the accounts balanced, and your deficit was very low. I believe most of that was covered by Government funding received as a result of that decision. Is that still the case now? In 2019, your deficit was only \$11,000. Is the situation similar at present?

MS. P. LATA.- Deputy Chairman, Sir, I believe that for almost 20 or 21 years, there has been no increase in our fees and charges. We have submitted a proposal to the Government and are awaiting approval. Once the submissions are gazetted, we will have new fees and charges, which will increase our revenue and help cover the deficits we currently face.

HON. J. USAMATE.- Do you believe you are charging appropriately for garbage collection?

MS. P. LATA.- The garbage collection fee is also offset. The revenue we generate is balanced by the expenses we incur. We already pay for the collection when transporting garbage from Tavua to Rakiraki, and we also pay the garbage dump charges in Rakiraki. We do not charge high fees, but there is a minimum fee that residents pay. Since we started charging, however, there has been a significant increase in waste generated, which the Council now has to collect.

HON. J. USAMATE.- You need to charge fees.

MS. P. LATA.- We also note that garbage from other rural areas has been coming into our town, which we are responsible for collecting and disposing of.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Are there any other questions, Honourable Members, with respect to the responses? No, there are no other questions. The presentation for the Committee is current, am I correct? Honourable Members, please take note that this presentation is current, and you may ask questions at any time. I will now give the floor to Mr. Korovulavula.

MR. S. KOROVULAVULA.- Honourable Members, the first slide is titled *Tavua in a Nutshell*. Tavua was declared a town in April 1992. It serves as a trading centre for families engaged in Vatukoula and the bottling plants — of which we have two. A large community lives around Tavua Town, and these trading centres serve them. This data is from the revaluation roll conducted in Tavua in 2021. The area covers 95.5 hectares, with a population of approximately 5,000 in the greater Tavua area. The ratepayers include: 169 residential, 102 commercial, two industrial, five special (hospitals and similar facilities), one rural, five open space, 24 civic, three development, and three commercial, totalling 311.

Three urgent issues that Tavua needs to resolve, Honourable Members, are:

1. Sewage reticulation system;
2. New market and PSV stands; and
3. Review of government legislation to support these initiatives or development proposals.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Deputy Chairman, Sir, through you, one is the sewage reticulation system, and the other is the market that I raised. We need some details on both. Regarding the sewage, I am led to believe that during a Town Hall meeting, someone from the Water Authority of Fiji stated that there is some work in progress and that it will continue next year.

MR. S. KOROVULAVULA.- We will cover that in the slides. Let me go into detail.

HON. P.K. BALA.- This is just a heading?

MR. S. KOROVULAVULA.- Yes.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Do not waste too much time.

MR. S. KOROVULAVULA.- This is Tavua Town in 1978 (the black-and-white photograph). The other one is the most recent image. I want you to have a good look at the number of buildings and structures in Tavua in 1978 compared with 2024. I have already alluded earlier to the 1982 Scheme Plan report, which highlighted the need for a sewage reticulation system. This was back in 1982, when the Tavua ratepayers were only those shown in the black-and-white picture. Now, with the coloured one, you can see how much development has occurred, and we still need this sewerage reticulation system.

There is a small round circle on the left of the town. The pink colour-coded road represents the new Housing Authority subdivision. It cannot be completed without sewerage because the lots are small. These are Residential 'C' and Residential 'D' lots, and they cannot have septic tanks; they require sewerage reticulation. The Housing Authority has a plan to implement this, but it may take several years. What we are requesting is a larger sewerage reticulation system.

I will take you through the chronological report on the sewerage system:

- In 1982, a Scheme Statement and Plan for Tavua was prepared.
- In 1998, the Town Planning Scheme Statement recognised the need for the system.
- In 2001, the Director of Water and Sewerage deferred the scheme to 2003.
- In 2009, the environmental company Scope was engaged to do an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the Environment Management Report.
- In 2013, the CEO of WAF advised that the project was included in the 2014–2016 Public Sector Investment Programme.
- In 2014, WAF advised that they were working on a final design. Sir, that was the last communication we had on file when we assumed office in 2023.

The issue was raised with the Ministry in mid-August last year, and the Honourable Minister encouraged us to revive the effort. In late August, during the Annual Customer Forum with WAF, our discussions were renewed. I want to express to the Committee that we are encouraged because the officer who worked for the Water Authority in the late 2000s is now the CEO of the Water Authority of Fiji. We are hopeful that this will help move things forward at a good pace. In January this year, we had a meeting with the Housing Authority.

May I request that this information be excluded from public records for now, as we still need to finalise matters with the Housing Authority. All plans are on track, however.

During a meeting last week with the CEO of WAF, we received an undertaking that a team from the Water Authority will be deployed to conduct an investigative assessment in Tavua. They will take samples to assist with the feasibility study, which is planned after the budget submission. We are hopeful that this will support the ongoing efforts to advance the project.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, Sir, just to clarify, you mentioned that the Housing Authority subdivision will not be able to sell lots until the sewerage system is in place. Is that correct?

MR. S. KOROVULAVULA.- Yes, Sir. The size of the lots, I believe, is 400 square metres, which cannot accommodate septic tanks.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Is this subdivision located behind Tavua Primary School?

MR. S. KOROVULAVULA.- Yes, Sir. They are not supposed to have their own sewerage system and are expected to use septic tanks.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Why are they not doing it?

MR. S. KOROVULAVULA.- They have not started yet.

HON. P.K. BALA.- But they will do it.

MR. S. KOROVULAVULA.- That is the second phase that they are looking into right now.

HON. P.K. BALA.- I recall that, on that basis, only that subdivision was approved. You cannot carry out a subdivision and later say that lots cannot be sold because the sewerage system is not in place.

MR. S. KOROVULAVULA.- No, they are not saying it loudly, but that is what

HON. P.K. BALA.- Say slowly...

HON. J. USAMATE.- Mr. Chairman, Sir, the approval for the subdivision was granted on the basis that they would provide the sewerage system.

MR. S. KOROVULAVULA.- Yes, but I am confident that next time they will coordinate their sewerage system. This is essentially the National Development Plan, but I would like to focus your attention on the items at the bottom. This data relates to business houses, wastewater, and sewerage, collected at the end of last year. The number of commercial buildings is 45. The number of businesses within these buildings is 129, and the number of workers is 619. There are four septic tanks located within buildings. There are 26 common septic tanks shared by various businesses within certain buildings, and 27 soakage pits. This is the situation in our commercial centres.

At the bottom is data for Tavualevu Village. The number of buildings in Tavualevu is 222. Flush toilets: 213; water-sealed: 4; pit latrines: 3. There are two houses without toilets. I apologise, but I do not think we can accurately identify the location of the remaining soakage pits. This is a summary of the discussion we had last week with the CEO of the Water Authority of Fiji.

The introduction of a dedicated sewerage reticulation network and treatment plant for Tavua is planned within WAF's long-term capital investment programme, targeting 2030 to 2040.

Preliminary Planning Timelines:

- Feasibility study, which will likely be included as a budget requirement for next year, will take 18 to 24 months.
- Design and land acquisition for easements will take 24 months.
- Construction to commissioning is expected to take 3 to 5 years.

The key issue is the availability of funds, which I hope, Deputy Chairman, the Government will consider for Tavua. Deputy Chairman, this is the proposed market site for Tavua Town, located behind the current market. On the left is the scheme plan approved by Town and Country Planning, but it has now expired. The actual site is currently flooded. This area is highly prone to flooding, and the large red arc at the bottom of the scheme plan marks the section next to the river. If we proceed with this plan, there will be significant flooding issues. Ongoing maintenance will be required, especially for the road, as we expect all PSV vehicles to operate in that area.

Another matter is the land issues. We have intra-LOU issues. The landowning unit is the chiefly *Mataqali* Tilivasewa. If I may, this is probably the largest *Mataqali* in terms of numbers in Fiji. There are three *tokatoka*, and the Chiefly *Tokatoka* is Nadula.

HON. J. USAMATE.- Already got the 60 percent?

(Laughter)

MR. S. KOROVULAVULA.- Just to provide some context, the *Tokatoka* Nadula has approximately 600 members, of whom probably 400 are over 18 years old. The *Mataqali* Savusavu Ni Kutu has about 300 members, with around 100 to 200 members on site. The final *Tokatoka*, Durubalabla, has about 50 members. Obtaining 60 percent consent is challenging because this land is reserve land, and securing the required approvals is a separate logistical matter. There is also the issue of the iTaukei Land Trust Board, which is still involved in a court case that has been ongoing for several years. For our purposes, we have already crossed the heading. Another key issue is market-side flooding.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Deputy Chairman, Sir, through you, please, could you explain the location?

MR. S. KOROVULAVULA.- This is the approach from Tavua to Ba. This is the housing subdivision we just discussed. This is the site where the sewerage plant is planned, and work has already commenced. The Water Authority is considering two options: a one-hectare site and a two-hectare site. We have emphasised that the two-hectare site is necessary. On the map, the yellow circle indicates the two-hectare land that we require. I understand that they will provide a response to us after the next ...

HON. J. USAMATE.- Is that the one in yellow?

MR. S. KOROVULAVULA.- Yes, Sir. The site highlighted in yellow is on the other side. The main highway is the Kings Road. Mr. Chairman, Sir, another point for consideration is that Tavua can only expand in this direction. By placing these facilities there, it will facilitate and accelerate the town's development.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Mr. Chairman, Sir, are you planning to locate the market there, or the bus station as well?

MR. S. KOROVULAVULA.- Everything.

HON. P.K. BALA.- Do you not think it will be out of sight and away from the town centre?

MR. S. KOROVULAVULAI think, if we look at the current situation, it will appear so, but we should be looking ahead. The town will inevitably need to expand in this direction. We are preparing for that. We have already secured this site, and there are plans for some commercial structures to be developed here. There is a subdivision here that is already underway or nearly complete. This will not be an overnight development; it will likely take five to ten years. What this generation of administrators can do is make the area investment-ready.

The third item is the introduction of business licences, specifically the gazetting of new fees, which Ms. Lata has already mentioned. I am not certain whether this is an amendment to the Act or an operational requirement, but it is intended to give additional powers to our Enforcement Officers in three areas — traffic and parking control, careless and inconsiderate driving, and obstruction of public streets. We would appreciate it if this could be implemented. To make it meaningful for the Council, however, we need to retain a percentage of the fines and penalties collected for these matters. This will allow us to compensate Enforcement Officers and cover related operational costs.

Regarding the reintroduction of business licences, the Business Licensing (Repeal) Act of 2020 had an explanatory note with only two points:

1. The Business Licensing Act was promulgated in 1976 to establish a system of licensing businesses.
2. The Business Licensing Repeal Bill seeks to repeal the Act to abolish the system of licensing businesses.

No timeframe was provided for the Council to prepare for this significant change. For us, this represented a 10 percent reduction in revenue. We have encouraged it, Sir, but we do not wish to revert. There are consequences to this. That was the responsibility of the Council. We will not be able to regulate it or enforce the issuance of business licences. Additionally, we are unable to improve data collection regarding business activities in Tavua and the accommodation of various businesses in the town.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON.- Honourable Members, are there any questions related to that? Any further supplementary questions? Since there are no more questions, I have one question. I am

particularly interested in Garvey Park. I have observed the progress that Govind Park has made. What are your plans with respect to Garvey Park? The Four R Electric Govind Park Stadium is now, arguably, of international standard and is expected to host its first draw games next year. My question specifically concerns Garvey Park, as it is a significant source of revenue for the Council. Are there plans for major renovations, or any future developments that could, perhaps, allow it to host a Drua game? I am keen to understand the Council's plans for Garvey Park, given its importance as a revenue earner. We will certainly support the Council in this regard.

MR. S. KOROVULAVULA.- Deputy Chairman, Sir, it is indeed a good revenue earner for the Council, and we want to improve it. The main issue remains financial. We require Government funding to assist us with this. You will understand that the current facilities are probably not adequate for modern games, particularly night games, which have special requirements for higher-level competitions. If you visit Garvey Park, you will see that some structures are already twisted and in need of repair. Therefore, the park requires a substantial capital investment. We can only hope that the Government is prepared to assist us in this regard.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN.- Thank you very much, Mr. Korovulavula. Honourable Members, if there are no further questions, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs and the Honourable Speaker of Parliament, to thank the Special Administrator, Acting CEO, and Director of Corporate Services. Thank you very much for coming all the way from Tavua. I understand you left this morning, you are here, and you will be returning this afternoon. I wish you a safe trip.

The contributions and information you have provided will certainly be taken on board when the Committee compiles its report for tabling in Parliament. A major concern for me, while observing as Chair, is that we are discussing the 2019 Report in 2025. This represents another challenge for the Council. I urge the Council executives to ensure that your reports are up to date. You still have 2020 and subsequent reports pending. Annual Reports should be submitted on time. I understand that some may have already been submitted, possibly to the Ministry. From my perspective, I strongly encourage you to ensure that all your Annual Reports are current up to 2025. The presentation we are discussing now is looking considerably further back, so bringing your reports up to date is important.

HON. J. USAMATE.- Yes, currently, what is the status of your other annual reports? Which ones have you given to the Ministry?

MS. P. LATA.- 2020. We have been concentrating on completing our audit reports so that we can compile. Currently, our 2022, 2023 finance reports are being audited.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN.- Thank you for that information. You now have a clear understanding of the Committee's concerns, and I trust you will take them on board. As we adjourn, Honourable Members, kindly note that we have public submissions again tomorrow. To our submitters, I wish you safe travels back to Tavua.

The Committee adjourned at 3.59 p.m.

Question to Tavua Town Council (TTC) Annual Report for the year 2019

Financial Performance

1. What were the key revenue streams for TTC during this period, and how did they evolve over the years?

Rates

Last sexennial valuation was carried out in 2002. New sexennial valuation done in 2021. However, the new rates were brought into effect from 1st August 2023 (financial year 2023/2024 which has led to increase in rates revenue after 21 years.

Current Rates revenue generated as follows:

Financial year 2019	\$ 63,577 before valuation
Financial year 2023/2024	\$106,508 after valuation

Market

The evolution of market revenue for the Council over the years reflects changes in consumer behavior, funding levels, urban development and economic conditions. A steady and consistent income is continuously received from the market. Councils are largely focused on public service provision and not commercial income. The income generated from the market is offset with the expenditure incurred in the upkeep of the market.

Tavua Municipal Market has 326 stalls that caters for 100 full time vendors generating an annual income of about \$90,000.

Property rentals

In previous years, the Council has leased out properties to small eateries or canteens at low, subsidized rents. This was often to support affordable food options, especially near market and transport hubs. Rent was nominal and leases were often long-term.

Rental properties:

Lockup shops located in the Market	6
Handicraft	1
Canteen (Children's Park)	1

Parks

Initially, funding for parks came from general municipal budgets, primarily supported through property taxes or local government funding.

There were also small charges for specific activities or events, but overall, the focus was on providing free access for the public.

Now sporting bodies hold park events, such as rugby, soccer and carnivals which generate revenue for the council.

Commercial Stands Taxi, Carrier, Bus, Mini Bus

Overall, municipal council-managed commercial stands have moved from informal, unregulated spaces to more structured, regulated areas that support local economies.

Data for commercial stands and revenue generated:

Taxi Operators	44	\$6959 (VEP)
Carrier Operators	54	\$8540 (VEP)
Minibus Operators	10	\$3,600 (VEP)
Bus Operators	12	\$5,759 (VEP)

These statistics have fluctuated over the years. However, the number of bases allocated for these amenities remain same due to lack of land for expansion.

Prosecution and Booking

In year 2004 Council had installed 74 parking meters which generated revenue for the Council. However, those meters are not in operation and there is no revenue generated. Only bookings at the moment are only for litter and illegal. The Council is in the process of purchasing new parking meters which will bring in revenue for the Council.

Solid Waste Management

Council relied on the simple task of collecting and dumping waste in open areas in the years. There wasn't much focus on revenue generation from waste management, and it was mostly funded through Council budgets. Tavua Town Council was the only that was not charging for waste collection and disposal to its ratepayers or business community

The business license act was repealed in 2020 which led to the loss of \$70,000 of Council revenue. After the repeal the Council resolved to charge the business community for waste collection.

2. Can you provide insights into the major expenditures and how they contributed to operational efficiency?

Municipal council, major expenditures typically align with public service delivery, infrastructure maintenance, and community development. These expenditures are not just costs but strategic investments that aim to improve operational efficiency, service quality, and citizen satisfaction. The following is the overview of major expenditure areas in a municipal council and how they contribute to operational efficiency The Major operational expenditures for the council are mostly:

(a) Salaries and Wages

Salaries and wages paid to workforce. The workforce of the Council contribute to the service delivery and administration of the Council.

Contribution to operational efficiency:

Workforce Productivity: Properly compensated employees tend to be more motivated and effective, which leads to smoother operations.

(b) Infrastructure Maintenance & Capital Works – Upgrade of Drainage systems

In year 2019 Council received \$100,000 grant for the upgrade of drainage. Tavualevu village drain was upgraded together with drains near Garvey Park and other areas in town. The project was completed in year 2020.

Contribution to operational efficiency

This upgrade of the drain contributed to the reduction in flooding, and less complaints from residents.

(c) Waste Management

Council's waste collection program includes household waste collection 3 days a week. Market waste collected on daily basis. Council does not charge for waste collection to its Ratepayers. However, the business community are levied a minimum fee for waste collection as after the repeal of the Business Licence Act 204, there was no contribution from the business community towards the upkeep of the development of the town.

Green waste collected on monthly basis and the general waste (tins, cans, tyres white goods) are collected on quarterly basis.

Contribution to operational efficiency:

- Waste collection and disposal costs contribute to a cleaner and more sustainable environment.

(d) Operational and Administrative Costs

Costs related to the day-to-day running of municipal departments, including office supplies, utilities, and general administration.

Contribution to operational efficiency:

Efficient administrative operations reduce redundancy and improve decision-making. Careful management of office supplies, utility use, and other operational expenses ensures that funds are allocated effectively without unnecessary overhead.

Policy and Regulatory Changes

3. What major policy changes were implemented during this period, and how did they impact services?

- (a) Tavua Town Council was the only Council which was not levying garbage fee to either the ratepayers or the business community. After the repeal of the business licencing Act 204 led to the loss of substantial revenue for the Council. Thus, the board passed a policy to levy business community garbage fee from financial year 2023.

4. **Were there any amendments to regulations that directly affected rate payers?**

There were no amendments to regulations that affected the ratepayers directly. Council did not allow any discount on rates in year 2019. The reason being that there has been no increase in rates since 2002 (18 years).

Infrastructure Development

5. **What were the key infrastructure projects /capital works undertaken in 2019?**

In 2019, a Grant of \$100,000.00 was received from Water Authority of Fiji for the repair and maintenance of drains. This project was completed in 2020.

6. How did TTC ensure sustainability in its infrastructure / development plans?

The Town's infrastructure (public utilities) is maintained by the FRA through their normal cycle of programs while the Council continues to work on its own structures such as the Garvey Park stadium, the Multi-purpose Court, the Children's Park, the Market and its office building.

A crucial infrastructural development the Council is convinced needs to be done is a sewerage reticulation system for Tavua. Tavua also needs a new market complex.

7. Were there any delays or budget overruns on major projects, and what measures were taken to mitigate them?

There was no major overrun as TTC having limited always tries to be within the budget. Projects taken are mostly government funded or donor agencies.

Rate Collection

8. What initiatives or policies were introduced to improve debt collection in 2019?

- TTC began to adopt digital payment platforms, allowing ratepayers to pay their bills online. This convenience led to an increase in timely payments.
- Council sent reminders, and notices to individuals with overdue rates.
- Flexible payment options - Council allowed installment payment options to ratepayers who were unable to pay their rates in full. These plans allowed individuals to pay over time, which helped reduce the burden on low-income households and allowed the municipality to collect revenue over a longer period

9. Were there any changes in revenue or rate collection by TTC.

There was no changes in the revenue or rate collection. Tavua is a small municipality with limited revenue base therefore Council attempts to collect the outstanding revenue.

Public Engagement and Transparency

10. How did TTC engage with the public and stakeholders to ensure transparency in decision making?

The Council had regular meetings with respective Government ministries, statutory bodies and international agencies on matters related to infrastructure (drainage and road rehabilitation); harmonization of market operations (M4C); waste management (JICA); business houses and with the District administration on general operational matters relating to the administration of the district.

11. Were there any public consultations or feedback mechanisms concerning the Development within TTC Boundaries?

Yes, through monthly district heads of government meeting chaired by the District Officer.

SDG's and Gender

12. How well has TTC addressed the Sustainable Development Goals, such as Gender equality?

Of the three departments within the Council: 75% of the Finance and Administration and 50% of the Health and Building departments are staffed by females, and, for obvious reasons all of our General Workers are male.

TTC is also very conscience of its obligation to the SDGs three main focus areas, being: environmental protection; economical stability and social well-being of the townspeople and those who lives within the Greater Tavua area.

Performance

13. Please explain how well you have performed against the targets of your Operational and Strategic Plans.

Good, in that there is confidence in achieving our targeted revenues, TTC continues to reduce its arrears through persistent and sustained follow-ups.

TTC continues to furnish Government with on-time delivery of mandatory reports and it will continue to do so.

14. How does your Council perform when compared to other Councils in FIJI?

In terms of collection of rates and other charges, TTC has been doing well.

On the other areas of operation, TTC's restrictive revenue sources is a major road-block factor compared to the other Councils, especially the larger and medium sized municipalities.

Tavua in a Nutshell

Declared a town on 27th April, 1992. It is the trading centre for families engaged in the mining sector at VGM, the water bottling plants Fiji Water, Island Chills and the villages adjacent to it.



Area: 95.5Ha
Population: 5,000

Rate Payers:

- 1. Residential - 169**
- 2. Commercial - 102**
- 3. Industrial - 2**
- 4. Special - 5**
- 5. Rural - 1**
- 6. P/Open Space - 5**
- 7. Civic - 24**
- 8. CDEV - 3**

Total - 311

(Revaluation Roll 2021)

The Three Issues To Be Resolved

- 1) Sewerage Reticulation System**
- 2) New Market & PSV Stands**
- 3) Review of Governing Legislations**

NDP 2025-2029 Vision 2050

Chapter 7.3 – Ensuring Availability and Sustainability of Water and Sanitation

Goal:	Ensuring Availability and Sustainable Management of Water and Sanitation
Policy:	Expand Access to Ensure Equity in the Provision of Water and Sanitation
Strategies:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Implement necessary strategies to migrate from the use of individual septic tanks to standardized treatment systems.2) Construct regional centralized sewerage plants with larger treatment capabilities and efficient technologies.

Reference: pages 167 & 168 NDP 2025-2029 Vision 2050

Data on Business House Waste Water and Sewerage Discharge 2024

No. Bldgs	No. Business	No. Workers	S/T in Bldg	Common S/T	Soakage Pits
45	129	619	4	26	27

Data on Houses in Tavualevu Village Waste Water and Sewerage Discharge 2024

No. Bldgs	Flush Toilets	Water Sealed	Pit Latrine	No Toilet	Soakage Pit
222	213	4	3	2	Unknown

Sewerage Reticulation system for Tavua – WAF commitment

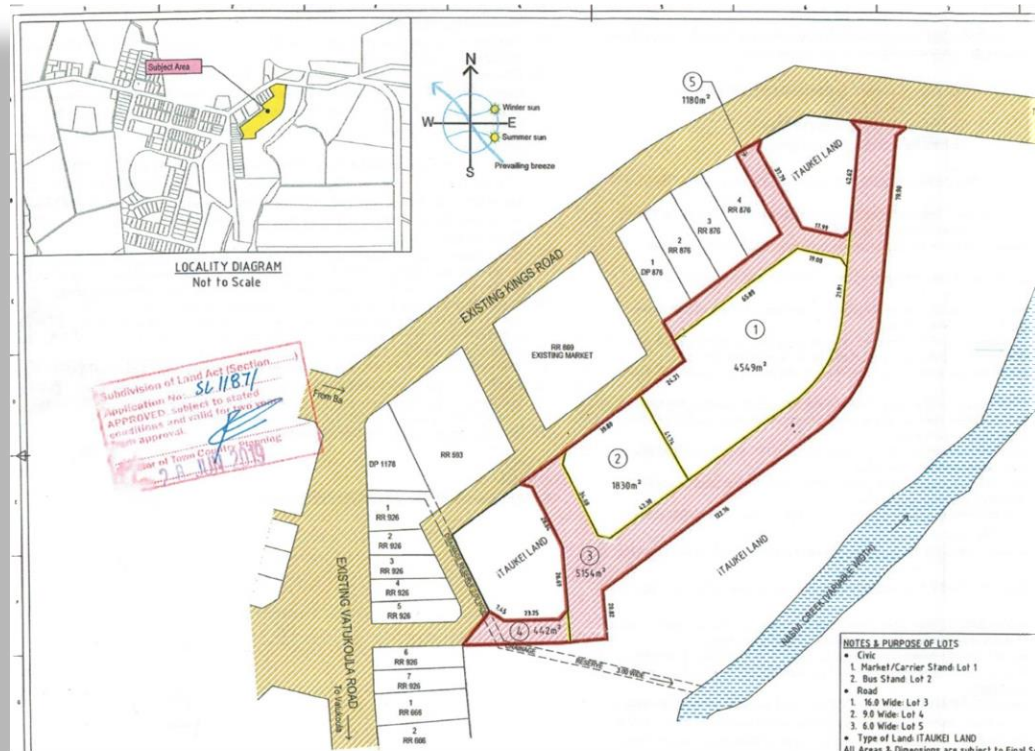
The introduction of a dedicated sewerage reticulation network and treatment plant for Tavua is planned within WAF's medium- to long-term capital investment horizon

Preliminary planning timelines envisage:

- Feasibility and Environmental Assessments: ~18–24 months**
- Detailed Design and Land Acquisition/Negotiations for Easements: ~24 months**
- Construction and Commissioning: ~3–4 years**

Progress on these stages is highly dependent on the timely availability of funds under WAF's national and development partner programs, as well as early resolution of land and easement requirements with key stakeholders.

Market Site – Flood Prone An Engineering Nightmare



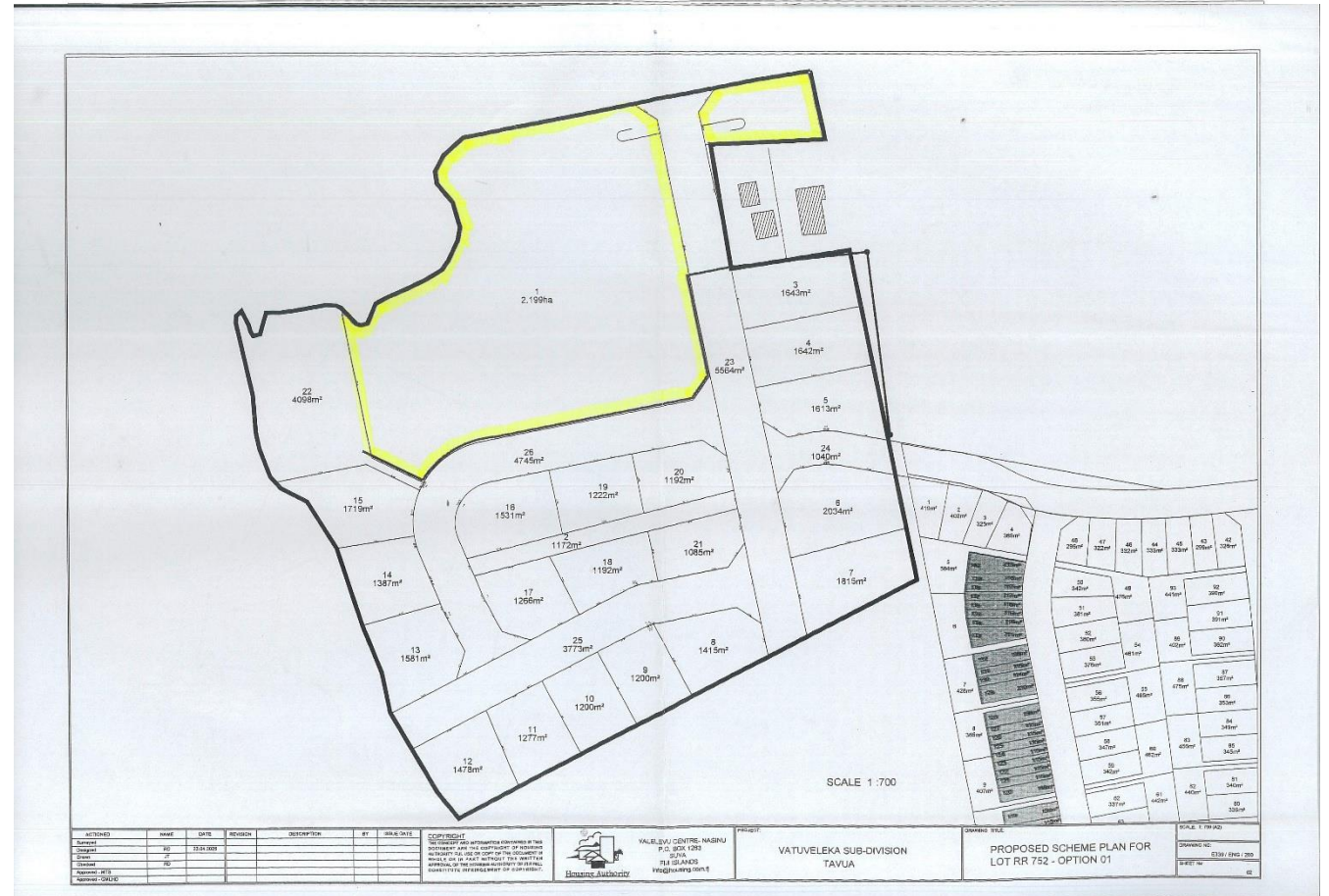
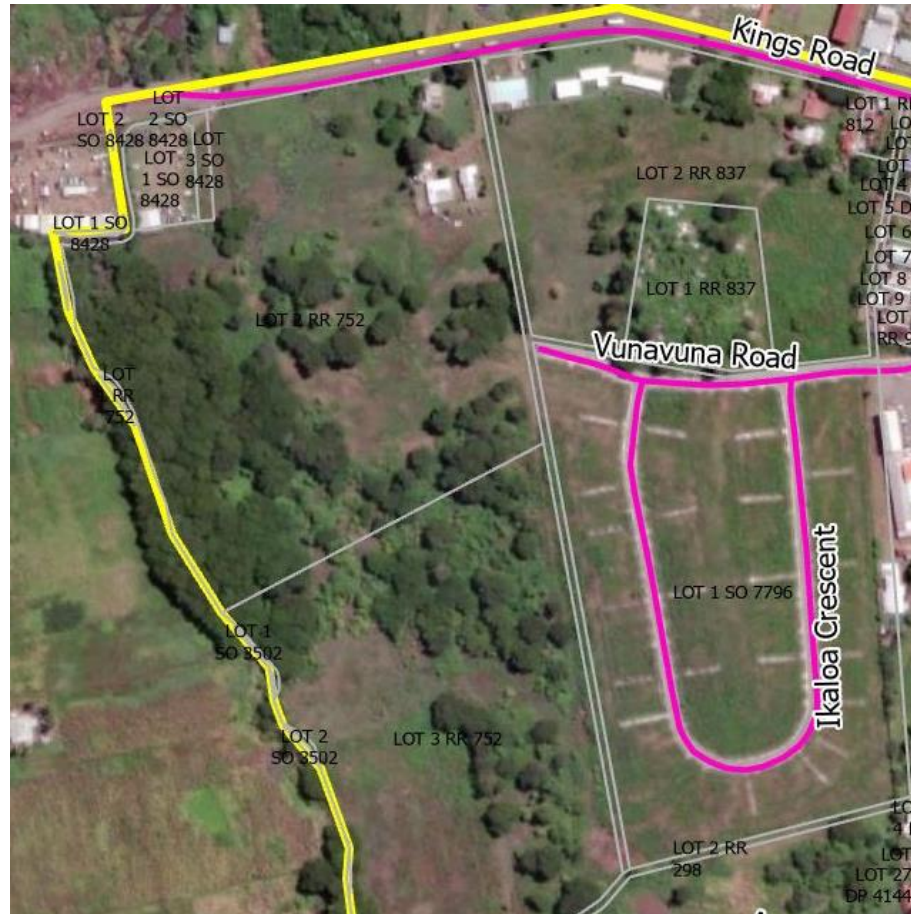
Approved Scheme Plan for new market site



Subject land – a flood prone area in Tavua

Land issues – Intra-LOU issues; LOU logistics on de-reservation; Tenant and TLTB legal issues.

Potential Site of the New Market



Need For A Review Of Governing Legislations

- 1) Reintroduction of Business Licences
- 2) Gazetting of New Fees and Charges
- 3) Empowerment through additional delegation of powers for Council Enforcement Officers
 - a) Traffic and Parking Control
 - b) Careless and Inconsiderable Driving
 - c) Obstruction of Public Street
 - d) Delegation of FRA Powers

To re-introduce of Business Licence Fees

Business Licensing (Repeal) Bill 2020 Explanatory Note

- The Business Licensing Act was promulgated in 1976 to institute a system of licensing of businesses
- The Business Licensing (Repeal) Bill seeks to repeal the Act to abolish the system of licensing of businesses

Consequences of the Repeal Act to Tavua Town Council

- Drop of about 11% of Annual Revenue for the Council
- Regulation and Enforcement
- Data Collection and Statistics
- Realignment of services

Thanks

[Draft] (No subject)

From

Draft saved Mon 11/24/2025 3:24 PM

To tavuatowncouncil <ttc@connect.com.fj>

From: tavuatowncouncil <ttc@connect.com.fj>

Sent: Wednesday, November 19, 2025 3:44 PM

To: Lia Korodrau <lia.korodrau@legislature.gov.fj>; Rishi Dutt <rishi.dutt@legislature.gov.fj>

Cc: 'Sireli Korovulavula' <sqkfarm@gmail.com>

Subject: RE: Tavua Town Council - Repeal Business Licensing Act 2020

\$52,349.00 VEP in year 2020. (Collected from 1st January 2020 to 31st July 2020)

It was announced in 2020/2021 national budget that effective from 1st August 2020 business licence would be abolished and fees no longer collected by Council.

So from 1st August 2020 no business licence fee was collected by the Council.

Regards

PRAVEEN L. PRAKASH

CORPORATE MANAGER

From: tavuatowncouncil <ttc@connect.com.fj>

Sent: Wednesday, November 19, 2025 3:23:09 PM

To: Lia Korodrau <lia.korodrau@legislature.gov.fj>; Rishi Dutt <rishi.dutt@legislature.gov.fj>

Cc: 'Sireli Korovulavula' <sqkfarm@gmail.com>

Subject: RE: Tavua Town Council - Repeal Business Licensing Act 2020

BUSINESS LICENCE REVENUE (VEP)

2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
\$ 66,786.00	\$ 66,652.00	\$ 66,751.00	\$ 69,729.00	\$ 63,996.00	\$ 67,888.00

Regards

PRAVEEN L. PRAKASH

CORPORATE MANAGER

TAVUA TOWN COUNCIL

PHONE: 9996130

From: Sireli Korovulavula <sgkfarm@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 19 November 2025 3:08 pm
To: tavuatowncouncil <ttc@connect.com.fj>
Subject: Fwd: Tavua Town Council - Repeal Business Licensing Act 2020

CM

Please provide details for the appropriate response

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Lia Korodrau <lia.korodrau@legislature.gov.fj>
Date: Wed, 19 Nov 2025, 3:05 pm
Subject: Tavua Town Council - Repeal Business Licensing Act 2020
To: Sireli Korovulavula <sgkfarm@gmail.com>
Cc: Rishi Dutt <rishi.dutt@legislature.gov.fj>

Good afternoon Sir,

The Committee is in its final stage of finalizing the Tavua Town Council 2018 Annual report.

The Committee would like to know the amount that has been lost when the Act was implemented.

Vinaka