



## FIJI-AUSTRALIA AND AUSTRALIA-FIJI BUSINESS COUNCILS JOINT FORUM



STRATEGY FOR A

# Shifting Landscape

27 – 29  
AUGUST 2026

Grand Pacific Hotel,  
Suva, Fiji

## PROGRAMME

### DAY 1: Thursday, 27 August 2026

*Dress Code: Business or Bula*

|                |                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3:00 – 8:00 PM | Registration Desk Open <i>Conference Centre at GPH</i>                                                                                                      |
| 5:30 PM        | Cocktail and Networking                                                                                                                                     |
| 6:30 PM        | <b>WELCOME RECEPTION AND DINNER</b> <i>Sponsored by Digicel Pacific</i>                                                                                     |
| 7:00 PM        | Chief Guest Address by Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka, Prime Minister of Fiji and Minister for Civil Service, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics |
| 8:30 PM        | Magic Minute <i>Presented by Digicel Pacific</i>                                                                                                            |

### DAY 2: Friday, 28 August 2026

*(All day espresso sponsored by Vision Commercials) Dress Code: Business Casual*

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| 7:15 AM  | Registration Desk Open <i>Pre-function Lobby (next to the Ballroom) at GPH</i>                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 8:15 AM  | Welcome by FABC President, Himen Chandra                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 8.30 AM  | Address by Hon. Manoa Kamikamica, Deputy Prime Minister of Fiji and Minister for Industries, Commerce, Business Development and Public Enterprises                                                                                                                 |
| 9:00 AM  | <b>Session 1: The Macro &amp; Industrial Dialogue</b><br>Ariff Ali, Governor, Reserve Bank of Fiji   Justin Smirk, Senior Economist, Westpac Australia   Filimone Waqabaca, CEO, Fiji Development Bank & Chairman, Investment Fiji<br><b>Moderator: Saud Minam</b> |
| 9:55 AM  | Q & A for the Full Panel                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 10:15 AM | Morning Refreshments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 10:45 AM | <b>Session 2: The Vuvale Union Strategic Briefing</b><br>High Commissioner Peter Roberts, OAM, Australian Government   Representative of the Fiji Government<br><b>Moderator: Emily Wilson</b>                                                                     |

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|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11:25 AM        | Q & A for the Full Panel                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>11:45 AM</b> | <b>Session 3: The Multilateral Fireside Chat</b><br>Jerome Kado, Partner, Grant Thornton   Shuichi Hayashida, Regional Manager for PPP Transaction Advisory, IFC, World Bank Group   Mathew Rees, Operational Director, Asian Development Bank (ADB)<br><b>Moderator: Glenis Yee</b>                                                                             |
| 12:25 PM        | Q & A for the Full Panel                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>12:45 PM</b> | <b>Networking Lunch</b> <i>Sponsored by Swire Shipping</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>2:00 PM</b>  | <b>Session 4: Horizon Scanning: Workforce Trends, New Business Models, and the Power of Standards</b><br>Gareth McGrath, Pacific Australia Skills   Carline Bentley, Market Development Facility<br>Jesse Riddell, Head of International, Standards Australia<br><b>Moderator: Mark Halabe</b>                                                                   |
| 2:55 PM         | Q & A for the Full Panel                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 3:15 PM         | Afternoon Tea                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>3:45 PM</b>  | <b>Session 5: Vuvale Voices: Advancing Trade and Investment Together</b><br>Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe, Consul-General Manager NZ-Pacific, Austrade   Incoming Trade Commissioner – Pacific, Austrade   Leata Alaimoana-Roberts, CEO, Australia-Fiji Business Council   Daniel Stow, Fiji's Trade Commissioner to Australia & NZ<br><b>Moderator: Tim Houghton</b> |
| 4:25 PM         | Q & A for the Full Panel                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 4:55 PM         | Remarks by AFBC President, Zane Yoshida                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 5:00 PM         | Day 1 Sessions Conclude                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 6:30 PM         | Cocktail and Networking                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>7:00 PM</b>  | <b>FORUM GALA DINNER</b> <i>Sponsored by Westpac Fiji</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 7:30 PM         | Dinner Speaker: Shane Hussein, General Manager Commercial at Fijian Drua                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 8:00 PM         | Magic Minute <i>Presented by Westpac</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

## DAY 3: Saturday, 29 August 2026

*(Half day espresso sponsored by Vision Commercials). Dress Code: Forum Shirt/Blouse*

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|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>8:30 AM</b> | <b>Session 6: Strategic Dialogue – Energy Transition in a Time of Fuel Crisis</b><br>Rokoseru Nabalarua, Chairman, Energy Fiji Limited (EFL)   Dr. Sarina Theys, Coordinator of Diplomacy & International Affairs, USP   Peter Johnston, Chair of the Executive Committee, Sustainable Energy Industry Association of the Pacific Islands (SEIAP)   Vineil Narayan, Project Manager, Blue Economy Portfolio, Fiji Rural Electrification Fund (FREF)<br><b>Moderator: Bruce Sutton</b> |
| 9:20 AM        | Q & A for the Full Panel                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

**9:50 AM**

**Session 7: Olympic Opportunities (Brisbane 2032)**

Kamal Chetty, CEO, Investment Fiji | Kit McConnell, Chief Sport Officer, Brisbane Organising Committee for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games | Atma Maharaj, Strategic Lead, Fiji Olympic and Paralympic Decade Initiative (FASANOC)

**Moderator: Cathy Wong, President, Fiji Association of Sports and National Olympic Committees (FASANOC)**

10:30 AM

Q & A for the Full Panel

11:00 AM

Morning Refreshments and Group Photo Session

**11:30 AM**

**Session 8: Fireside – Connectivity, Destination Branding & Tourism**

Paul Scurrah, CEO, Fiji Airways | Dr. Paresh Pant, CEO, Tourism Fiji | Emily King, General Counsel, Fiji National Provident Fund

**Moderator: Ajay Raniga**

12:10 PM

Q & A for the Full Panel

12:30 PM

Day 2 Sessions Conclude

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