



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: Bula FABC Colours

3:00 – 8:00 PM	Registration Desk Open <i>Conference Centre at GPH</i>
5:30 PM	Cocktail and Networking
6:30 PM	WELCOME RECEPTION AND DINNER <i>Sponsored by Digicel Pacific</i>
6:40 PM	Welcome and 40th Anniversary address by FABC President, Himen Chandra
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

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	Session 1: The Vuale Union Strategic Briefing High Commissioner Peter Roberts, OAM, Australian Government Moderator: Emily Wilson
9:30 AM	Q & A for the Full Panel
10:00 AM	Morning Refreshments
10:30 AM	Session 2: The Macro & Industrial Dialogue Ariff Ali, Governor, Reserve Bank of Fiji Justin Smirk, Senior Economist, Westpac Australia Filimone Waqabaca, CEO, Fiji Development Bank & Chairman, Investment Fiji Moderator: Saud Minam

11:00 AM	Q & A for the Full Panel
11:20 AM	Session 3: The Multilateral Fireside Chat 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) Moderator: Glenis Yee
12:20 PM	Q & A for the Full Panel
12:40 PM	Networking Lunch <i>Sponsored by Swire Shipping</i>
2:00 PM	Session 4: Horizon Scanning: Workforce Trends, New Business Models, and the Power of Standards Gareth McGrath, Pacific Australia Skills Carline Bentley, Market Development Facility Jesse Riddell, Head of International, Standards Australia Moderator: Mark Halabe
2:55 PM	Q & A for the Full Panel
3:15 PM	Afternoon Tea
3:45 PM	Session 5: Vuvale Voices: Advancing Trade and Investment Together Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe, Consul-General Manager NZ-Pacific, Austrade Rachel Howard, Incoming Trade Commissioner – Pacific, Austrade Leata Alaimoana-Roberts, CEO, Australia-Fiji Business Council Daniel Stow, Fiji's Trade Commissioner to Australia & NZ Tim Martin, Trade Commissioner, Pacific Trade Invest Australia Moderator: Tim Houghton
4:25 PM	Q & A for the Full Panel
4:55 PM	Remarks by AFBC President, Zane Yoshida
5:00 PM	Day 2 Sessions Conclude
6:30 PM	Cocktail and Networking
7:00 PM	FORUM GALA DINNER <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

8:30 AM	Session 6: Strategic Dialogue – Energy Transition in a Time of Fuel Crisis 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) Moderator: Bruce Sutton
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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: Panel Discussion - Connectivity and Tourism Investments Paul Scurrah, CEO, Fiji Airways Emily King, General Counsel, Fiji National Provident Fund (FNPF) Moderator: Ajay Raniga
12:10 PM	Q & A for the Full Panel
12:30 PM	Closing Remarks by Vice President of AFBC, David Gibson
12:45 PM	Day 3 Sessions Conclude

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