

FIJI-AUSTRALIA AND AUSTRALIA-FIJI BUSINESS COUNCILS JOINT FORUM

FIJI
AUSTRALIA
BUSINESS
COUNCIL

Australia—Fiji
Business Council

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	WELCOME RECEPTION AND DINNER <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

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 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
9:55 AM	Q & A for the Full Panel
10:15 AM	Morning Refreshments
10:45 AM	Session 2: The Vuvale Union Strategic Briefing High Commissioner Peter Roberts, OAM, Australian Government Representative of the Fiji Government Moderator: Emily Wilson

11:25 AM	Q & A for the Full Panel
11:45 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
12:25 PM	Q & A for the Full Panel
12:45 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 Incoming Trade Commissioner – Pacific, Austrade Leata Alaimoana-Roberts, CEO, Australia-Fiji Business Council Daniel Stow, Fiji's Trade Commissioner to Australia & NZ Moderator: Tim Houghton
4:25 PM	Q & A for the Full Panel
5:00 PM	Day 1 Sessions Conclude
6:30 PM	Cocktail and Networking
7:00 PM	FORUM GALA DINNER <i>Sponsored by Westpac Fiji</i> Dinner Speaker: Shane Hussein, General Manager Commercial at Fijian Drua

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
09:20 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

Closing Summation: AFBC President, Zane Yoshida

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