

# **MEDIA RELEASE**



## **FSC ANNOUNCES COVID-19 RESPONSE PLAN**

*14 April 2020*

Having assessed the risks and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and noting the actions of other businesses in Fiji, the Fiji Sugar Corporation (FSC) today announced its COVID-19 response plan for continuity and sustainability of the business.

“The FSC is exposed to both the global and local impacts of the pandemic and we’ve had to make some hard decisions for long-term sustainability of the business and industry,” FSC CEO Graham Clark said. “We are also taking these actions to ensure we can start our 2020 crushing season in June as planned for minimum impact on our sugarcane farmers.”

Effective immediately, FSC will implement the following measures under its COVID-19 response plan:

- Cut back in procurement to essential items only;
- Tighter control and reduction of maintenance spending;
- Services and contracted activities will be sealed back;
- A pay cut ranging from a minimum of 15% for executive management, 7.5% for staff officers and 5% for all non-staff employees;
- Administration and support roles have been reviewed and for an initial period of four months, unpaid leave will be introduced for some 130 employees identified across all operations;
- Retirement and employment contract expiry will be implemented as these fall due.

“These matters have been discussed and shared with the leadership of all FSC employee-affiliated unions,” Mr Clark added. “We are grateful for their support on these necessary interventions during these trying times.”

Mr Clark added: “On behalf of the management and Board of FSC, I would like to thank and acknowledge staff for their dedication and loyalty during these difficult and uncertain times. I also want to assure everyone that FSC remains committed to Fiji as we take steps forward to sustain this vital industry.”

Mr Clark thanked the Government of Fiji for their swift and decisive actions to limit the spread of COVID-19, as well as the healthcare and emergency services working tirelessly to keep Fiji safe.

**ENDS**

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