



Australia Fiji Business Council

FIJI MILITARY TAKEOVER CONDEMNED

The Australia Fiji Business Council today condemned the military takeover in Fiji, and called on the Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) to allow the constitutionally elected democratic government of Fiji to exercise its mandate from the people of Fiji to govern the country.

Fiji's international reputation is being seriously damaged by the action of the RFMF, and will have severe long term economic consequences for the Fiji economy and, most sadly of all, for the ordinary workers of Fiji.

The economy is already suffering a downturn, and many ordinary workers in Fiji are being stood down from their jobs with serious consequences for themselves and their families. This will certainly accelerate especially should tourism cancellations for the months ahead maintain their current volume levels.

The Council noted that many Australians are continuing to travel to Fiji for holidays, and urged others who may be reconsidering their plans to carefully weigh up the circumstances prevailing in Fiji before making any changes. It noted that most of the turmoil in Fiji has been based in Suva and that, as on previous occasions of political uncertainty in Fiji, the resort areas in other parts of the Fiji islands remain unaffected by these events.

The Council called on the Australian government to reconsider its travel advice on Fiji, and to downgrade the advice in relation to areas in Fiji outside Suva by at least one level to help limit further damage to Fiji's economically crucial tourism industry and to minimise economic hardship for many local Fiji people.

The Council further called on the Australian government to ensure that any response to the military takeover avoids any action which might increase the economic damage to the ordinary people of Fiji. In particular, the imposition of any trade or economic sanctions which affect the tourism industry and other Fiji industry will only lead to economic hardship for people whose electoral will has been overthrown and who are powerless to themselves act against the illegal military takeover

BRISBANE
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