



**FIJI METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE
GOVERNMENT OF REPUBLIC OF FIJI**

MEDIA RELEASE

**MAJOR RIVERS FLOODED IN THE WESTERN DIVISION, RAIN EXPECTED TO EASE FROM
THE WEST LATER TODAY AND THE REST OF THE GROUP EARLY TOMORROW**

Issued at 12.30 pm, Sunday 17th March 2024

Key Messages

1. A **Heavy Rain Warning** remains in force for the whole of Fiji Group.
2. A **Flood Warning** remains in force for the flood prone areas adjacent and downstream of major rivers of Vanua Levu, and Western Viti Levu [Sigatoka through Nadi, Lautoka, Ba, Tavua, Rakiraki upto Korovou].
3. A **Flood Alert** remains in force for the flood prone areas adjacent and downstream of Wainibuka, Wainimala, Waindina, Waimanu, Rewa and Nauva Rivers.
4. A **Flash Flood Warning** remains in force for all flash flood prone areas, small streams and low lying areas of Vanua Levu and western Viti Levu covering from Sigatoka, Nadi, Lautoka, Ba, Tavua to Rakiraki.
5. **FLASH FLOOD ALERT** remains in force for all flash flood prone areas, small streams and low lying areas for the rest of Fiji.
6. A **Strong Wind Warning** remains in force for Yasawa and Mamanuca Waters, Kadavu and Vatu-i-Ra Passages, Koro Sea, and Southern Lau Waters.
7. Troughs of low pressure with associated cloud and rain are anticipated to affect the country till later Friday(22/03/24).

Details

An active trough of low pressure with associated cloud and heavy rain continues to affect the country. The trough is slowly moving northwards with rain expected to ease over most parts of Viti Levu, Southern Lau group, Kadavu and nearby smaller islands from later today and the rest of the group from early tomorrow. This trough is anticipated to lie just to the north of Fiji tomorrow. This same trough of low pressure is expected to drift southwards again from Tuesday and affect the country till Friday. This system is expected to continue to bring rain until late next week. Consequently, a Heavy Rain Warning remains in force for the whole of Fiji Group (Figure 1).

A flood warning remains in force for flood prone areas adjacent and downstream of major rivers of Vanua Levu, and Western Viti Levu [Sigatoka through Nadi, Lautoka, Ba, Tavua, Rakiraki upto Korovou] and a flood alert remains in force for flood prone areas adjacent and downstream of Wainibuka, Wainimala, Waindina, Waimanu, Rewa and Nauva Rivers.

Low-lying and flood-prone locations may experience flash floods as a result of localized heavy rainfall. The ground is saturated with continuous rain of the past couple of days. This increases the risk of major river flooding, flash flooding and also landslides. A Flash Flood Alert remains in force for all flood-prone areas, small streams and low-lying areas of the Fiji Group.

Gusty conditions are possible in squally thunderstorms.

Meanwhile, a Strong Wind Warning previously in force for Southwest Viti Levu and Kadavu waters is cancelled but remains in force for Yasawa and Mamanuca waters, Vatu-i-Ra Passage, Northern Vanua Levu waters, Koro Sea, and Southern Lau Waters. Northwest winds of 20 to 25 knots with gusts of 30 knots at times are likely in these areas. Rough seas with poor visibility in areas of heavy rain expected.

The Fiji Meteorological Service will keep an eye on this weather phenomenon and update forecasts and warnings as necessary.

For more information and clarification, please contact the National Weather Forecasting Centre at (679) 6724888/9905376 or via email at all-fcstrs@met.gov.fj.

For the latest forecasts, you can visit the Fiji Meteorological Service website at www.met.gov.fj or you can follow us on Facebook.

Click on the link to access the latest Heavy Rain Warning update:

<https://www.met.gov.fj/index.php?page=warn1#20014.txt>

Click on the link to access the latest Flood Alerts and Warnings update:

<https://www.met.gov.fj/index.php?page=warn1#20016.txt>

<https://www.met.gov.fj/index.php?page=warn1#20018.txt>

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Figure 1: Areas under Heavy Rainfall Warning as at 12.30pm on 17th March 2024.

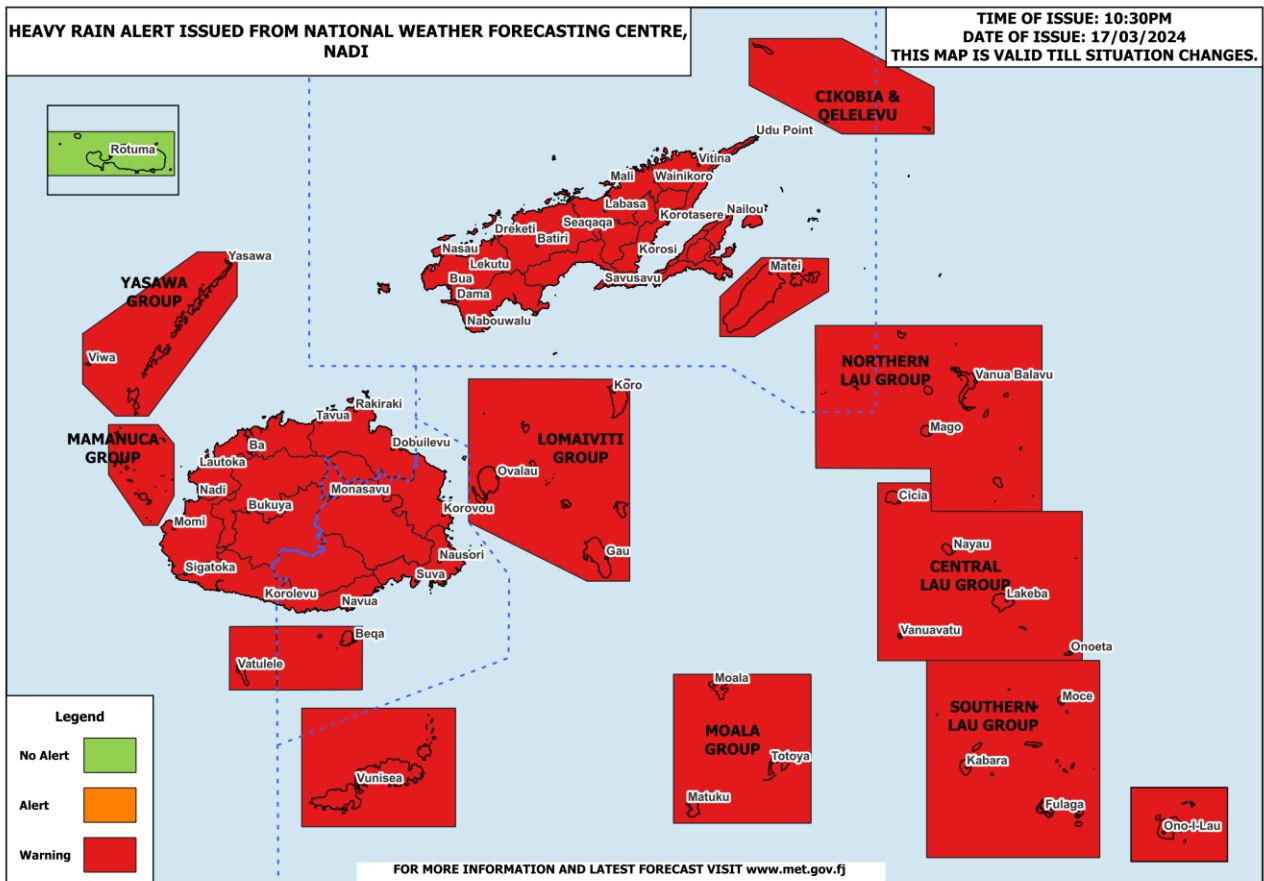


Figure 2: Areas under Flash Flood Alert/Warning as at 12.00pm on 17th March 2024.

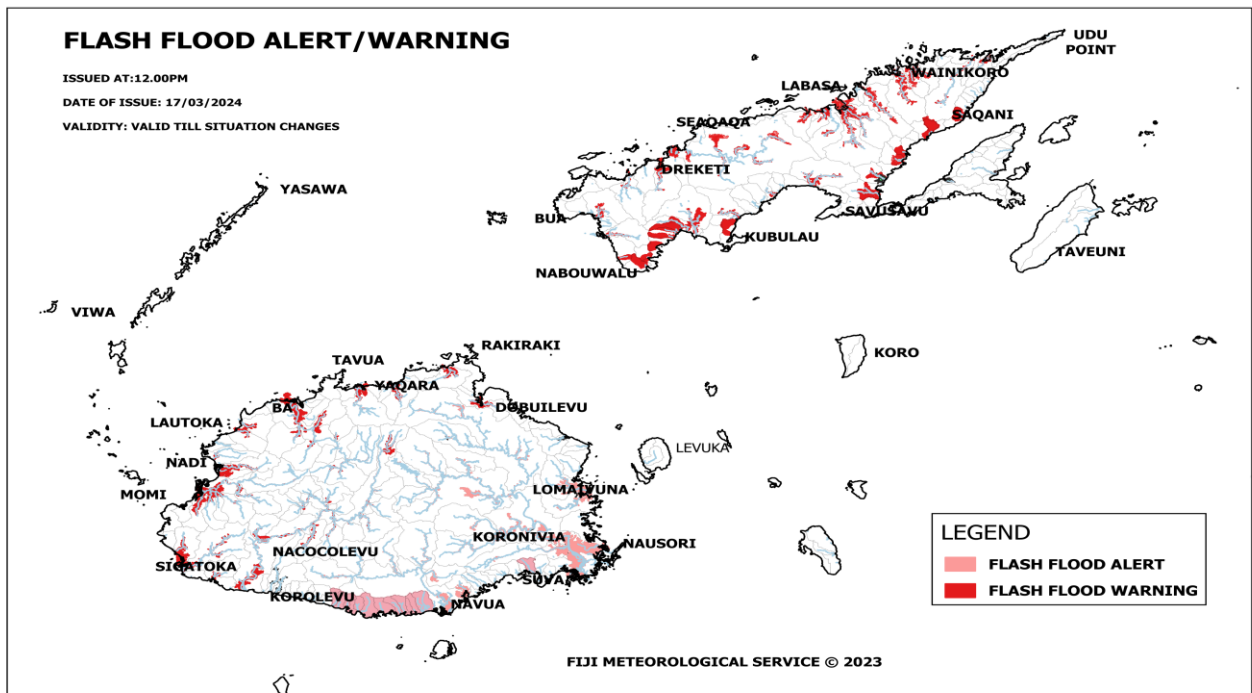


Figure 3: River Levels as at 12:00pm on the 17th of March, 2024..

Water level at 12.00pm 17/03/2024

