

Tax Talk- FRCS works on building smart border for seamless trade, travel and transport

As the world increasingly moves towards working smarter using latest technologies, the Fiji Revenue and Customs Services (FRCS) is also strengthening its endeavor towards building smart borders for seamless trade, travel and transport.

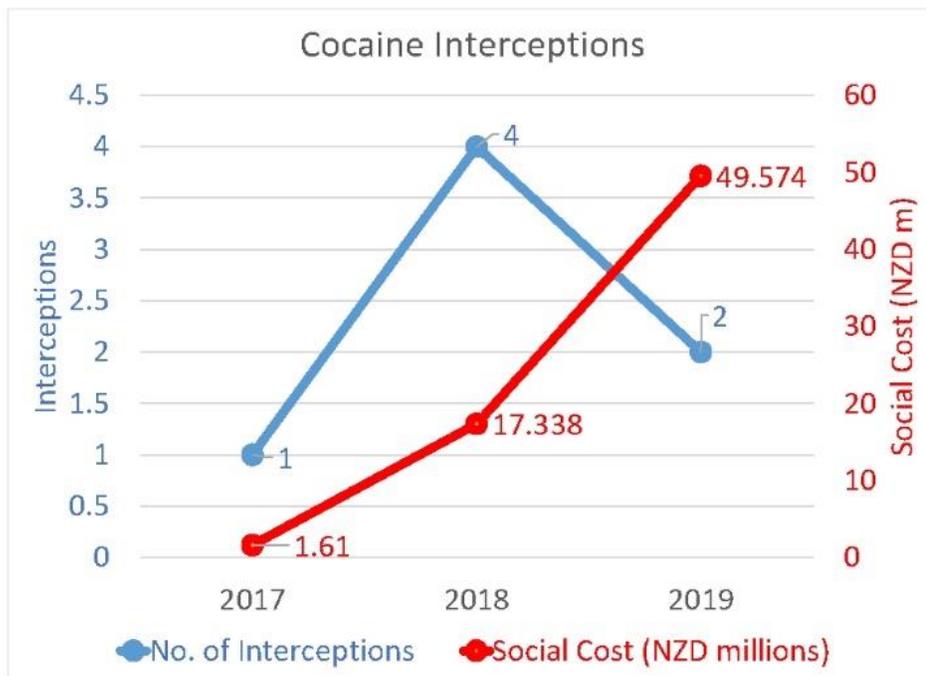
This comes amid facilitating trade and travel, whilst mitigating threats inherent in the cross-border flow of goods, people and means of transport.

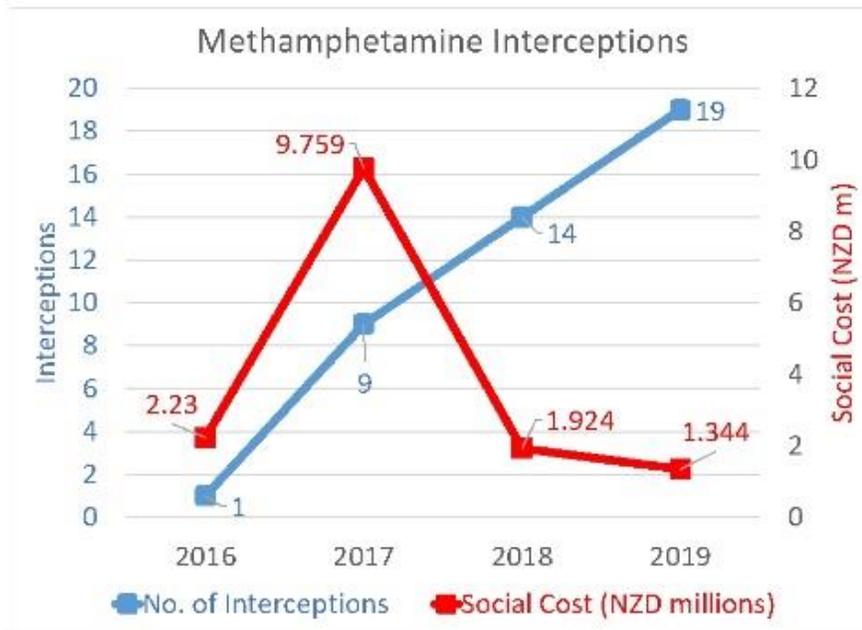
FRCS is focused on securing and facilitating legitimate trade. The rapid and safe movement of people and goods across borders encourages trade, travel and transport, and FRCS has the dual task of facilitating this flow while securing its border. FRCS is determined and focused to achieve this goal through the following initiatives.

Establishment of the Fiji Detector Dog Unit

The Fiji Detector Dog Unit (FDDU) was established in November 2016 and since then the FDDU has detected 51 cases of methamphetamine and cocaine smuggling at our borders. The 68 kilograms of drugs seized during this period has an associated social cost of FJD\$116,473,062.00.

The graphics below provide detailed interception of drugs by the Fiji Detector Dog Unit since 2016.





In addition to hard drugs, the FDDU has also detected other narcotics like cannabis, steroids, Ephedrine (a methamphetamine precursor) and liquid products used for producing explosives. The interception of this contraband runs into millions of dollars. The FDDU unit also has the capacity to detect currencies that are smuggled at our borders and so far has helped stop thousands of dollars from illegally crossing our border.

With a capability to quickly screen a large volume of people and goods crossing our borders, the FDDU has enhanced the overall security of our border and that of neighboring countries as well.

Non-intrusive inspection technology (NII)

Effective from April 23, 2019, the FRCS along with Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF) have been using the Non-Intrusive Inspection (NII) Technology at the Suva Wharf.

Non-intrusive inspection technology (NII technology) refers to technical equipment and machines such as X-ray or gamma-ray imaging type equipment that allows the inspection of cargo without the need to open the means of transport and unload the cargo. This help in significantly reducing the number of physical inspection and time required for inspection thus minimizing delays in clearance.

Non-Intrusive Inspection technology has helped in detection of undeclared cargoes and upon screening, image showed inconsistency with the manifest, bill of lading & customs entries.

Rapiscan

The Government of the state of Israel donated a Rapiscan x-ray machine to FRCS on 27th July 2017. The machine delivers high quality results of baggage and parcel scanning and has the capability to screen explosives and narcotics. The Rapiscan machine is jointly used at the Nadi International Airport by BAF and FRCS.

Risk Management- Profiling of Passengers and Cargos

FRCS is continuously working to enhance our risk profiling capabilities of passengers, goods and aircrafts arriving into the country. This capability is critical to ensure legitimate trade and travel is facilitated while illicit trade and travel is detected and managed appropriately. Advance information on movement of travelers, goods and craft are critical and a core component of risk identification strategy.

The Customs Intelligence teams work closely with the frontline staff to ensure information is assessed and intelligence flows quickly to assist with risk identification, management and compliance activity across all import and export pathways.

Such profiling is used extensively by our Nadi Border Compliance team dedicated to targeted interventions and ensuring passengers are compliant with Fiji's laws. This team has identified multiple incursions including currency smuggling, skimming crime groups, drugs and other undeclared goods.

Implementation of Container Control Program- Fiji -Australia Vuvale partnership

Through the Fiji - Australia Vuvale Partnership initiative the Australian Border Force (ABF) is assisting Fiji in terms of capability building since August 2019. Sixty-one customs officers have been trained for the container control program.

The main aim of the Container Control Program (CCP) is to build capacity to improve risk management, supply chain security and trade facilitation in seaports, airports and land border crossings in order to prevent the cross-border movement of illicit goods. Under the program, countries exchange information with their counterparts (Inter-agency) to identify high-risk containers and cross border organized crimes.

The inter-agency container profiling units are also given access to a search and tracking system for containers. This system allows the users to search and track containers with specific destinations and also gives the user detailed information about the type of cargo, routing, freight payment methods and all information needed to profile and identify high-risk containers.

Collaboration with other border agencies

Smart Borders for Seamless Trade, Travel and Transport

Non-intrusive inspection technology (NII)



Fiji Detector Dog Unit

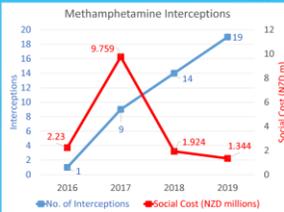
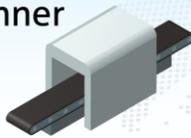


Social harm avoided: **FJD\$116.4 million**

Container Control Program



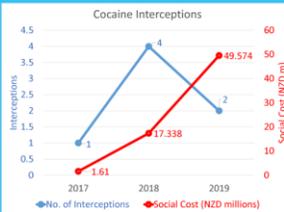
Rapiscan Scanner



Collaboration with other border agencies



Passenger and Cargo Profiling



Due to the nature of the Fiji's vast geography, FRCS also works closely with many other law enforcement agencies both domestically and internationally, to keep our borders safe from any existing threats. We also work with port administrators, marina owners, airlines, shipping agents on information sharing.

FRCS has also rolled out its Coast Watch Program, encouraging Fijians to be our eyes and ears on the ground and provide information to customs of any suspicious activities they come across.

Through information sharing and networking

amongst our respective agencies and other stakeholders we are able to do profiling to determine whether a vessel, aircraft, cargo and persons pose the greatest risks and requiring a search upon arrival and departing these ports of entry in Fiji.

Protecting our borders from the illegal movement of weapons, drugs, contraband and people while promoting lawful trade and travel, is essential to Fiji's economic prosperity and national sovereignty. Effective border security will help keep out criminal activity, terrorists, contraband, drugs and other public safety threats.

For more information please email us on info@frcs.org.fj