Overall Cook Islands General Government Budget vs Actual Performances for the quarter ended 30 September 2023

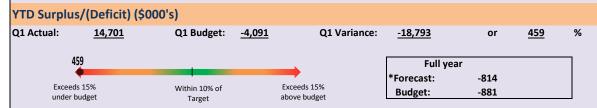


* Operating Revenue: The total Operating Revenue collected was \$3.19 million higher than anticipated for the quarter ended 30 September 2023. Taxation revenue collection was slightly higher than estimated compared to YTD budget estimates, due to increased business activity and consumer spending. There were also increases in Other Revenue of \$0.55 million (inclusive of Upper Air Space Fees of \$1.38 million, Immigration Fees of \$0.67 million and Core Sector Support of \$9.1 million), followed by Trading Revenue of \$1.56 million.

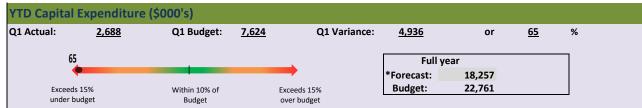
YTD Operating expenditure (\$000's)



* Operating Expenditure: The total Operating Expenses for General Government adjusted for depreciation for the year ended 30 September 2023 was \$43.7 million, which is \$15.5 million lower than budget estimates. This was mainly due to an overall underspend in day-to-day operational expenditure across the whole of Government ie. utilities, fuel and oil, freight etc. Government agencies are also aware of price increases and intend to take a more conservative approach regarding operation expenditure. There were also underspends in Personnel caused by vacant positions within Government that are expected to be filled within the next 3-6 months as well as savings in Administered Payments equal to \$4.78 million, mainly contributed by YTD underspends in Airline Underwrite (of \$497k) and Economic Recovery Roadmap (of \$517k).



* Government's Net Operating Position: The net operating balance for the quarter ended 30 September 2023 was \$14.7 million surplus. This was an improvement by \$18.7 million compared to the budget estimate of \$4.09 million deficit. Underspends Administered Payments amounting to \$4.78 million contributed to the improvement in Government's net operating balance, in addition to cost savings in Personnel (of \$2.82 million) and Operating (of \$4.98 million).



* Capital expenditure was significantly lower than budgeted by \$4.93 million for the quarter ended 30 September 2023. Significant underspends in Pa Enua Marine Infrastructure, Bridges, Structures and Road Asset Management have contributed to this. However much of the Roading Budget will be spent in Quarter 2. Agencies are encouraged to appropriately plan and manage their Capital Budgets to ensure budgets are spent in the allotted periods, however given the unpredictable nature of the operating environment, delays have occurred.

YTD Net Fiscal Surplus/(Deficit) (\$000's)



* General Government's Net Fiscal balance for the quarter ended 30 September 2023 was a \$15.85 million surplus. This was an improvement by \$23.72 million compared to the budget estimate of \$7.87 million deficit. Overall revenue collection was slightly higher than anticipated by \$3.19 million and cost savings in Personnel (of \$2.82 million) Operating (of \$4.98 million) and Administered Payments (of \$4.78 million) have contributed to the improvement in Government's net fiscal balance.

* Source - Cook Islands Government 2021/22 Half - Year Economic and Fiscal Update