RELIGION, THE CHRISTIAN STATE
AND THE SECULAR STATE: DISCOURSES DURING
THE 2014 FIJI GENERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN

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ABSTRACT:
This article explores discourses on the Christian state, secular state and religion in the media during the 2014 Fiji election campaign. Drawing on the mainstream written media and interviews by the author it outlines and analyses church positions on these issues and how they related to the political debate. Discourses on the Christian state and secular state play an important part in discourses on what it is to be a Christian in Fiji. Yet there is lack of clarity as to how people understand and use the terms Christian state and secular state, and discrepancies between official positions of churches and general Christian discourses and practices.

Key words: Elections, media, Christian state, secular state