

2025 General Election Manifesto

Jack Ford

Standing for the Camp Constituency

I have had the privilege of representing the Camp Constituency and the Falkland Islands for the past two years since my election in the 2023 by-election. I am seeking re-election for the chance to be able to continue working to ensure a stable and prosperous future for generations to come, with the benefits of the knowledge and experience I have gained during my time as a Member of the Legislative Assembly.

I believe the next Assembly must:

- Ensure the next Islands Plan is clear and concise, with a focus on the delivery of existing but prioritised projects and policies, while acknowledging the resources committed to the continued delivery of public services.
- Improve long-term planning with a vision for the future to try and shift away from the current reactionary system of government.
- Exercise sound fiscal management.

I have become increasingly concerned about the long-term economic future of the Falklands. The current financial challenges may only be short term and there are potential opportunities for the future, however the risk remains that if we continue on the current path we will put greater pressure on our existing revenues and reserves, which in turn threatens our ability to invest in future capital projects and fund the public services we have come to enjoy. It is important that we take a measured approach now and continue living within our means to avoid the need for uncomfortable knee-jerk reactions in the future.

The provision of public services is a core role of FIG. Whilst we must always be realistic and mindful of our small size and remoteness, it is important that we strive for continuous improvement in the efficiency and effectiveness of our services. However, this is only possible if we maintain a healthy financial position.

Correcting the infrastructure failings of the past remains a priority. While there will not always be agreement on the details of specific projects, there is agreement on the need to fix our critical national infrastructure. We have moved forward on several major projects, however the challenge is now delivery and ensuring costs are controlled.

The priorities for Camp should be:

- Continued delivery and maintenance of core infrastructure and services that support all businesses and individuals operating and living in Camp.
- A review of the range of existing funds allocated to support Camp in various ways, with an aim to consolidate knowledge and resources, where appropriate, to streamline the way support is delivered.

We are a nation built by immigrants, and we will continue to rely on those with the skills we are unable to produce locally. However, given our small size and the fragility of our health and education services and the availability of accommodation, we must strive to find the right balance to ensure

we do not place an excessive burden on these services. An immigration review is required to ensure the controls in place are sufficient.

The end of the last Assembly was dominated by several issues that still require work:

- The VSAT situation has been resolved. Focus must now shift to the future of telecommunication in the Falklands, what this will look like, and how we will ensure we learn from the past.
- The salmon farming consultation is to be completed. My mind remains open, and I will consider the outcome of the consultation and all the available information as part of the decision-making process, however, based on the information I have seen so far, I am not minded to support salmon farming in the Falklands.
- Work on hydrocarbons is ongoing. The key challenges will be ensuring sufficient regulatory control and oversight, and careful management of any financial returns received to ensure the maximum benefit for future generations.

This manifesto is not a detailed list of potential solutions to the challenges we face but a summary of the direction of travel I believe we should be taking. The next Assembly requires greater focus, collaboration, and a willingness to change to ensure we can take greater control of our finances, fix the foundations, and prepare for the future.

If elected, I will demonstrate a realistic, honest and measured approach to decision-making and leadership to ensure continued sustainable development and the protection of our Islands.

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