



Michael Goss

Camp Constituency 2025



Hello one and all. I am a sixth generation, born and raised Falkland Islander. I am a father, husband, farmer and a Camper to the core. Born in Stanley in 1985 and raised in the North Camp at my home of Horseshoe Bay.

If you would like to know more about me I will include this at the end. However before that let me get into the main reason I am writing this manifesto for the upcoming general election.

My driving principle is plain and simple. I am standing to represent the community at large. I feel that the role of an MLA needs to be driven by the people. Any person that has found themselves elected into office has a responsibility first and foremost to honour the trust put in them by the voters and the wider community.

All MLAs should be community representatives first and foremost, to give voice to the needs and concerns of their constituents. This is the only promise I shall make, I am fully committed to represent YOU.

Agriculture:

We have had the hardest years in the Camp since the early 90s. Brexit, Covid 19, the Ukraine war and ultimately the global recession. We are struggling and to be blunt there has been little to no aid given, (other than knee jerk reactions). I personally will never forget the words of one of our heads of the DOA, "Sink or swim." This train of thought needs to be dispelled and rectified. Farms and businesses require financial assistance and I fully intend to see that happen.

Tourism:

With the recent added cost put onto our overseas visitors, it is very clear we will lose yet more vital revenue and global awareness from these people coming in visiting our Island home. The increased landing fee was never given public consultation and it needs to be lowered to ensure the future of tourism in the Islands. Bird Flu is also a huge concern and I believe that more stringent methods of cross contamination prevention will be necessary.

Camp Roads:

Year on year it seems to come as a complete surprise to people that winter happens. The roads get a good hammering all through the season and then when winter hits it is the final straw. The great pothole migration begins anew. Pouring material on top and grading it off year on year hasn't accomplished the desired result yet and quite frankly never will.

What is required is in these known problem areas the road needs digging out, a proper foundation and basing put in then lay the good material on top. In the areas around Camp where the capping material is either non existent or in short supply, best efforts must be made to get the material where it is needed to ensure the safety of all road users.

Ferry and FIGAS:

Both of these vital services are intrinsic to life for many in the Camp. For some, if the services provided were to fail then the livelihoods and indeed wellbeing of individuals and families would be put in jeopardy. Finances must be made available to not only ensure their smooth continued operation but also a view to upgrade or indeed expand on services provided.

I am confident that a second vessel (Intercoastal) would be of huge benefit and would allow continuous service to be provided all year round to allow for dry dock times. As an aside the second vessel could also be utilised for small cargo runs to Chile.

International Trade and Flights:

With Chile just across the way a re-established shipping link would be beneficial to a great many people in the Islands. I not only actively support this but go a step further in saying that a stronger link with Uruguay is of the uttermost importance. Our historical link with Montevideo was a lifeline in the past and now it is time to get it back in action.

Freight costs need to be addressed and new connections made to ensure on going cooperation and financial benefit for both of our countries. To that end I also strongly believe that an air link into Uruguay would be highly desirable for not only tourism and travel but also trade and commerce. As to the second flight where ever it is planned to go it needs to happen one way or the other and it needs to get off the ground.

Sovereignty:

We are British Falkland Islanders. We have been and ALWAYS will be British. There is nothing to discuss with Argentina over this matter. Should Argentina drop their claim to our Generational Island home and internationally recognise our people and culture then I am sure that in time trade and cooperation in fisheries would benefit both our countries. However I am a realist and we all know what the score will be in the hearts and minds if our neighbours.

FIMCo:

The ongoing operation of Sandbay is vital to not only the farming community but also for the consumer Islands wide. The revenue generated from overseas export is also to be taken into consideration and to that end it is highly important that funds are available to ensure the continued operation and potential expansion of this facility in the years ahead.

Capital Projects:

Of late the amount of money that not only has been borrowed but then spent out on is quite frankly terrifying. I accept and acknowledge the need of a new port facility but also, should I be elected, will do my uttermost to see it done, on time and INSIDE Budget.

It is regrettable that it has cost the country an eye-wateringly high amount with little to nothing to show for it however going forward we must be both be conscientious and assertive when handing over vast quantities of money. As to the new Power Station I fail to see why the actual building is causing such incredible financial anguish. At the end of the day looking at this from my stand point, the building is effectively a warehouse. These are built all around the world and at no massive financial strain.

We know how many generators will be required and the space that they will take up to service etc.. To my mind we are at a point where we are vastly over thinking and over

complicating the majority of all the projects we are undertaking or proposing. It needs to be untangled, simplified and subsequently it will have a far reduced financial impact on the Islands expenditure.

Hydrocarbons:

Revenue generated from oil must be tightly controlled from day one. I am under no illusions that the future has oil written large in bold print. However we must be at pains to ensure that we do not end up facing the same inflation issues as we did when oil was first struck. Housing and land prices rocketed, the price of goods in the stores doubled and on it went.

We must ensure that the average person on the street can survive and indeed thrive. The only way this can happen is if the money made from oil finds its way into the public's hands. Whilst all thoughts are firmly on the implementation of this venture one point stands out for consideration, environmental impact caused by the extraction, transshipment and the worst case scenario of a spill.

Our pristine beaches and huge variety of wildlife are renowned all around the world. It is no exaggeration to state this fact that one major spill could spell disaster. With this in mind it is paramount that every measure is taken, to not only prevent this occurring but also a full emergency plan complete with relevant equipment and training in its usage to contain and control a spill.

Housing:

In this day and age of ongoing financial strain many people find themselves in rented accommodation with a view to one day buy land and build a home, or indeed buy a house. The trouble with this picture is that every month that rent going out is a killer. To the tenant rent money is dead money and a vicious cycle of hand to mouth living self perpetuates. To that end I propose that legislation needs to be put in place to regulate rent prices and a further step would be to role out a rent to buy scheme.

Telecoms:

This is an issue that is right at the forefront of many people's minds and my view on this matter is as follows: In the modern world in which we live, telecommunications and internet access have now been added to the list of basic amenities. Island wide the issue is profound, but in Camp in particular, having viable and reliable telecoms is not only vital, but a welfare issue. Going forward we need to be able to have affordable and reliable services provided to safeguard lives and to ensure that businesses can continue to operate and indeed expand, safe in the knowledge that they will never be without a fit for purpose communication capability.



About me

I was born in Stanley in 1985 and raised on my family farm of Horseshoe Bay. I went through the Camp education system of radio lessons, home schooling and travelling teachers. Then on to Stanley house to finish my secondary education. After completing my GCSE's I worked on the farm and also the FIC East Jetty.

This was the beginning of a diverse range of jobs, including a Junior Agricultural Assistant based at Goose Green. A warehouseman back at FIC, working in the Stanley Arms and the Narrows as a barman and the eventually going through the training centre ended up at Megabid in the Plant and Vehicle Workshop. I qualified as a Heavy Plant Mechanical Engineer at NVQ Level 3. I stayed in Government a good few years after getting my qualification to pay back the trust and money spent on me.

It was around this time that my father's health took a turn for the worst. After many weekends and days on leave spent helping to get the vital seasonal work completed. I finally made the decision it was time to move back home to support my parents.

Since returning I have spent 15 years working seasonally in tourism and spent a year in the education system as an instructor. I put both of my daughters through Camp education and mainstream education in Stanley. I have represented the islands in the Small Island Games and more recently on the international stage in New York as a community representative with the MLAs for the C24 and in Uruguay as part of the Agricultural delegation for the Prado Expo.

Well that's me in a nutshell. If you have made it this far thank you for your time and consideration.

In parting I will reiterate my core message to you. I am standing to represent the people so if you feel that your voice is not being heard I will do my uttermost to be your voice in the Assembly and to fight your corner. If you feel that I am the right man for the job then I thank you for the trust placed in me.

