



Andy Watson

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Born and bred in Norfolk, UK, I joined the Royal Air Force to see the world at seventeen, 22.5 years later, found my way to the Falkland Islands where I spent the first 1.5 years in the Big smoke working at Darwin Shipping and then 11 years at Galfishing Ltd, looking after the needs of the Fisheries Patrol vessel Protegat, and to the present day at Rincon Grande Farm.

Elaine and I are under no illusions, that having made the momentous decision to run for election it is not going to be easy, with only Elaine and I on the Farm, I am going to have to split my time between Stanley and the farm, with that in mind, we have agreed to substantially reduce sheep numbers on the farm in order to cut down the workload, we are aware that there will be a significant financial loss that we will have to endure, especially in the current financial climate, however, we both believe that it is worth the consequence.

Stanley is not the Falkland Islands, approximately 19 percent of islanders live outside of the capital, and are mainly wool producers, they are also responsible for supporting the food security of the islands, as well as land husbandry, conservation, biodiversity, animal welfare and tourism. Without future support and investment in the rural sector, this could have consequences for us all, a prime example (excuse the pun) being the beef shortage at present.

I do not support Salmon farming in the Falkland Islands.

Camp and Island life is now more difficult than ever, with increasing costs on everything on top of challenging wool prices and transport issues for livestock, as such, I decided to hold several meetings on the East and West with the intention of highlighting the current situation of the camp community with MLA's, Chief Exec, DOA, FIMCO, WBS, FIG Reps, FIDC, and **we** have enjoyed some success with the

revised FIP, the inclusion of the annual RWS fee within the FIP and higher beef prices, but I firmly believe there is more that could be done for camp in the future, including more consultation between the DOA and more green energy grants as well as further logistical or financial assistance for the agricultural sector.

Communications, great news that VSAT licenses are now available, so we now have a choice of internet providers, and the back track on funding for new equipment for FIRS, all critical to camp residents, without a reliable service, the livelihood, safety, welfare and the well-being of camp residents is at risk. Equally, reliable transportation and routes, the Ferry, Fox Bay runway, camp roads, jetties, all expensive words, but again, critical to camp residents and their businesses, and I will contest for fairness and priority on all.

I would like to review the immigration policy as a priority, although immigration has been tightened by introducing a points system, we need to ensure that it is robust and resilient for the future, enabling future immigration to continue to enrich and contribute to a positive future for the Islands and Islanders.

With the general cost of living, and the possibility of oil revenue in the future, we simply have to do more with less and concentrate on a fit for purpose long term Island plan, especially when trying to save for and implement large capital projects.

The Port and Power Station being prime examples of the lack of impetus and decision making in the past, which has unfortunately led us to the end of the tunnel where we had no choice other than to take out a huge loan to pay for it all. I am sure, with more impetus, fewer studies and surveys, we could have had something quicker and cheaper, although the contract has been signed, I did not support it, however, you cannot change the past, but, **you can influence the future.**

I can assure you that with honesty, integrity and accountability, I will give it my all to contribute to, and participate in, any decisions that will affect our country and its population now, and into the future, with the goal of improving our living standards, our wealth, our health, our security, our education and our general wellbeing for a brighter future.

This is your chance to help shape the future of our country, so, whoever you decide to vote for, please ensure you use your votes which have been afforded to us by those who fought for our democratic right to choose our own destiny.