

2025

STACY BRAGGER



Candidate for the Stanley constituency

My Priorities



1. Responsible economic management and focus on sustainable growth
2. Delivery of infrastructure and housing for the future
3. Setting a new path for telecommunications provision
4. Progressing our environmental stewardship
5. Developing our education system and training opportunities



Vision

Securing our future – responsibly, sustainably, together.

What I offer

The Falkland Islands are a community where every person matters, where each individual contributes to our shared success. It is this spirit of common purpose that makes our home so special.

You deserve a future where individuals and families can not only get by, but thrive. A future built on fairness, hard work and opportunity for all. A future where every person's potential can be realised, and where we move forward together as one community.

That is why I am standing for election, because achieving that future requires leaders with the drive, experience and determination to make it happen. I believe I have those attributes; along with a proven record of delivery, a commitment to serve with integrity, and the vision to guide us through the challenges ahead.

If elected, my approach will be open, collaborative, and results driven. I will serve with focus and humility, always mindful of how every decision affects people's daily lives.



Introduction

The Falkland Islands are entering a new stage of our development, one that brings both challenges and opportunities. After a period of strong government revenues, we are now entering a more difficult economic phase, one that will demand careful management, disciplined decision-making, and a clear sense of purpose.

Reduced revenues, combined with the urgent need to invest in our national infrastructure, have created a challenging financial landscape. Major capital projects essential to our long-term prosperity come at a substantial cost, and these commitments coincide with the responsibility to maintain the standard of public services that our community rightly expects. Balancing the priorities of financing the capital programme, upholding our reserves policy, and serving the £150 million loan while providing essential services to the community will call for careful judgment and clear priorities from the next Legislative Assembly.

The next Assembly will also inherit a number of important, unresolved issues from the previous term. These include determining a clear path forward for the future of telecommunications provision, reaching a final outcome on the salmon farming proposal, and progressing other key policy areas that require focus and direction.

Despite these challenges we face, there is much to be confident about in our future with our strong foundations and potential opportunities on the horizon. The next Assembly will have to do all it can to capitalise on them to ensure that economic progress delivers a better future for our people. It shouldn't be enough to be able to make ends meet, people should be able to get ahead. Government should do all it can to enable that.

The next four years will be decisive. This manifesto sets out a vision for responsible, forward-looking government, one that puts the people of the Falkland Islands at the heart of every decision and one that works to ensure that progress is felt across every part of our community.

There are many issues that are important to the future of our Islands, but politics is about priorities and this manifesto will outline what my top priorities would be if I am fortunate enough to be elected.



Economy

A successful, sustainable and diversified economy is essential for our continued development, and the next Assembly must take the right steps to ensure that it can be achieved.

Our economy has many strengths, and we have a dynamic private sector that generates the wealth of the Islands. The fishing industry remains the cornerstone of our economy, and it is supported by our growing tourism sector and the continued contribution of our agricultural industry.

However, we must also recognise the challenges the economy faces and work to address them.

We remain too dependent on the fishing industry. Recent challenges, such as the difficulties with this year's second Loligo season and the previous year's cancellation, have highlighted the risks of overreliance on a single sector. In addition, continuing global uncertainty, supply chain disruption, and inflationary pressures are affecting the cost of living and business operations alike. We must therefore focus on strengthening and broadening our economic base and government must work positively with the private sector to shape policies that encourage growth and innovation.

Looking at the possible opportunities ahead of us, the creation of a hydrocarbons industry has the potential to secure our long-term economic future. However, establishing a potential new industry of such a significant and complex nature will require effective political leadership and oversight to ensure that it is developed in a way that mitigates risks and makes sure that the full value of a new industry is felt by the business community and the Islands as a whole. This will require strong legislative and regulatory frameworks, building institutional capacity within government, ensuring environmental protections and strategically managing the potential revenues for our long-term national development.

I do not believe in economic growth at any cost. The proposed salmon farming operation from Unity Marine is an example of why we must balance opportunity with environmental responsibility. The last Assembly's decision to not hold a public consultation was well-intentioned but ultimately only served to delay the process that will be required before a decision can be taken. The consultation process will take place early next year and it will then be down to the next Assembly to resolve this issue. As with any decision an MLA takes, I will always consider the full array of information presented to me, including any information gathered from the consultation. However, I don't believe anything that has been presented on the subject during the debate over the last few years has shown that it is the right path for the Falkland Islands.

We must continue to support our existing industries.

Government must work closely with the fishing industry to ensure the continued sustainability of the fishery and support them with investment in infrastructure such as the new port which will provide opportunities for improved added value and catch verification.

Tourism requires a game changer such as the addition of another commercial flight to move to the next level, but it has a great deal of potential for future growth and the industry should be supported in its development.

The Falklands needs Camp and the rural economy to thrive. It is crucial to our national identity, economy and environmental stewardship and effort must be made toward supporting the rural community. Maintaining infrastructure and connectivity will be crucial as always. Government and the Assembly should work closely together with the rural community to assess how rural development can be supported effectively.

Cost of living pressures have been felt in recent years and the effects of this on lower-income earners should always be kept at the forefront of decision making. The future growth of our economy must benefit everyone across the whole community.



Infrastructure

Our national infrastructure has now reached the point where key parts of it such as the port and the power station must be replaced urgently.

Unfortunately, this much needed investment has not been made sooner and both of these major projects must now be delivered at the same time which will result in budgetary pressures for the government.

These projects, along with the waste management facility and new wind turbines, will need to be delivered by the next Assembly. This investment in modern infrastructure is vital to our future and is an enabler to our economic development so there must be relentless focus on completing these projects successfully.

When it comes to future government capital projects, I believe that front-loading work in project management and investing more time, effort and resources and identifying potential problems at the early stages of a project sets a strong foundation for success. The initial cost should be outweighed by the long-term savings and greater likelihood of achieving good outcomes.

A critical part of our economic future that must be addressed by the next Assembly is housing. Quality, affordable homes are essential to our long-term development. Solving this challenge will unlock economic opportunity, support our growing population and improve quality of life. I would push for practical ways to increase housing supply, through private sector partnerships and incentives for development.

A key factor in the government's capital programme will be local business involvement which will lead to our private sector benefiting as much as possible from the huge capital investment that will be seen in the next few years.

The capital programme will demand careful scrutiny and oversight from the Assembly. I would be committed to making sure that the focus remains on delivering these projects effectively with the responsible use of public funds and ensuring lasting value to our community.



Telecommunications

The telecommunications landscape in the Falklands has changed dramatically since the last exclusive licence was awarded to Sure. It is time that government's approach to telecommunications changes with it.

The introduction of Starlink to the Falklands has been a game changer and has highlighted how innovation and development has been restricted by the monopoly.

It is clear that the Falklands continuing with a telecommunications statutory monopoly is no longer sustainable and it must end. Early in the term of the next Assembly they will have the opportunity to inform Sure that the days of exclusive licensing are over. I would support taking this step. After 2027 there should be non-exclusive licensing so that users have a choice and competition can be encouraged.

The Falkland Islands Government must be on the front foot in preparing for the post-licence environment. Early market engagement is already underway to assess what future telecommunications models could look like, and I would make it a top priority to advance this work. There will be a great deal of work to do with the regulatory framework and it will be necessary to make sure that any changes should not leave anyone behind, but this is an exciting opportunity for us all that should be prioritised.

All possible options should be evaluated so that the next Assembly can make informed decisions that deliver real, lasting improvements for everyone.



Environment

Protecting our environment for the future generations of the Islands is our duty and efforts must continue to preserve it. Given our resource-based industries, a strong commitment to the environment goes hand in hand with a resilient economy.

Two major upcoming projects will make an immediate difference to how we preserve our environment: the long-overdue waste management facility and the installation of three new wind turbines at Sand Bay. These investments represent important steps towards a cleaner future and demonstrate our commitment to renewable energy and responsible waste reduction. I would work towards making sure these projects are delivered.

Environmental responsibility must be embedded across all areas of government. The goals of the Environment Strategy must remain a priority for the next Assembly, supported with the resources and political will to deliver results. I would support the continued work to achieve the goals of the Strategy.



Education

Education and lifelong learning will always be one of my top priorities.

If elected, I would seek to hold the Education portfolio as I did when I was an MLA previously. I believe that I was able to deliver significant improvements to our education system that have been of lasting benefit to the Islands as a whole. I would work to develop initiatives that help every student reach their full potential and ensure that education remains a foundation of opportunity.

We have an education system that we can be proud of but there is always more to do. This will include the completion and implementation of the review of the Education Ordinance. The schools need support to deliver their ongoing School Improvement Plans and I would provide it.

It is pleasing to see the sharp increase in the number of students undertaking apprenticeships in recent years. It is important that efforts continue with supporting skills development and training to ensure that Falkland Islanders have access to good jobs and can fully participate in a potentially changing economy.

The childcare sector has seen huge development in recent years and the government should support the continued improvement of the providers. I welcome the review of the Childcare Subsidy, as it is important to check that the subsidy is sufficiently supporting the development of the childcare sector. The investment made in this sector will be returned many times over.

A particular focus for me if elected will be supporting children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). The upcoming consultation on SEND provision that forms part of the review of the Education Ordinance will be a welcome step, and I believe this area deserves greater attention to ensure that support is adequate, equitable, and consistent.



Self-determination

If elected, I would work to strengthen understanding of the Falkland Islands as the modern, self-governing democracy we are, to safeguard and promote our right to self-determination and to develop our strategic international relationships.

Argentina's claim to the sovereignty of our Islands remains as baseless as ever. Their position is a modern form of colonial ambition, an attempt to impose control over a people and territory that have never belonged to them.

Milei's position and tone on the Falklands has been more pragmatic than some of his predecessors, acknowledging that the Falklands are "in the hands of the UK" and recognising Falkland Islanders in his remarks. It is clear that he places far greater importance on sorting out their economy rather than pursuing their sovereignty claim.

However, this does not mean that the Argentine Government's behaviour has changed. As is to be expected, the Falklands have lived up to our side of the September 2024 Agreement but the Argentine commitments have failed to materialise. The political reality for Milei is that due to the Falklands' symbolic importance domestically he has to go through the motions, and we need to maintain our resolve.

Through highlighting our strategic importance, and strengthening regional relationships with our friendlier neighbours, we can counter the Argentine efforts to undermine our position. Argentina's ambitions belong to another era. Our right to self-determination is timeless.



Conclusion

Thank you for taking the time to read my manifesto. I hope I have outlined a vision for our future and what I would aim to deliver for you. I would be very grateful if you would consider voting for me on 11th December.

The next four years represent a fantastic window of opportunity for the Falkland Islands. Together we can make these years count.

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