



Roger Spink 2021 Manifesto

I have over the years championed many local and International Falkland issues. I have served on the boards of The Falkland Islands chamber of Commerce, FIDC and FI Tourism and am currently Chairman of Falklands Conservation and on the board of the YMCA. After a career in business for over 30 years I believe we need a strong local economy that values all workers.

I will work on behalf of the community to provide proper consultation, a strong voice, clear leadership and ensure there is adequate scrutiny of policy decisions and implementation.

I will continue to work to preserve the nature and beauty of the Islands whilst developing the economy to increase and improve employment, entrepreneurial opportunities and ultimately enhancing quality of life and prosperity for all.

Developing and embedding the Environmental Strategy across FIG is a key step in the coming years. Economic growth and environmental protection are not at odds. They are opposite sides of the same coin if you are looking at longer-term prosperity.

Infrastructure is the backbone of economic growth. It improves access to basic services, creates jobs and boosts business, as we recover from the Covid Pandemic.

For an economy built to last we must invest in what will fuel us for generations to come. This is our history - from the wool sheds and jetty infrastructure, to the road network and Ferry Service. From the East Jetty to the temporary solution of FIPASS and now a new port project in preparation. The Fishing Industry have already started to invest heavily in a vessel replacement program, displaying their confidence in the long term future of the Industry.

The inadequacy of existing port facilities to support economic development, was frequently mentioned in the 2017 update of the economic development strategy. FIPASS was perceived by many to no longer be fit-for purpose, and although it was noted that much work had been done, to review port and harbour facilities and legislation, decisions were yet to be made and actions had not been taken, this has now been done so we now have the ability to progress with the key infrastructure work of the Port Project. The ability to tranship more fish catch on shore was, not only regarded as a way to add value to the fisheries industry, but also as a valuable method of catch verification, both best practices of a sustainable fisheries industry.

Along with a fit for purpose port facility, other areas of marine and harbour services, together with the Gateway concept need, in partnership with the private sector, to be incorporated into a long term plan to establish new industry sectors and capture value, adding opportunities from the development of the new port.

Government has a pivotal role to play which includes providing decisive leadership and vision, investing in strategic infrastructure and development, and implementing enabling policies. If elected I would push for an early refresh of the economic development plan in conjunction with the private sector.

By progressing the Port project, MPA road surfacing, housing development, power station options and the waste disposal project, we have started on the journey to strengthen our infrastructure and improve our environment. It is essential if we wish to remain competitive and provide for the growing requirements of our community, that we continue to prudently invest in the Islands future.

The environmental concerns on Salmon Farming have been well made and an early decision on the future, if any, for such an industry needs to be made.

More promising areas for growth such as Carbon Offsetting, Alternative Energy and building the Falklands as a Gateway need more support and engagement by FIG.

Research indicates that Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) can have a positive effect on children's educational, cognitive, behavioural and social outcomes, in both the short and long term, if it is of high quality. ECEC can also play a positive role in raising attainment and closing the gap between outcomes for children from disadvantaged backgrounds and other children

It was important to make progress with nursery standards, training and facilities, child allowances and childcare. This needs to continue.

The investment in Education, through the training centre and vocational support, helps give our people the skills necessary to take on higher paid jobs that currently are filled by contract workers.

The management trainee and mentoring schemes within FIG, are a step in identifying future leaders and developing our own people into senior roles, which helps ensure continuity, commitment and stability in running our country. We need to expand these schemes bringing opportunity across FIG.

The commitment to the expansion of the museum, sports facilities and support provided to the many clubs and Overseas Games are essential investments in the wellbeing of our community, whilst delivering excellent public diplomacy opportunities for the Islands.

Support for families and children has been improved through the increases in child allowances and tax treatment, together with the subsidies paid to support an improved childcare service for hard working families.

Loans made available for new purpose built nursery facilities provided by the private sector, are beginning to transform the standard of early years care. I support the continuation of such schemes having seen the benefits that they have and will deliver.

We have greatly increased the level of adult social care to support our elderly and vulnerable, the SEND facility plus investment in Tussac House, the KEMH and greater numbers of care staff will improve the delivery of care necessary in the Islands.

The review of the pensions provision in early 2022 will enable members, at an early stage, to consider how to deliver an affordable and more progressive pensions policy.

Further consideration and work should be done in directing support to those most in need, as was attempted with the increases in winter fuel allowances and the Single Income support scheme, which was directed to those most in need. Work should continue with the Food Bank to ensure we understand where our social support fails to deliver adequate care in our community.

Whilst it is hoped and expected that the monopoly provider of telecoms services will rise to the challenge of new technologies through a tender process, working with FIG and the TDG to improve the service provision in the Islands, we must review and fully understand what legislative and legal options are open to FIG.

The fundamental principle of self-determination applies to the Falklands. Despite this, Argentina still exercises a series of economic sanctions against us with no respect whatsoever for our human rights, while at the same time it cynically promotes its commitment to human rights on the world stage. As I said in a 2010 FIRS interview and in a speech to the United Nations C24 in 2019 "Blockading and bullying the population of the Falklands has merely alienated Argentina to the younger members of our population, and demonstrated to them and the younger generation in Chile, who may have relatives in the Falklands, that the Argentina of today is no different to that of 1982" Nothing has changed.

A reserves policy that safeguards us against losses in income and ensures we are able to fund future liabilities is essential.

In 1982 many people sacrificed their lives in order that we could determine our own future so please in their memory whoever you support use your vote.