

STACY BRAGGER

A portrait of Stacy Bragger, a man with short brown hair, smiling, wearing a dark blue collared shirt. The background of the portrait is a teal color with a faint world map.

ELECTION MANIFESTO

INTRODUCTION

“Aspiring for more”

I am putting myself forward for election for the Stanley constituency because I feel I have something to offer and I want to play my part in ensuring the continued success of the Falkland Islands.

For those who aren't familiar with my background, I have lived in the Islands all of my life apart from when I was studying in the UK. I worked as a reporter for Falklands Radio for ten years where I covered all aspects of the community before moving three years ago to my current role at the Chamber of Commerce where I have gained great insight into the Islands' economy and private sector. I have been honoured to represent the Islands internationally at the Commonwealth Youth Parliament, as a Special Advisor on a tour of South and Central America shortly after the 2013 Referendum and as General Team Manager for the Falkland Islands at the 2015 Island Games in Jersey. I am currently Chairman of the Media Trust. I have a 9-year old son, James.

I have a number of aspirations that I want us to achieve together and this manifesto will outline the main areas that I want to see addressed by the next Assembly.

MY PRIORITIES

- Promoting our right to self-determination and maintaining our current political status
- Strengthening our economy
- Improving the Islands' infrastructure
- Developing our education system and training opportunities
- Telecoms and a strong regulatory regime

ARGENTINA

“Standing firm in asserting our right to self-determination”

The Falkland Islands have continued to flourish despite the continual attempts to undermine our economy by the Argentine Government. The end of Cristina Kirchner's time in office and the arrival of the seemingly more pragmatic Macri has not led to Argentina approaching the Falklands with a more reasonable and enlightened attitude. I would support continuing to inform and update our friends internationally on our development, building regional relationships with our friendlier neighbours and projecting a confident and forward-thinking image of the Islands globally. We must not become complacent and we must stand firm in asserting our inalienable right to self-determination and highlighting to the world the aggressive tactics of the Argentine Government.

ECONOMY

“Working in partnership”

We enjoy a prosperous economy here in the Falklands and efforts need to be maintained to ensure that all of us continue to reap the benefits of the hard work put in by past generations of Islanders. While plans continue to be developed for the next phase of the Sea Lion field it is vital that we invest in our traditional industries and look for opportunities to maximise our return from them.

The updated Economic Development Strategy outlines the current picture for the Falklands' economy and it will be important for FIG to meet the objectives that have been set. The Economic Development Strategy should reflect the need for environmental protection. It is important that our natural resources are preserved and exploited in a sustainable manner to protect our economy moving forward.

We have a dynamic and resourceful private sector here and I believe that FIG must work in partnership with business to continue to improve the economic environment for the benefit of the community.

INFRASTRUCTURE

“Investing In Our Future”

In the term of the next Assembly I want to see meaningful progress made with the development of our infrastructure. I want to see the Falkland Islands Government move from consultation and planning and into the delivery of important projects such as the new Power Station, improved port facilities and further blacktopping of the MPA Road.

Competing demands for different infrastructure requirements will need to be balanced against a backdrop of fiscal responsibility and difficult decisions will need to be made. However, this shouldn't prevent the next Assembly delivering real progress.

I believe that more effort needs to be dedicated to providing information to the public on progress with infrastructure development and I would be interested to discuss ways that this could be done.

Let's have the confidence to invest in our future and to make the most of the opportunities that are there.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

“Reaching our full potential”

The Falkland Islands must strive to have the highest level of education available in order to allow our children to be able to reach their full potential.

The fact that every Islander has the opportunity to follow the career path of their choice and to be fully funded by our Government through further and higher education is one of the things I am proudest of about the Falklands.

I believe we should aspire to provide the best level of education possible from early years through to higher education. There is more that can be done with early-years development here and I see this as an investment in our future.

We must seek to continue to improve the pathways that are available in the Islands for those who wish to pursue either an academic or vocational route.

The issue of school accommodation needs to be addressed and, if elected, I would support the development of a new school facility. We can continue to work on 'temporary' solutions but I think the time has come to address the issue properly.

Regarding childcare provision, I feel that there is more that we can do to support families and the childcare sector. I would support investigating the introduction of a childcare voucher system and the Government contributing substantially to this.

TELECOMS & REGULATION

“Seeking the best deal for consumers”

Reliable and affordable telecommunication services are absolutely essential for the development of our economy and the community as a whole. Telecommunications are regularly listed as a barrier to growth for business here and they are increasingly important socially for people to keep in touch with family and friends abroad. In a remote community such as ours good links with the rest of the world are vitally important.

Sure South Atlantic are an admirable company in many ways with their focus on employing Islanders and staff development. However, they enjoy a risk-free position here and it is only right that they supply what the public requires.

I believe that the licence agreement that Sure reached with FIG was not a good deal for the future of these Islands and that it will be a source of regret for years to come.

I was involved in the work carried out by the Chamber of Commerce to oppose the new licence and gave evidence on behalf of the Chamber at the Select Committee on the Communications Bill. If elected, I would be absolutely committed to seeking the best possible deal for consumers from the 2019 price-cap review. FIG needs to be pro-active in putting itself in the best position possible to be able to negotiate with Sure a good outcome for consumers. I believe it is up to Sure to deliver a vision to consumers of where they are heading with telecoms provision. In 12 years' time I do not want us to be even further behind the rest of the world.

Although a Regulator is now in place and the last Assembly repeatedly offered assurances that they were committed to regulating Sure effectively I have yet to speak to anyone who believes that FIG have gotten to grips with this. I want the public to have confidence that the telecommunications monopoly is well-regulated.

HEALTH

“Healthy body, healthy mind”

We must continue to deliver the highest level of health care that we can and seek ways to promote healthy living.

I fully support the development of the Vulnerable People's Home and look forward to its completion.

I view mental health issues as being very important for this community. I believe it should be a priority for FIG to see what else can be done to further assist the professionals here who do such great work. There is a growing realisation of the importance of good mental health and I want us to focus on ways that we can help people further.

IMMIGRATION

“Working for progress”

Alongside developing Falkland Islanders in order to fill key roles in the Islands, we need to welcome people to the Islands who can add value to our community and provide the skills that we require so that we can continue to develop.

The 2016 Business Climate Survey showed that the lack of labour was the top barrier to growth for businesses and I think the new immigration procedures, particularly four-year work permits, will assist with addressing this. We need to have the appropriate controls in place when it comes to immigration but at the same time encourage those who will bring value to make this their home.

I believe that we also need to make greater efforts to keep valuable people here. Too often I feel we have seen people who would have made great Falkland Islanders leave when perhaps with more flexibility they would have stayed and continued to contribute to our society.

CONCLUSION

“A bold, dynamic and confident outlook”

Hopefully what I have written above has given you an impression of the high-level issues that I feel are important to the future of the Falkland Islands. I have outlined a number of the aspirations that I would seek to achieve if elected. These aspirations would be done against a budgetary approach that is optimistic and positive but not irresponsible.

I believe that some of my personal qualities would make me well-suited to the role of MLA. If elected I would carry out the work of a MLA with honesty, humility and good-humour. I can admit when I have made a mistake and I can say that I was wrong. I favour working in collaboration with those who may disagree with me and I would work with people in a positive way.

I believe that the next Legislative Assembly must approach its work during the next four years with an outlook that is bold, dynamic and confident. We have a bright future ahead of us with many opportunities on the horizon. I sincerely hope that when you come to choose who will lead these Islands for the next four years that you will consider voting for me.

CONTACT DETAILS:

I am keen to hear your views and what you feel the next Assembly's priorities should be so please get in touch. My contact details are tel: 54391 or email sbragger@hotmail.com