

MLA CANDIDATE FOR THE CAMP CONSTITUENCY

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SELF-DETERMINATION AND INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY - As a Falkland Islander my freedom is a precious thing. Our freedom to be a British Overseas Territory was hard fought for and won. We can never give any ground to Argentina.

As a government we should share and promote what it is to be a Falkland Islander and the good news stories we have; such as our self-sufficient economy, renewable energy, meat, fish and wool products. Important international public diplomacy should continue, such as our work to appeal to the United Nations Decolonisation Committee, to undermine the Argentine claim with human rights and historical fact.

If elected I would drive to do more within our current diplomacy commitments, such as attending fringe events and lectures at Party Conferences or using more social media across all MLA diplomacy work. I hope everyone on the new Legislative Assembly will do their best to ensure continuity and compromise so that we are getting the most out of our diplomacy visits. That includes supporting the Special Advisor list and Youth Parliament to encourage the next generation of politicians.

CAMP DEVELOPMENT - Camp needs a strong Rural Development Strategy in place to propel business growth. I would hope to build on work done with the last strategy and uphold its values in a new one. Infrastructure, particularly roads needs to be a focus for a new assembly. This can't just be increasing budgets as we also need to invest in people.

Falkland Islands Government (FIG) need to work at attracting and retaining a workforce across Government and the private sector, by using work from the Skills Assessment Council to identify gaps and promote opportunities to encourage more people into those sectors.

FERRY - If a new assembly hopes to encourage business growth and repopulate West Falklands and outer Islands, I believe they will need to look closely at a new crane for the ferry and the possibility of another ship in the future.

From conversations with those who use the service there is inconvenience from Concordia Bay's dry dock in August, as it runs risks of running over into the busy shearing season. I have also heard of the frustration of those who could receive fuel and cargo similarly to outer islands when the ferry is passing them but deliveries have been stopped. The Concordia Bay is often running to capacity and a way to see if there is need for another boat could be contracting in another to test the market.

Many ideas like these I'm sure have been presented already, but MLAs dedicated to agricultural economic growth should hold what development needs in mind with negotiations or a new contract.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND RADIO CONNECTIVITY - I believe we need a firm approach to push for a better service and more transparency around decisions. We need to look again at the Telecommunications Bill and be sure the Regulator is holding Sure to account over contract breaches. Most of the recent streaming tests in Camp have shown to work, and proves there is capacity for a better service.

We cannot have quality of radio coverage compromised by the cost of the service. I have also heard repeatedly how basic mobile network coverage over most roads could become so vital in the unfortunate event of an accident.

MPA ROAD - I also believe that the next assembly should commit to continue with the tarmac work on the road.

BREXIT - With Britain due to leave the EU in 2019 a new assembly needs to make sure market access and environmental funding opportunities for the Falklands are maintained and have room to grow. They must build on work done so far to make every effort to ensure our economy is not harmed with exclusion or high tariffs.



ARTS AND CULTURE - There should be a focus on Falkland Islands culture and events. We live in a warm multicultural society, and our culture and history needs to be the main theme celebrated within the portfolio to ensure our precious traditions are not lost.

EDUCATION - Education should be free for all. Stanley house fees are the only part of education that parents outside of Stanley have to pay for. They should be capped or dropped. I believe a public consultation should be held, primarily focusing on whether the buildings are fit for purpose and whether fees are fair.

With a wider islands focus, the next assembly need to address whether a purpose built Infant and Junior and Camp Education School, or a Junior and Camp Education School is needed in the future.

IMMIGRATION AND AIR LINKS- A top priority has to be finding a solution to rotary winds effects on our air links building from presented to the previous ExCo already. I believe they need to start with experts to analyse how bad the situation is and work from there. Our land-based and cruise-exchange tourism development is greatly at risk.

For a long time FIG has been asked to simplify the applications systems for work permits, residence and status. I see the need for looking at each case individually but I'm still not convinced the process, and how it is delivered needs to be as hard and detailed as it is. I also believe that the banned list was a long time coming and I'm glad it is now in place.

VULNERABLE PEOPLE - Our government needs to be prioritising people first. If elected I will look carefully at the need to support the most vulnerable in our society. We should support nurseries and the Vulnerable Persons Unit with an eye on affordability and the fair charging scheme. It is essential that those on lower incomes don't lose out on quality of care.

HEALTH CARE - For the Camp specifically, I have heard of the need for more comprehensive medical chests. Including more First-Aid and emergency care items. It is a simple way to help save lives.

I don't think it is fair that an unwell or vulnerable individual has to pay half of the cost of a flight in medical emergency or on doctor recommendation to fly to town for treatment.

CONSTITUENCY VISITS - I promise to visit different settlements and farms at least every month, preferably weekly, to hear what you have to say.

MY BACKGROUND

I am a seventh generation Falkland Islander who studied at the University of Arts London, and lived in the UK and South Africa before returning home. After four years at Penguin News I stood in the 2013 election for Stanley, and lost by a handful of votes. Earlier in 2013 I travelled with MLAs to promote the Falklands Referendum in the USA and Caribbean, including the State Department and United Nations, Jamaica and at the Caribbean community political headquarters in Guyana.

In 2014 I joined the FIG Public Relations and Media Office in Gilbert House as the Assistant and progressed to Manager. I worked closely with MLAs, FIG Departments, and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in this role. It also meant I was responsible for reputation management of Falkland Islands Government and the Falkland Islands. This included major incidents such as the Le Boreal cruise ship fire and rescue, media management and protocol on missing persons from fishing vessels, as well as developing and delivering media campaigns around significant events such the UNC24 and the Falklands 250 years British celebrations.

Nick and I are officially taking over the Bleaker Island farm and tourism business from January 1st, 2018. Earlier this year I left FIG to care for my baby son and prepare for our move to Bleaker Island.

An MLA's duty, as I see it, is to listen and be reasonable, committed and diplomatic. As a new face standing for Camp I would also try and show the next generation of Camp politicians they can pursue it as a career and show that the two constituency system could work better. With the change to being in town Monday to Friday (including travel time) there isn't the same choice for people to stand as in town. We need to see if video conferencing can make a difference and look to more solutions to overcome the barriers.