



# Stacy Bragger

## STANLEY CONSTITUENCY

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## INTRODUCTION

It was an honour to represent the people of the Falkland Islands during the life of the last Assembly. I am standing for election again because I am passionate about my home and I believe I have the energy, the experience and the vision to help deliver an even better future for the people of the Falkland Islands. I want to continue to serve you and to achieve the best possible results for all of us. I hope this manifesto will provide you with a sense of the high-level issues that I believe are important for the Islands over the next four years.

## MY PRIORITIES

- ✓ Promoting our right to self-determination and maintaining our current political status
- ✓ Continuing to develop and strengthen our economy
- ✓ Putting the preservation of our environment at the heart of Government decision making
- ✓ Upgrading the Islands' infrastructure
- ✓ Continuing to develop our education system and training opportunities

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## COVID-19

As we approach the end of 2021, we find ourselves as a community at a challenging point but we still have a wealth of opportunities in front of us. We have experienced some of the most challenging times of our recent history from the potentially severe threats posed to us by Covid-19. Thanks to everyone's joint efforts, we have weathered the storm and we can be proud of our collective response which has left us in a position that many nations around the world would be envious of.

We are not out of the woods yet but we are well placed to continue to return to normality. If elected, I would continue to make decisions that prioritise the public health of all in the Islands but I would make considered, evidence-based decisions that would enable us to navigate the continued challenges, enabling our international air connectivity and our tourism industry to return to normal.

## ECONOMY

### **We must make the most of the opportunities that exist for us**

One of our key strengths is our economic self-sufficiency. We are in a strong position economically but we cannot be complacent. Fishing continues to provide the wealth of the Islands but we are still too reliant on this one industry. We must seek to add additional value from our existing, traditional industries while looking to broaden our economy.

The private sector is the engine that drives the economic development and wealth of our Islands. Government must provide the framework for economic activity and work to remove barriers to growth. This must involve regular communication and consultation with our industries. Significant steps were made in the last four years to enabling our economy to grow with developments such as the delivery of the Brazil flight, the move to the next phase of ITQ and the progress made on delivering a new port. There is still much more work that needs to be done though and I would continue to prioritise work to enable the development of our economy.

The joint work between Government and the fishing industry on the next phase of the ITQ system was one of the most important pieces of work during the last Assembly. It is vital that Government continues to progress this work through to the start of its implementation at the beginning of 2023.

Since the start of the pandemic we have seen organisations such as British Antarctic Survey and several European research institutions using the Falklands more for their work in Antarctica. The Gateway to Antarctica concept has long been spoken of. Progress with the concept has been piecemeal so far and defined work streams have not been fully formed in my opinion. I believe establishing the Falklands as a regional hub for scientific research and a staging post for Antarctica is a gigantic opportunity for us, both economically and politically, and greater priority must be given to it.

When it comes to Government spending, I wholeheartedly supported the significant investment made into improving public services during the last Assembly. This investment was largely focused on the key services of Health and Education and was done against a backdrop of improved and more realistic budgeting. In order to deliver the infrastructure aspirations of the Islands, recurrent operating expenditure in the future will need to be limited but I would support investment where justified and affordable.

While budget surpluses have continued to be delivered for Government and our dynamic private sector remains successful, it is clear that our economy is not working for everyone in the way that it should. Pressures have increased on our lower income earners and I would support looking at ways to support them further.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **We must have confidence to invest in our future**

During the last Assembly we made significant progress in delivering key infrastructure projects that have been badly needed for decades. The economic opportunities that exist for us are heavily dependent on the upgrading of our national infrastructure. I believe that we must have the confidence to invest in our future and the next four years must see significant delivery with the Government's capital programme. Providing opportunities for local businesses must be central to future capital projects, ensuring that maximum value from them is retained in the Islands.

Most importantly when it comes to future projects, the new permanent port has moved to the next stage of detailed design work and if elected I would be committed to ensuring the delivery of this vital project.

Telecommunications has been consistently highlighted as a concern by domestic users and by the private sector, with it topping the list of barriers to growth in this year's Business Climate Survey. I have included telecommunications under the 'Infrastructure' section of my manifesto as telecommunications are as important as roads and capital assets to the social and economic development of the Islands. There have been large increases in data allowances during the last four years, something that I was pleased to support. We are still not where we need to be though and Government must, as a matter of priority, continue to push Sure into exploring the new technological developments that we are all aware of. A long-term vision of how telecommunications are going to be improved for all in the Islands needs to be set.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **Putting the environment at the heart of decision making**

So much of what makes these Islands special revolves around our environment. Our future depends on us being responsible stewards of this unique environment.

A high-level environmental strategy is now in place and this is a good first step. The real work begins now though with detailed action plans needing to follow. If elected, I would be committed to ensuring that environmental policy is

at the heart of Government decision making and that the action plans that will follow the Environment Strategy are implemented and delivered.

This work mustn't only be high level policy; it must also result in on the ground, practical steps being taken. Practical measures will be important in our efforts to preserve our environment and I would support landowners being given increased support for conservation measures. Carbon capture initiatives are a huge opportunity for us and these should be explored in a co-ordinated way.

We have flourished as a community as a result of our rich natural resources and our environment inspires so much of our national identity and who we are as a people. If elected, I would be committed to ensuring that environmental priorities are embedded within Government so that we can preserve our environment for the generations that follow. Given our size and our resources, why can't we take the initiative in our conservation efforts, rather than being reactive?

## **FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

### **Our self-determination is unquestionable**

The Argentine Government continues to pursue their erroneous sovereignty claim to our Islands. During the current Fernandez administration this has largely consisted of meaningless statements and half-baked policy ideas. However, they have continued to try and bully us with their aggressive tactics. Opportunities for joint work on areas of potential mutual benefit such as fisheries scientific research have lamentably been rejected and their economic sanctions remain in place. However, they have also provided us with some open goals that we can use to our advantage such as Fernandez's gaffe earlier this year when he said that "Argentines came from the ships" which highlighted the absurdity of the Argentine mantra that we are an implanted population. Furthermore, the recent legislative proposal in Argentina to criminalise opposition to Argentina's sovereignty position is breath-taking in how it runs against modern democratic values.

We must do more to highlight to the world the continued actions of the Argentine Government and why our right to self-determination matters. We must be outward-looking and confident and we must continue to develop our regional relationships with our friendlier neighbours and continue to build international support.

Our right to self-determination is enshrined in the United Nations Charter and is unquestionable. History is on our side, the facts are on our side and the moral argument will always be won by us.

## **EDUCATION**

### **Reaching our full potential**

In the previous Assembly I was the portfolio holder for Education and I am proud of what I achieved in the role. I drove forward progress in areas such as the new leadership structure, development of the childcare sector, the increased commitment to vocational skills and life-long learning and a revised Education Ordinance that I believe will have lasting long-term benefits for our education system and the Islands as a whole. However, there is still much more work to be done and I am clear that if elected I would wish to hold this portfolio again. I am passionate about education and I believe I have the energy and the skills to help deliver further progress.

I would support the Infant and Junior School and Camp Education and the Community School in progressing their ongoing School Improvement Plans, supporting investment where required. I would continue to be a strong supporter of the development of policies that will help our students reach their full potential. There was an increased emphasis in the last Assembly on vocational and skills based training being treated on a par with academic studies and I would continue to support this.

During the last Assembly I secured funding for an extension to the Community School and, in the long-term ten year FIG capital programme, for a new Infant and Junior School. Work is ongoing currently on the potential options for the future of the Education Estate with a paper to be considered by Executive Council in December. If elected, I would again fight for improved education facilities for our children.

I was delighted that during the last Assembly we were able to establish the SHIELD programme. It was an important step forwards but I am strongly of the belief that more focus needs to be given to the provision of services for the members

of our community with special needs and disabilities. This was something that I raised during the last Assembly and it is something that I would be committed to progressing.

## **CAMP**

### **Long-term vision for rural development**

Camp is the heart of these Islands and during the last Assembly I consistently supported investment in Camp infrastructure and services.

Investment in Camp-related infrastructure and services benefits the Islands as a whole. Support must be targeted and a long-term vision for rural development must be in place in order to achieve the best results.

I would support continued investment in Camp, driven by what the rural community feels should be the top priorities.

*What do I have to offer?*

### **A strong track record of delivering results**

It is important that you know what my leadership approach will continue to be if elected. I can promise you that I will serve you in a way that is thoughtful, compassionate and results driven. I believe that I have the necessary ability to represent you well. Some of the qualities that I believe are important for the role and that I will seek to embody are humility, having a sense of humour and being genuine. I don't seek the limelight and I don't grandstand. I work collaboratively with people in a positive way to achieve the best possible results. Elected members must be willing to listen and to be able to have their mind changed when presented with information. As an MLA I would listen to you, not talk over you.

I have a strong track record of serving this community and delivering results as an MLA both individually and as part of a team.

## **CONCLUSION**

### **Focused solely on the future**

Thank you for taking the time to read my manifesto. I hope that it has given you an impression of what drives me and what I hope to achieve if elected.

If elected, I will be focused solely on the future and on delivering the best results for you and for our Islands. I sincerely hope that you will consider voting for me on 4th November.

### **Contact me:**

Phone: 54391

Email: sbragger@hotmail.com

Website: [www.stacy-bragger.com](http://www.stacy-bragger.com)

*Stacy Bragger*