



Candidate MLA

Responses to Watch Group Green Election 2021 video

Please see the [video here](#)

N.B. These response have been taken directly from Facebook, with no edits made.

Ana Crowie

"Thank you for your questions and well done for putting together such good ones.

I hope (by the time I'm 62) to see that we are using only clean energy (or, at least, have a clear plan in place with a target date to achieve this).

To see incentive schemes to encourage and enable landowners to work against erosion and drying out of land, allowing the naturally flora time to re-establish and planting tussoc.

I think (correct me if I'm wrong) these two things alone would help reduce our carbon footprint.

I would hope to see that clearing small islands of rats has continued more islands have been cleared thus saving as many birds as we can.

We should continue to do what we can to keep our waters clear of rubbish otherwise those seals are going to be throwing things at us!!

I would love to say that I would be likened to some swift and graceful animal but I'm pretty sure family would go for Elephant Seal (nothing more to say on that)

Thank you for caring, keep learning, our islands will benefit so much from your knowledge and enthusiasm."

Barbara June Besley-Clark

"I have mentioned several times renewable energy, we have to work to achieve a greener planet and look after are own Islands, Plastics are one major issue, waste disposal another. there are so many other things to consider. But I can assure you I am all for working with the people to make our planet greener"

Chris Locke

"I would like to thank you, the Watch Group and all involved in the making of the video. It is an insight into what you, our younger members of the community, are worried about and more importantly what you are asking potential future leaders of our country to address. I hope the following answers are of help although more than happy to meet at any time to further explain my thoughts on the environment and climate change.

First, the questions from Sophie and Sean on Energy and Climate Change.

What would you have done to increase the use of clean energy?

Clean energy is the key to slowing down and reversing the effects of climate change. We must reduce our green house gas emissions and the primarily way to do this is to use more efficient and cleaner energy. If elected I would progress options for making clean energy viable and affordable. This ultimately means government assistance to help people buy equipment to deliver cleaner options for energy production, as generally they are more expensive than existing options. In particular this means offering subsidies for such things as heat pumps, solar panels, power storage systems and electric vehicles etc. It also means

government investing in sustainable and cleaner ways to provide power for the community. This includes investing in renewable options for the replacement of Stanley's power plant.

How many solar panels and wind turbines will we have?

It is difficult to give a number and depends on new developments and decisions on collective or individual units particularly for Stanley. However, I would like to see a significant increase in the use of solar panel energy and the further development of large wind turbines to deliver clean and renewable energy for our Island. Again to incentivise this, government initiatives are needed, particularly during the first stages of renewable energy development when initial unit prices are high.

What will you have done to restore animal habitat?

Damage to our animal habitat has been caused, in some places, through overgrazing however, the effects of climate change have been felt Island wide and this has resulted in large areas of erosion which has made significant changes to our animal habitat. Undertaking a wide spread restoration and replanting programme of peatlands through tussock and native planting is a way forward. As markets for carbon offsets become better developed and understood trading offsets may be a way to generate income for future renewable development.

How many more tussock fields will we have planted and how could we encourage more farmers to plant native plants on their land?

A lot of good work has already been undertaken in tussock planting and many of you Watch Group members have taken part in this. However, there is still a lot more to be done although it is extremely difficult to quantify precise numbers but for me, we must increase our planting programme exponentially to restore our natural habitats. Encouragement to farmers must be led by Government in offering subsidies and perhaps assisting new businesses to grow native plants from seedlings for sale to farmers and the community.

What will we have done to stop throwing rubbish in the sea – how will we do this how many whales will be saved?

Most of the rubbish we see in our seas and around our shores has been thrown into the sea by ships both passing and those operating off our coastline. While management of garbage disposal is a lot better than it was, there is still a lot to do. International Maritime Legislation adopted by the Falkland Islands makes it illegal for vessels to throw rubbish over the side so we need to be more active in policing this common but often-unseen crime. We need to constantly remind ship operators and ship masters about the importance of not throwing rubbish into the sea. We also need to undertake more checks on garbage logs and incinerator use. Recent incentives for the fishing fleet to discharge ashore for free trawled waste, has been a good incentive as all too often this rubbish was just thrown back into the sea. Taking action to prosecute offenders when found is important. We also need to protect our seas from the illegal discharge of oils and contaminates. This action and others to clean our seas will save whales and the more we do, the more whales we will save.

Trying to stop fishing?

Fishing within Falkland waters has been well regulated and controlled however outside our waters, on the high seas, there is no control on fishing quantities and catches. It is these international areas that are of most concern. In particular the area 200+ miles north of our Islands known as the 'Blue Hole' where unregulated fishing of the Illex squid is persistent. We need to lobby on the international stage if this is to be stopped although any successful outcomes are likely to take many years to succeed. However, they must be done as this activity is taking too many infant squid which ultimately may lead to the species extinction.

I would never throw rocks at seals or any animals.

If I were a Falkland animal I would like to be an Albatross who wanders the seas seeing all the amazing sights the sea has to offer including storms and whales."

Emma Brook

"Dear Watch Group, some very good questions . We already use renewable energy on most farms and in Town. I would like to see more renewable energy and would like to see farmers and home owners in Camp invest in solar, wind and tidal power. The next assembly can help by giving grants to help families invest in this type of energy. The Power Station in Stanley currently has 6 turbines, I would like to see this increase to 9 or more over the next 4 years.

Climate change is causing our Islands to get dryer , this is causing erosion so habitat restoration is really important. We could look at set aside schemes, where fragile land is fenced off and not farmed. We should also look at the effects of burning grassland and maybe try and encourage flail mowing where grass is too long. Work to monitor erosion areas also needs to be done.

It would be great to see more electric cars in the Islands and I would like to see electric push bikes, classed as peddle bikes and not motorbikes, to encourage people not to drive and get fitter.

I would like to see less plastic being used, maybe we could have a butcher shop so not having our meat arrive in plastic, when I was a little girl meat was delivered to your house and you had to cut it up yourself. If we had a butchers you could collect your meat in your own containers.

If I was a Falklands animal I would like to be a Long tailed meadow lark, or Robin. I love the color red and I see Robins are now eating earwigs which I really don't like."

Gary Webb

"Climate change, plastic discards and our ecosystem is at a Critical point where action needs to be taken now. We are at the starting point so lets not promise the world of saying we will achieve X,Y or Z in a specific timeline, we need to set goals that are achievable. It is quite apt that the World Climate Conference is taking place in Scotland during our Election process.

Restoration work has already started in some areas of the island with positive results showing already, to enhance further work in Camp or Stanley then I support the idea of grants being given. We can see climate change happening right before our eyes out in camp, we need to work with the Farmers as to what can be done to assist in reversing this phenomenon.

Waste management has started by the previous assembly, cleaning up of Eliza Cove with a New Incinerator planned for Megabid , I would like to see this powered by the wind / solar panels. Let's utilize what is so prevalent here.

Biosecurity is rightly high in importance; we cannot let invasive species come into the Island and put at risk what we take for granted on a daily basis. An effective solution needs to be found to rid us of the earwigs.

If we can revert our bad habits and learn to enjoy and respect our land and sea, then it would be nice to save as much as we can. For an animal, I'll go with Mammal – an Orca – Family orientated, Majestic but Deadly. We don't throw stones at any animal."

Leona Roberts

"Superb stuff - well done, Watch Group! You've set out very eloquently just some of the environmental challenges that we face and the responsibilities that we must live up to.

I wish I could say that I could give you all the numbers and promises that you seek, but that's probably beyond anyone to promise. What I can say, hand on heart, is that (if elected) by the time I'm 53 I will be able to show you that I have absolutely worked my hardest to try to deliver the future Falklands that you deserve - a place where our environment is valued and protected even more than it is today.

I won't try to go into the specifics on each topic or this will be a very long answer, but there is so much to do in all the areas you highlight and there is not one that I think is unimportant - so the main point for me is that the environment needs to be embedded at the heart of our decision-making going forward and it must get the funding and support it needs to make progress. We have been behind on this for a very long time, but there is no excuse for not acting now.

As for the FI animal - this is hard! I think my family would probably say I'm a bit like a Johnny Rook - I'm inquisitive and can be playful and friendly, but also a bit of a pain in the neck if you're the one being harassed; I generally like my own space and don't follow the flock. We won't talk about my beady eyes and big beak...

Thank you for the engagement we've had in the past - you've always brought us tough questions and challenges, which is as it should be - it's your future that's at stake. Personally, I am very, very glad that you all care so much - it gives me some hope!"

Mark Pollard

"Thank you for your questions. I will do my best to answer them as well as I can.

Energy and Climate Change – I think we need as many solar panels and wind turbines as we can, until most or all of energy comes from renewable sources. All across the Falklands. I'm also happy to look at any other sources. To reduce Carbon Dioxide, we have to try and get more energy from clean sources and also try to use less energy if possible. We do that by having cleaner energy from renewable sources. We already are doing this in most places. In Stanley about a third of our electricity comes from wind turbines and in Camp there is solar and wind power almost everywhere. But we need more. Moving away from burning fossil fuels by looking at electric cars and heat pumps instead of boilers and just generally embracing clean technology. We need to do our bit to stop the ice caps melting, just saying that we are too small and can't help as much as others is a poor excuse. We have to do our bit as well.

Land Management and Restoration – I want to see us put some more money into habitat restoration to encourage people to do it. Already some are doing loads. But we can always do more. I think we have to look at saving all the native animals here and also making things better for livestock on the farms. By restoring their habitats, you can help both it seems. Planting Tussac and other native plants should help to secure the soil and prevent erosion, so hopefully more and more. Perhaps one day we won't have to plant anymore, but that's a long way away.

Marine Management – We need to stop rubbish going into the sea. By sorting out what we do with that rubbish. Re-using, re-cycling, reducing and just generally being a lot more responsible. We have started this, but there is a long way to go. To save the whales we have to keep looking at the numbers and understanding if there is something causing the numbers to drop. I think we need to increase the amount of science we do in the Falklands to better understand these things. We need fishing to be able to pay for all the other good things we do, but we must keep pushing to make sure that it is as sustainable as possible. Making sure we don't overfish. I certainly agree that we shouldn't be throwing rocks at seals or any other animals.

The Future – We have to invest more in biosecurity not just for creatures but also for plants as well. Once these things get here they can have a massive impact on our Islands. It is surely better to keep them out in the first place. I'm really not sure how many eggs and chicks we will save, but if we ensure they have a home and try to keep them as free from interference as much as possible then I hope a lot. Some people have worked really hard to get the islands rat free and this is really important, especially for the small birds. I would be happy to see more and more of these Islands becoming mouse and rat free.

Lastly and not my favourite answer is what my family and friends would describe me as a Falklands animal. I asked my three-year-old daughter. I was hoping she would say a sea-lion or an orca, but instead she chose a cow. Unfortunately, she wouldn't explain why, but also wouldn't change her mind."

Peter Biggs

"Hello Watch Group - I am very impressed that you are all so well informed and are putting a bit of pressure on all the candidates for action, and not just words, with your clever questions. Here are my words regarding what I think are the priorities for the Falkland Islands Government: all candidates should study the Environmental Strategy and Falkland Conservations ideas for a Green Election documents and use them as check lists for what should be done. In the meantime we must make sure that we concentrate on waste management and the sewage problem in Stanley - these problems are very overdue for a solution. If we all work together we can save the Falklands from further damage and protect and repair it for future generations. If I am elected I will work hard to make the Falklands a place of which we can be even more proud. I think the environment is the most important subject being discussed in this election."

Roger Spink

"Energy and climate Change- thank you Sophie and Shaun for your question we must provide support through grants and loans to encourage the take up of renewable energy options in both camp and Stanley, plus build in a greater degree of renewable energy into our power station. This should reduce our carbon emissions we could also look at land use to reduce carbon emissions. Animal Habitats Restoration- We need to push forward with getting a Carbon Credit Scheme introduced in the Islands to fund tussock planting and habitat restoration where families receive a benefit when they restore habitats on their land. We also need to fund the removal of non native plants where possible. Marine Management- We will fund a waste disposal facility to clean up Eliza Cove tip. We will also have disposal facilities for vessels operating around the Islands. And NO to throwing rocks at seals. The Future- We need to keep our guard against introduction of invasive species and raise funds and produce plans on how best to remove rats and other invasive species from offshore Islands. We also need to prioritise the environment in our decision making. As far as animals are concerned I snore a lot so I suppose I am like an Elephant Seal!!! Keep up the great work you all do for our environment your views do matter and I know you all back them up with practical work improving the Islands we live in."

Stacy Bragger

"Thank you Watch Group for your great video, sorry to have taken a few days to reply. The other candidates have made some great points but here are some brief comments from me...On clean energy, we definitely need to do more when it comes to utilising renewable energy. The next power station needs to have greater capacity to incorporate renewables. On restoring animal habitats, I believe that this is an opportunity for government to assist with on the ground projects. In my manifesto I say that we should be supporting land owners with these sorts of initiatives. On how we deal with rubbish, we need to get the Eliza Cove tip shut as soon as possible and a new modern, fit for purpose waste management system in place. I had hoped that this would be up and running before the end of the last Assembly but sadly that didn't happen. The work is continuing though and if elected I would be 100% committed to getting that project finished off. It will be a huge step forward for the Falklands. We need to do more with biosecurity and I think there are examples in place elsewhere that we could follow. Regarding reducing our CO2 emissions, we need to do our bit and do all we can to reduce our contribution. We're a small place but as I say in my manifesto given our size and our resources why can't we be more proactive and take the lead? As for which Falklands animal I'd be...I'll go for the Magellanic Oystercatcher. Always liked them, we both have big noses."

Thanks again for your questions. The next Assembly needs to do more when it comes to the environment and if elected I would be committed to doing that. It's your future and we need to make sure that we leave our environment in the best condition we can for you."

Teslyn Barkman

"Lots of questions in there and good ones they are too.

We need an energy strategy that opens up access to renewable options for the whole country. We should set targets to reduce CO2 but be sure they have supported actions to reach the targets i.e. incentives to reduce fuel use, emissions controls and scrubbers, and by encouraging carbon capture in healthy Peatlands and restoration.

I'd like work to see all of Camp eligible and encouraged to use renewables to offset fuel use and for more schemes available in town too. FIG builds should include renewables too.

Habitats should be promoted and balance encouraged where economic activity takes place. Actions like Seal exclusion devices and batch-discarding have been taken in the past few years by industry and FIG working together, continued attention to mitigate habitat disruption and ensure stock assessments and oversight of the fishery are important to achieve this. Internationally I would continue to advocate for a regional fisheries agreement to manage the high seas. Overfishing and unknown practices outside of our zone affects the health of the whole South Atlantic and we need to voice the concerns. On land there is need to more deeply understand our drying climate. Linking advice and trials from landowners who have tried different approaches we may find solutions.

Waste management needed to change here to stop plastics ending up in our oceans. The last assembly took on the challenge in recycling and a proper facility to replace Eliza Cove. There is more to be done. We also took steps to ensure these waste goals were reflected in the ITQ B action plans, and licensing in our fisheries.

While global pollution will always have an effect on our oceans we should continue to work to lower plastic use by working with businesses who import.

Biosecurity is an important topic. We are lucky in some respects with low incidence of animal disease but the habitats are vulnerable to challenges they don't know how to tackle, earwigs and calafate are prime examples. Habitats are strongest to resist invasives when they are pristine, or as near as possible to it. Restoration work will help in this respect. I support controlling the invasives we have and clear import protocols with a well resourced biosecurity team. Planting of native flora should be incentivised and clear strategies to encourage and fund restoration work, rather than relying on Environmental Studies Budget submissions.

I can't give an exact number of how many animals I aim to save. We know that climate change, global plastic discards, seasonal effects like El Nino and algal blooms can play a significant role in our ecosystems. We can only work to understand the changes and try our best to reduce human impacts. I have no idea which animal I'd be likened too. Something small, scrappy and that is tougher than it looks I'd hope - perhaps a fur seal (but I promise to keep my teeth cleaner than one)... I also agree you shouldn't throw rocks at seals!!"