

Falklands Conservation



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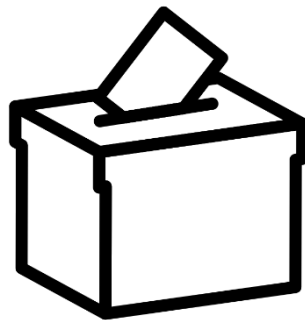
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A Sustainable Islands Vision for the 2025 Falkland Islands General Election

October 2025



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Summary:

In this document, we present practical ideas from Falklands Conservation for the next Legislative Assembly to support our environmental challenges, while building industries of the future, not of the past.

A healthy environment is the bedrock of our three predominant industries – agriculture, fishing and tourism. These sustain our community and so naturally, a commitment to the environment in this election is a commitment to prosperity.

Many people, young and old, will have other inspiring ideas for greening our Islands. We encourage as many exciting ideas as possible from the community and hope MLA Candidates can match this ambition.

Our next Assembly

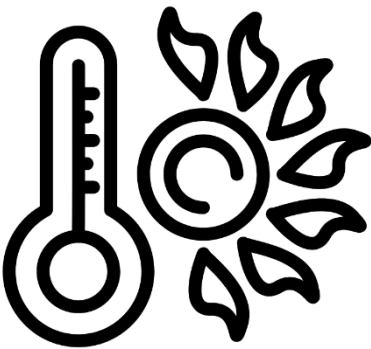
In the Falklands, we are rightly proud of our vibrant democracy. So, here's what we believe a 2026 Assembly could be proud of having achieved by the end of its term, making us a democracy that develops sustainably.

Restore Falklands Habitats

Vision 1: an ambitious programme to restore Falklands habitats



Healthy habitats create homes for our wildlife, from our endemic Cobb's Wrens to our Magellanic penguins. But they also safeguard our soils from erosion, help store carbon, improve access to fresh water and improve resilience to wildfires. Without protection or restoration, our familiar landscapes are under threat from degradation and could become unable to support both the native wildlife we value, and the productivity that sustains us. It's good for farming, good for the climate and good for wildlife.



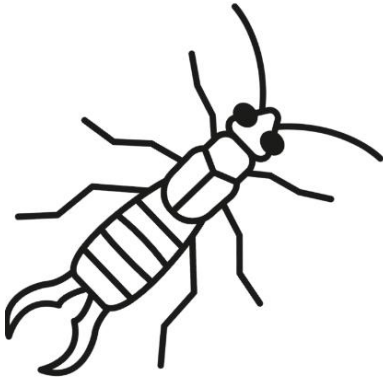
Climate Security

Vision 2: commit to a *Falklands Net Zero* carbon goal, joining other leading nations

Vision 3: commit to restoring native habitats on FIG land and offering practical incentives to private landowners

The climate crisis is impacting the Falkland Islands and our industries. Since the last election, several islands have caught fire, causing huge carbon dioxide release and killing many seabirds. Water shortages across Camp are impacting farming and increasing erosion. Some penguins appear to be seriously affected and there is concern that some commercial fish stocks may move away. Net Zero will bring a number of economic and social benefits such as cleaner air, reduced reliance on fossil fuel and cheaper wind energy. Climate-positive industries should be encouraged. This will make our economy more able to face future shocks as the world decarbonises. If we expect other nations to reduce their emissions for our national security, we will need to play our part.

Keep out Invasive Species



Vision 4: tackle invasive species threats and their impacts

Invasive species are among the greatest threats to our environment, with more predicted to arrive. Invasive mammals like rats and mice now infest over 99% of our Islands, devastating native bird populations, including some of our most iconic species. Invasive plants like Thistles and Calafate are degrading valuable pasture and pushing out native flora. Diseases such as Avian Influenza and Penguin Pox can have large scale impacts on wildlife and our economy.

Our biosecurity system is outdated and underpowered. New policy and legislation are urgently needed — not only to prevent new introductions, but to halt the ongoing spread of invasive species across the Islands.

We must also restore the damage already done. With commitment and leadership, we can eradicate some of the most damaging invasive species, as other countries have shown, and give our native wildlife and ecosystems a chance to recover.

Actions like these are consistently ranked among the most effective, high-impact conservation investments worldwide — delivering lasting benefits for communities, biodiversity and the climate.

Improved Marine Protection

Vision 5: adopt a marine protection regime with clear criteria for why sites are chosen and conform to internationally agreed best practice.

Vision 6: ensure that non-native Atlantic Salmon, are not introduced into our environment



The Falklands' economy relies on a healthy marine environment: about 60% of our GDP comes from fishing. Six of the 15 major fisheries, which make up about a third of total licence revenues, rely on a healthy inshore marine environment. Our tourism industry, also reliant on this marine environment, is growing long-term. We should ensure that we play our part with the global community to protect 30% of the ocean by 2030. Marine management should not allow damage, waste pollution nor chemical pollution and so, rule out damaging practices such as industrial-scale open pen salmon farming.

Vision 7: reduce pressure on our sea bottom

Our productive fisheries remain the backbone of our economy. We must ensure a safe future for our valuable fish stocks and the marine environment that they depend on. A process to review and implement modern techniques and equipment, which reduce the impact of bottom trawling, will help us lead in sustainable and responsible fishing.

Adopting a Green Economy

Vision 8: offer support to green projects and undertake a greening of FIG business plans within 18 months

The Falkland Islands are well-placed to adopt a 'Sustainable Economy'. This is an economy that supports industries that do not degrade the environment. Not only would this encourage a strong economy, but it would also seek to support a healthy natural environment. FIG's business plans will need greening to achieve this, such as looking at how financial tools can be implemented.

One initiative that could have potential, is the possible development of a carbon credits scheme. If this were viable, businesses, organisations or individuals could reduce some of their carbon emissions; those which have not been possible to reduce by other means. Current excellent support from FIG should be continued to see if carbon credits are viable in the Falklands.



Our great democracy

Our election is a key democratic opportunity for voters and candidate MLAs to set the direction of the Islands and strive for a greener, more sustainable future. We applaud candidates for putting themselves forward for public service and look forward to working with them. We at Falklands Conservation are committed to supporting this progress, and we encourage those within our fantastic community, and wider supporters, to do the same.