



Drilling For Oil Expected to Start in February 2010

Desire Petroleum has exchanged a letter of intent with Diamond Offshore Drilling for a rig to undertake a drilling campaign in the North Falkland Basin. The rig is expected to arrive in February 2010.

Eleven representatives, from Desire Petroleum, Argos Resources,

Rockhopper Exploration, BHP Billiton and Borders and Southern Petroleum, visited the Falkland Islands in May to meet members of the Government and the business community. Two of the companies also took the opportunity to discuss their Environmental Impact Assessments with the local community. Phyl Rendell, Director

of Minerals, commented: "While we cannot yet confirm that any oil will be found, we are delighted that the companies involved are serious about environmental concerns and committed to drilling in Falklands waters."

www.falklands.gov.fk//Oil_&Minerals.html

CONTENTS

- Drilling For Oil
- Election News
- Falklands Fishery Boost
- Biodiversity Strategy
- Falklands Tourism
- Focus On... Review of Government
- News in Brief
- Diary Dates

Visiting MPs Praise Falklands



MPs meeting Islanders at San Carlos

Madeleine Moon, Labour MP for Bridgend, and Brian Binley, Conservative MP for Northampton South, visited the Islands from 19 to 24 February. The visit included Government briefings on fisheries,

hydrocarbons, tourism, agriculture and defence. Ms Moon commented that the trip had been highly successful, while Mr Binley said that the Falklands' people were the most important asset of the Islands.

First Election Under New Constitution

On 5 November the first election will take place under the revised Falkland Islands Constitution, which was introduced on 1 January. Eight Members will be elected to serve on the Legislative Assembly, which is responsible for passing legislation for the peace, order

and good government of the Falkland Islands. The new Constitution provides enhanced local democracy and internal self-government, whilst also enshrining the right of self-determination.

www.falklands.gov.fk/assembly/The_Constitution.html

Assembly Adopts Islands Plan

The Islands Plan, the Falkland Islands Government's road map for achieving sustainable economic growth while preserving the environment and culture of the Falklands, has been officially adopted by the Legislative Assembly. The Islands Plan lays out nine themes under which targets for society, the economy and environment in the medium term are laid out. These include the right to self determination; sustainable economic and fiscal management; education; transport and communications; health; good governance; Camp; environment; and quality of life and community safety.

www.falklands.gov.fk//The_Islands_Plan.html

Argentine Next of Kin to Visit

The Falkland Islands Government is pleased that arrangements have finally been agreed for a humanitarian visit of Argentine next of kin to the Falkland Islands on 3 and 10 October and is grateful to LAN, the Chilean airline, for providing extra capacity on its scheduled services to accommodate the families of the fallen who wish to travel to the event. Although next of kin visits to the Falkland Islands have been taking place regularly since 1991, this will be the largest of its kind and the logistics involved are considerable.

New Governor for the Falklands

It has been announced that Mr Nigel Haywood CVO has been appointed as the next Governor of the Falkland Islands and Commissioner of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands

in succession to Mr Alan Huckle. Mr Haywood, who was previously British Consul-General in Basra, Iraq and Ambassador in Tallinn, Estonia, will take up his post in September 2010.

Diversification Boosts Fishery

The Falklands fishery, which has been praised for its high quality management in the Public Library of Science online journal *Biology*, has been diversifying to reduce the effect of the recent decline of the *Illex* squid. A new fishery is to be opened offshore for the Grenadier, a marine fish of the family *Macrouridae*. With new measures in place to reduce the mortality of sea birds caused by fishing and new technology introduced to improve the monitoring and tracking of fishing vessels, the Falklands fishery is looking forward to consolidating progress made with the introduction of the new fisheries law and individual transferable quota system.

The three-year programme of development of the Falkland Islands Development Corporation's Aquaculture Project is drawing to a close, with the hope that the on-shore breeding of species such as sea trout and polychaete worms will be developed into a commercially sustainable operation.

www.falklands.gov.fk//Fisheries.html

Positive Production and Sales at Sand Bay Abattoir

The Falkland Islands Meat Company has completed a very successful seventh export season, maintaining an average of 450 sheep/lambs per day processed. Export sales have been as good as last year and in a number of cases higher prices achieved, despite the recession. Customers this year include Denmark, Sweden, Spain and the UK.



Record Breaking Season for Tourism



A cruise ship visiting the Falklands © FITB

The Falkland Islands are riding on the crest of a wave following a record-breaking visitor season with increased visitor numbers, new tourist facilities available, and confidence in further growth. The recent season (October 2008 – April 2009), which saw 62,600 passengers arriving on 105 ships, compared to 62,200 in 2007-2008, has topped off a decade of visitor number increases resulting in impressive growth of 218% over the past 10 years. On 6 February a new record was set when 4,053 visitors arrived on board cruise ships in one day. Cruise tourism brought almost £4.2 million revenue into the Falklands in the 2008-9 season, while land-based tourists spent an estimated £3.2 million.

www.falklands.gov.fk//Tourism.html

Government Publishes Biodiversity Strategy

In June the Falkland Islands Government released its updated biodiversity strategy for 2008-2018, which will ensure the Islands' natural resources are managed for the long-term benefit of all. Legislative Assembly Member the Honourable John Birmingham commented: "As Falkland Islanders, we are proud and very aware of the uniqueness of our environment. However, we are also aware of how our actions can affect that same environment and of the need to protect what we cherish."

www.epd.gov.fk/wp-content/uploads/BiodiversityStrategy09.pdf



Rockhopper penguins © Georgina Strange

Focus On...

Review of Government

Restructure Aims to Reduce Cost of Government

The Review of Government presented by the Chief Executive, Dr Tim Thorogood, was accepted by Executive Council in December 2008. Executive Council agreed the details of a new top management structure at its March meeting and some of the new roles have already been filled. The new structure aims to reduce the on-going costs of government by £200,000 per year and achieve a more strategic, dynamic and efficient public sector best suited to achieve the aspirations of the Islands Plan within a challenging global context.

The Review recommends the following actions:

1. Reduce the size and role of government

This would improve value for money and encourage economic growth.

2. Regulation

A new Regulatory Department should be given substantial powers to regulate across a wide but defined field including private sector monopolies and mergers, civil aviation, telecommunications and all services transferred from government to the private sector.

3. Introduce a new FIG Structure

The new organisational structure has a small top team and below this a consistent tier of Heads of Service who have clearly delegated responsibility for day to day issues.

4. Focus and Priorities

More focus should be given to the process of Islands Planning (see page one), Business Planning and Individual Appraisals.

5. People Management

People Management issues should be addressed to avoid lack of workforce planning, career development and skills development.

6. Efficiency

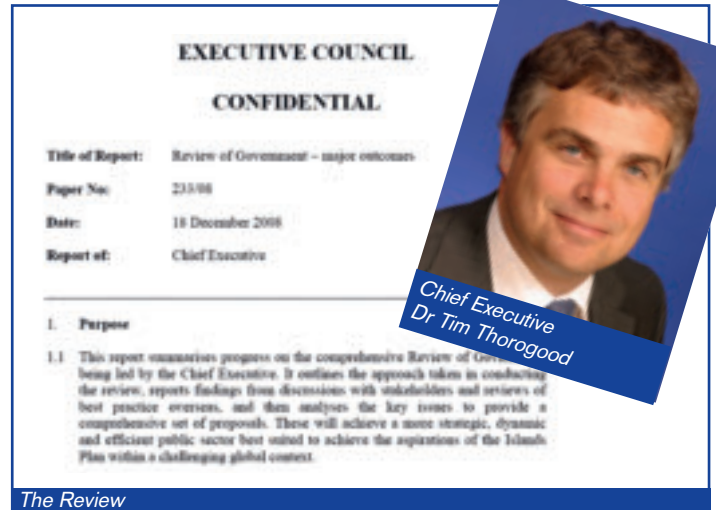
The new structure should facilitate greater efficiency both by reducing over time the number of management and administrative posts but also by giving managers sufficient scope and delegation to develop their services more efficiently.

7. Customers

The proximity of government and extent of face to face contact means FIG provides a level of customer service that is second to none, whilst it aims to improve communications between FIG and its customers.

8. Political leadership and civil service

The current development of Islands Planning, business planning, financial green papers and so on will encourage strategic thinking and underpin the development of more strategic roles for Assembly Members.



The Review

How was Government Reviewed?

- The views and ideas from local people and businesses were considered.
- Ideas were sought from overseas.
- There was a critical review by independent experts.
- Further consultation with staff in December 2008.

The future vision for the Public Service

The Review envisages a public service which:

- Provides strong aspirational leadership.
- Engages and focuses staff and community behind common endeavour.
- Achieves world comparable performance and efficiency.
- Provides unity of outcome but diversity of delivery; stimulates initiative, competition and economic growth.
- Maintains and improves strong governance and finance.



The Secretariat

The Review can be read on www.falklands.gov.fk.

Falklands Welcome HRH the Princess Royal



HRH Princess Anne and her husband, Vice-Admiral Timothy Laurence, arrived on 23 March for a visit to the Falklands Islands and South Georgia. The Princess Royal carried out a number of public engagements, including opening the new extension to the police station.

Councillors Make Case for Self-Determination at UN



The Hon. Janet Robertson and the Hon. Richard Stevens

Two elected Members of the Falkland Islands Legislative Assembly, the Honourable Janet Robertson and the Honourable Richard Stevens,

delivered a message of self-determination at the United Nations Special Committee of 24 on Decolonisation in New York on 18 June. Their speeches explained how the new Constitution guarantees Islanders the right to determine their own political future, while the achievements of Islanders demonstrate how they have earned this right.

www.falklands.gov.fk/assembly/UN_Committee_of_24.html

Liberty Lodge Ready to Welcome Veterans

British veterans who served in the Falklands in 1982 now have their own house in Stanley. Liberty Lodge was officially opened on 3 February by the Commander of British Forces in the Falkland Islands, Air

Commodore Gordon Moulds CBE. It is hoped that more veterans will stay in the Lodge, enjoy the company of Falkland Islanders and that these visits will help them come to terms with their experiences during the war.

Falklands Briefing for Foreign Press in London

On 11 June, representatives of the Falkland Islands Government briefed a group of journalists at the Foreign Press Association on how they are planning to secure a successful future through economic and political development. The Honourable Mike Summers OBE, Government Spokesman, was joined by Sukey Cameron MBE, UK Representative, and told press that, with a successful tourism industry, continued diversification of agriculture and the development of the fishing industry, the future of the Islands' economy is bright.

Annual Reception in London

The Falkland Islands Government Annual Reception took place this year on 9 June at the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn. Around 250 guests attended the event, including MPs, Peers, Legislative Assembly Members, visiting Islanders, Falkland Islands students, FCO and MoD personnel, and other friends and supporters of the Falkland Islands. The speech by the Falkland Islands Government Representative, Sukey Cameron MBE, which was well received, was followed by a message from Her Majesty the Queen, read by David Tatham CMG, Chairman of the Falkland Islands Association, who then proposed the Loyal Toast.



Sir Nicholas Winteron MP DL, Chair of the Falklands Parliamentary Group, and Sukey Cameron MBE

Falklands Athletes at Island Games



Doug Clark leads the Falklands team in the opening ceremony

The Falklands were represented once again at the Island Games, which took place in the Åland Islands in June and July. Thirty-five athletes competed in sports including badminton, table tennis, football, golf and clay target shooting. The Falklands have been represented at every Games since 1991 and have been awarded a total of 15 medals.

Diary Dates

27 September - 1 October: Falklands Stand at the Labour Party Conference

28 September - 6 October: 55th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, Tanzania

5-8 October: Falklands Stand at the Conservative Party Conference

5 November: General Election

8-9 December: Overseas Territories Consultative Council

For further information on the Falkland Islands please visit:

www.falklands.gov.fk



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