



**RECORD OF THE MEETING  
OF THE  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**HELD IN STANLEY  
ON 25 SEPTEMBER 2014**

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HELD IN STANLEY ON THURSDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2014**

Speaker of the House  
(Keith Biles JP)

**MEMBERS** (Ex-Officio)

The Acting Chief Executive  
(John Barton MBE)

The Acting Financial Secretary  
(Lydia Morrison)

Elected

The Honourable Roger Anthony Edwards  
(Elected Member for Camp Constituency)

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsbay  
(Elected Member for Stanley Constituency)

The Honourable Michael James Poole  
(Elected Member for Stanley Constituency)

The Honourable Phyllis (Phyl) Mary Rendell MBE  
(Elected Member for Stanley Constituency)

The Honourable Gavin Phillip Short  
(Elected Member for Stanley Constituency)

The Honourable Michael Summers OBE  
(Elected Member for Stanley Constituency)

**PERSONS ENTITLED TO ATTEND**

The Attorney General  
(Peter Judge MBE)

Commander British Forces South Atlantic Islands  
(Air Commodore Russell La Forte CBE)

**DEPUTY CLERK:** Cherie Clifford

**PRAYERS:** Reverend Kathy Biles

## **Apologies (Overseas)**

The Honourable Janet (Jan) Lynda Cheek  
(Elected Member for Stanley Constituency)

The Honourable Ian Hansen  
(Elected Member for Camp Constituency)

The Honourable Chief Executive  
(Keith Padgett)

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**The Record of the meeting of Legislative Assembly  
held on Thursday 25 September 2014**

**Prayers**

**Mr Speaker**

Honourable Members, I bid you good morning and my usual reminder please, about mobile phones to be turned off or at least turned to silent.

**Deputy Clerk of the Assembly**

The confirmation of the Record of Legislative Assembly held on 28 August 2014.

**Mr Speaker**

Honourable Members, I have before me a record of your last meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> August 2014. Is it your wish that sign this as a true record?

**The Honourable Roger Edwards**

Mr Speaker, in reading this there are one or two very minor typos and misplaced words and if it is acceptable to the House I will pass these to the Clerk so that the official record is a correct version.

**Mr Speaker**

Indeed. I take it that they are not substantive?

**The Honourable Roger Edwards**

Not at all.

**Mr Speaker**

Is there any objection to that?

**Honourable Members**

No objection.

**Mr Speaker**

Fine, we can do that.

## **Deputy Clerk of the Assembly**

Papers Laid on the Table by the Acting Chief Executive.

Falkland Islands Government Statement laid on the Table in accordance with the provisions of Section 57 of the Finance and Audit Ordinance for the year end 31 December 2013

- Falkland Islands Government Retirement Pensions Equalisation Fund

## **The Acting Chief Executive**

Mr Speaker, I hereby lay the aforementioned paper on the table.

## **Deputy Clerk of the Assembly**

Reports

Portfolio Report, The Honourable Roger Edwards

## **The Honourable Roger Edwards**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, it is my pleasure to provide a portfolio report for the Attorney General's Directorate and the Treasury.

Overall the Attorney General's Directorate remains very busy with additional pressures created by holidays and training absences over the winter period. Despite these pressures considerable progress has been made. Honourable Members will be aware of the Children Bill which has now passed through this House and into law having been signed by the Acting Governor. Executive Council has approved its commencement for the 31st October and the appropriate notice will appear shortly. This new Ordinance makes a number of advancements aimed at improving child protection practice, procedure and standards in the Falkland Islands. The Ordinance, coupled with regulations and training, brings our law substantially in line with international practice.

I am also grateful to Honourable Members for the considerable attention they have given to the Criminal Procedures and Evidence Bill and the Crimes Bill, which are currently in Select Committee. We have so far had some 21 hours of Select Committee and we are due to start on the main body of the Crimes Bill this very afternoon.

I am also grateful to those who participated in the public meetings about these Bills. There is some way to go to complete the Select Committee process and the Bills are being very carefully examined, but I detect an air of confidence from Members about the nature of the improvements being introduced.

We have also seen progress from the long awaited Law Commissioner post. It is with some pride that I am able to report that the Islander Ros Cheek was successful in being appointed, against a very strong international field. As a result, Ros' role of Head of Legal Services, Principle Crown Council has been advertised. I am sure all Members will join with me in

congratulating Ros. I know our law revision will be in the safe and expert hands of a person who really understands the Islands.

Turning to the Regulatory Services, Civil Aviation is well advanced with its inspection of Camp airstrips, with over 50% having been completed since March of this year. We are confident that the remaining airstrip inspections will be completed before the end of the calendar year as planned. I know Regulatory Services are grateful for the very positive responses they are receiving from the land owners to the inspection reports and the improvements that are being made. All this hard work improves safety for us all and visitors. Civil Aviation is also preparing well for the forthcoming audits, including the ASSI audit in early 2015.

Work is well advanced towards Stanley Airport being properly certificated and able to offer a full range of services including accepting international flights.

Despite the pressure we see across Government at this time of year generally, I am pleased to report that the machinery of Government in this area continues to operation effectively, with good prosecution turnaround time and excellent working relationships between the Royal Falkland Island Police and the Prosecution Team. The Registry also continues to operate well, dealing with both international and local searches and enquiries.

I know move onto the Treasury.

The Treasury is very busy at the moment, working on drafting last year's Financial Statements in preparation for the visit of external auditors in October. The one major project the Treasury has ongoing at the moment is in relation to pensions. In October we shall be running two campaigns in parallel. The first is to raise awareness of the importance of pensions, and the second will be the public consultation regarding the possible changes to the way contributions are calculated for the retirement pension contributions.

We will be holding a number of public meetings in Stanley and Camp, probably at Goose Green and Fox Bay. The first will be our monthly MLA public meeting in the Town Hall on the 20th October 2014. There will also be an online survey, which will also be available in hard copy. FIG staff will be invited to attend focus groups, or one to one interviews for those who would like, to provide a more detailed response than that which can be gained from the survey.

Whilst speaking of pensions, those listening who are in receipt of a United Kingdom Old Age Pension will be pleased to know that this subject is one to be raised during the Joint Ministerial Council meeting that my Colleague Ian Hansen and I will be attending in December. As from the 1<sup>st</sup> August, the Treasury is taking on a number of tasks previously undertaken by the Post Office, and an accounting assistant has been recruited to cover this work. Daniel Heath has been appointed Postmaster.

In the Tax Office, where we have had some staffing problems causing some delays to returns being processed, we have filled the post of Senior Assistant Tax Officer and Assistant Tax Officer. We have an offer out for the post of Head of Tax Policy, and it is hoped he will be in post by the beginning of December.

If numbers are your thing, then I can report that for 2013: tax returns issued 1980, tax returns received 1917, and returns outstanding 63. Of the returns received, tax returns received by the 31<sup>st</sup> July (that was the deadline for when tax returns had to be in) was 1897, and 20 were received after the 1<sup>st</sup> August. Assessments issued have been 1775, and returns still awaiting assessment are 142. So you can see from those numbers, Mr Speaker, that the Tax Office has got a long way to catching up with the numbers and the backlog.

Finally, I can report that Jodi Aldridge was appointed to the role as one of our three Currency Commissioners. This is not a new appointment, but an extension to her normal role.

Does any Member have any questions or queries on my portfolio report?

**Mr Speaker**

Honourable Members, are there any comments or questions?

**The Honourable Gavin Short**

Thank you Mr Speaker, I thank the Honourable Member for his report to the House, and I too would like to join with him in welcoming and congratulating Ros Cheek on her new role.

I was just wondering. Stanley Airport certification, do we have a timeframe in mind for that to happen please?

**The Honourable Roger Edwards**

I am grateful for my Honourable colleague's question. We are hoping that Stanley Airport will be properly and fully certificated before the end of the year, however, there is a question over the provision of a suitable fire engine to bring it fully certificated. For many years, the airport had operated under an exemption certificate, and even before that was only locally licenced issued by the local Director of Civil Aviation. So this will actually be the first time that the airport had been properly certificated.

I thank the Member for his question.

**The Honourable Gavin Short**

Thank you Mr Speaker, I would just like thank the Honourable Member for his very comprehensive reply.

**Mr Speaker**

Are there any other comments or questions?

No, we shall move on then.



## **The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I too would like to touch on a few points, I would like to start with the museum. As many people, indeed I hope all people in the community, will know that it has finally opened, and anyone that's been around there will see what an outstanding building we have now, and the contents are arranged to world class standards. I think we should justifiably be proud of that, and I believe it also came in on budget, which is also extremely good. The museum is something, as I say, that we should all be proud of, but it's a little bit sad to read of a theft of some important bits of wood from outside the museum. It's not the sort of thing we expect in our community, and I would suggest that whoever has taken it if they are listening today, be gracious enough to go and place that somewhere else late at night and then phone up and tell people where it is so we can get it back, but it's not the sort of thing we expect.

Since the museum opened their doors, they have already had over 200 people in, and it will also become much of an educational resource, and I see many classes from the Senior and the Junior School using that to work up various projects they will be undertaking. It's also going to be an absolute showcase for the Islands when tourists start to come again this summer.

As people may be aware, there are plans to open a café in the surrounds of the museum and that will hopefully open before the summer season starts, and again I see that as a resource that not just tourists will use, but people like the MLAs for instance. Nothing like staggering across the road and having a decent cup of coffee in the museum, so I think the museum will become a bit of a focus, not just of looking at the museum, but also interacting and using it as a community resource.

The museum has plans also to make it available for receptions and for presentations, and again I think that will enable us all to be very much more involved in the museum than we perhaps think.

If I turn to Education. As the Honourable Roger Edwards said in his departments, things have been busy, and certainly in the Education Department they have been even busier than normal. The Senior Team we have in place at the moment, especially the Heads of both schools, and the deputy Heads and the Director have moved things on at a tremendous pace. The GCSE results this year were very good indeed, with many students going off and qualifying to go off to college in the UK to Chichester or to Peter Symonds, others will be taking up apprenticeships in the Islands, and I am sure all Members here will join with me in wishing them well in their chosen course of study.

The other big thing approaching the Education Department is the Ofsted Inspection; this is an inspection, obviously, to see how good we are. That will take place in the first two weeks of November, and it will consist of a small team of inspectors visiting the Islands and conducting a wide range of assessments of our schools. They will focus not only on the grades achieved, but will look in-depth at how we ensure that each individual student achieves their full potential. We will need to show that we have correct systems in place to be able to monitor each student on a regular basis, from the time they enter the Infant & Junior School until they complete their GCSE's. The idea is to identify any concerns in any student before they become serious, so that we can give extra help to that child and ensure that everyone will achieve their full potential, whatever that might be. In many ways this

assessment and this determination is far more important than just looking at GCSE results in isolation.

I am aware that all this has meant a huge amount of work in the schools over many months, and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all teachers and staff for their commitment. The inspectors will also have interviews with parents and the students. One of the concerns raised in the 2010 Ofsted Inspection was that not all of the teaching was of a high enough standard. A system is now in place such that all teachers, including the Heads, will have a formal assessment of their classroom teaching each term by a couple of the Senior Management Team. They will also have brief drop in visits, perhaps of 10 or 15 minutes two or three times each term. The idea is that, again, if there are any problems identified with the teaching we will be able to work with those teachers to enable them to produce and improve such that they are giving the highest standards of tuition to our students.

We will be holding a parents evening on October 16<sup>th</sup> to give parents the chance of discussing their child's progress, but also to allow parents to learn more about how this new tracking system will help us to ensure that those children meet their full potential.

If I could just talk a little bit about developments in Camp Education now, many people will know we have been trying to produce a virtual classroom and that has now happened. I am pleased to say that over the last few weeks the successful linkage of all Camp schools to each other, and to the schools in town, has happened and that is via an intranet not the internet. We are also in the process of trying to link remote houses with children to Camp schools and to town. That can happen, but it's going to take us a bit longer. The system for Camp schools, the linkage with Camp schools and with town has been tested and it works both for audio and also for live video links. This has only come about due to the drive and determination of the Director, but especially of the Deputy Head of the Junior School and Camp Education, Rebecca Robinson. I must also mention Synergy and their help. Synergy, of course, are now the Government's Computer Department, and SURE, they have been tremendously helpful and they also continue to sponsor the internet received by the school.

More work needs to be done on how teachers will actually use this new facility, but it will revolutionise the way we provide education to those in Camp. It will also have significance on all aspects of life in Camp, not just education, so big moves and big changes are afoot. Just to emphasise to parents in Camp, that this will be via an on-Island intranet link not using the satellite, so there will be no additional cost to families in Camp.

I would like to just move on now to the International Day, really the International Week that is being held, because this week the Community School held its first International Day. Visitors to the Falkland Islands are always amazed at just how multicultural our small society is, and the students wanted to celebrate this with events throughout the week. We are also reaching out with links to students in other countries, and this first International Day was an excellent way to make students aware of the diversity we have here. Special thanks must go to the Student Youth Action Group.

Alongside that International Day there was also a very successful quiz evening with food, again from all around the world, and that was held, again, at the Community School, the idea being to raise funds towards an educational trip to Ascension Island. The quiz was great fun and the food, cooked mainly by the students, was fantastic.

I would like to just touch on a new club that has started, and that is the Junior Running Club. A vote of thanks must go to Caroline and Tim Drew for setting up the Junior Running Club. Over 50 youngsters have signed up and there was a tremendous turnout for their first run a few days ago, unfortunately not on that very nice day we had a few days ago, but a very cold blustery day, and I am sure this club will go from strength to strength.

This year, in the Junior School, we will also be offering a more structured, but fun approach to teaching Spanish in years one to six, with help from a Spanish speaking teacher. We are also setting up two after-school conversation classes. These will also be fun based and will be largely run by bilingual parents, again a reflection on the makeup of our society.

It's been clear for some time that there is a growing desire from parents for some way of children having meals provided during the lunch break rather than going home. The Education Department and I have spent some considerable time looking at various options, from simply a place where students can have packed lunches, to ways of providing hot meals. The nurseries in town already take a large number of children just for lunchtime, but that doesn't meet the need. I will be holding a meeting in the next few weeks where we will try and take this matter further forward, so parents if you feel there is a problem, and you would like to be involved, then please feel free to call me with your thoughts.

Finally, I would just like to touch on the way we are trying to get younger people involved in politics. The Honourable Michael Poole and myself will be holding a debate in this House in October on smoking. It might surprise parents to realise that the latest census in 2010 reported that at least 25% of under 16's are smokers. That's an incredible figure, a totally unacceptable figure, and we need to do something about it. Hopefully, in that debate in the October Assembly it will also be part of a way to try to get students involved. My Honourable Colleague Michael Poole is working with the school to try to ensure that students get involved in politics by linking with MLAs so they can follow an MLA around, to sit in mock Executive Councils where they can actually look at papers that are open to the public, and debate how they might use that knowledge. We hope to have a proper debate in this House using the Deputy Speaker, but instead of MLAs there will be students, but also backed up with the Attorney General, the Chief Executive, the Financial Secretary because we think this is a way of trying to involve students in politics.

Up to now, we have sent a number of students off to the Commonwealth Youth Parliament, and they have been very successful, but it's been unfortunate that when they return we have not been able to produce a Youth Parliament as such here, and that's probably purely because of the small numbers we have in our community, and we hope that these moves that my Honourable Colleague Michael Poole and myself are taking will inspire younger member of our society to get involved in politics, and from that we hope things will grow.

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

**Mr Speaker**

Honourable Members, are there any comments or questions?

### **The Honourable Roger Edwards**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, during the last Assembly meeting on the 18 August 2014, I too congratulated the students for their success at the GCSEs, but would the Honourable Dr Barry Elsby not agree with me that our Community School commitment to students does not end once the student has completed his or her GCSE paper? We must ensure that all students are given the very best advice so they can access the very best courses available to suit their future choices in careers. Would my Honourable Colleague not agree that we need some type of clearing house similar to the university clearing system, so that all students and parents are properly catered for?

### **The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank my Honourable Colleague for his comments and questions, and he is absolutely right, our commitment to education does not stop at GCSEs, and he is also right that we need to ensure that those students from a very early time when they are choosing the subjects they will do at GCSE are aware and have some idea of what career they might follow, because we need to make sure that the subjects they choose will fit with that plan, and that is why we have one of the teachers who is responsible for career guidance. It's not perfect at the moment, we need to improve on what we are offering in the way of career guidance. My Honourable Colleague is referring to a couple of problems we have had recently at the recent GCSE results, where there have been hiccups in what students wanted to do if they didn't meet the exact requirements for the course, so he is right we do need to improve on that, and I will be working with the Director and the Heads to make sure that that career guidance develops such that we can iron out any difficulties.

### **The Honourable Roger Edwards**

Mr Speaker, I thank the Honourable Member for his answer.

### **Mr Speaker**

Are there any other comments?

### **The Honourable Phyl Rendell MBE**

Mr Speaker, I would just like to comment on the introduction of the virtual classroom, and congratulate the Honourable Dr Barry Elsby and all in the Education Department to have gotten this live. We have been talking about a virtual classroom concept for a long time and I know how technically complicated it's been, and I really do congratulate those who have got behind this and made it work. I think it's very exciting for the inter-relationships with young people in the Camp and in Stanley, and I think we should also be able to roll it out and use it in other ways beyond education, so I would like to congratulate everybody that's made that happen, and look forward to perhaps coming in and looking at one side of it and seeing how it actually works. Thank you very much.

### **Mr Speaker**

Are there any other comments or questions? No.

## **Deputy Clerk of the Assembly**

Order of the Day - Bills.

Supplementary Appropriation (2014-2015) Bill 2014, this Bill has not been gazetted and therefore requires a first reading.

## **Acting Financial Secretary**

I beg to move the first reading of the Bill.

## **The Honourable Roger Edwards**

I second the motion.

## **Mr Speaker**

Honourable Members the Motion before the House is that this Bill be read a first time, is there any objection to that Motion - there is no objection, the Bill will be read a first time.

## **Deputy Clerk of the Assembly**

The Supplementary Appropriation (2014-2015) Bill 2014.

## **Acting Financial Secretary**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, this is the first Supplementary Appropriation Bill to be presented for the current financial year. Its purpose is to authorise the withdrawal of the additional sum of £3,781,430 from the Consolidated Fund to meet supplementary expenditure approved by the Standing Finance Committee on 25th June and the 27<sup>th</sup> August.

The supplementary expenditure was approved for the following purposes:

Firstly, £3,731,980 relating to carryovers of unspent funds from the 2013/2014 financial year. The most significant of these being:

- £1,515,000 relating to the continuation of Island Plan Investments and Oil Development, £556,000 for training and development.
- £135,000 relating to HR consultancy work for the Human Resources Department.
- £113,000 for specialist drafting within the Attorney General's Department and ongoing work relating to the Child Action Plan.
- £76,000 for the Health and Social Services Department covering the areas of recruitment, overseas assessments and child protection.
- £54,000 for the Education Department to enable the completion of the Training Needs audit

Secondly, £49,000 additional departmental funding arising from outsourcing. A full departmental breakdown is included in the Schedule to the Bill.

I beg to move that the Bill be read a second time.

**The Honourable Roger Edwards**

Mr Speaker, I second the Motion.

**Mr Speaker**

Does any Honourable Member wish to speak on the Bill?

**The Honourable Phyl Rendell MBE**

Mr Speaker, I would just like to comment on the rollover, it's a very large sum: £3million, and a very large amount of that, over a million, is related fund transfer and Island Plan investments. I am hopeful that we will see a spend in relation to the Island Plan in the current year, and we won't have such a large rollover in the future. I would perhaps think that we will have to question amongst ourselves, amongst my colleagues, why these big rollovers are occurring, and is it related to a lack of resource within the Government. Perhaps we just don't have enough people physically to do the things we want to happen, and this does impact on our community. There is great expectation out there to see things delivered, so I think we will have to, in the coming months, address this carefully and look to see that we have got the resources for the Government to carry out the projects that we are asking them to do.

Thank you.

**The Honourable Roger Edwards**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Colleagues, I can respond to my Honourable Colleague Phyl Rendell. We are expecting a paper at Standing Finance Committee at the end of October explaining where these underspends occurred and we can look at them at that time.

**Mr Speaker**

Does any other Member wish to speak?

No.

Is there any objection to dealing with this Bill by the short procedure?

No objection.

Does any Member wish to propose any amendments to the wording of the Bill?

No amendments.

I declare that the Bill will be read for a third time, and do pass.

## **Deputy Clerk of the Assembly**

The Supplementary Appropriation (2014-2015) Bill 2014.

Motion for Adjournment

## **Acting Chief Executive**

Mr Speaker, I beg to move the House stands adjourned sine die.

## **The Honourable Mike Summers OBE**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I just want to make some brief comments in the closing of this session on the referendum in Scotland and the importance of it to us.

It was a very important and, I guess, a momentous occasion for the United Kingdom generally, but actually has implications that go wider than that. The fact that the Scots had the right to hold the referendum in the first place was a very important issue, and many, many, people around the world didn't fail to notice that the United Kingdom had agreed with the Scottish National Party that Scots did have a right to hold a referendum to determine their long term future, their long term social aspirations, their long term political aspirations. So the fact that that the referendum was held at all is a fundamentally important issue for us and for the world generally, to see that the United Kingdom was acting in that way. It was great to see an open and inclusive debate amongst Scots, both those living in Scotland and those who didn't live in Scotland, and there are lessons to be learned I think in all United Kingdom politics, and perhaps Falklands politics, about the importance of that open and inclusive debate.

From my perspective, the most important thing was, at the end of the day, the maintenance of the Union. I, like others, would have been absolutely horrified had the Union been broken. It matters a great deal to us, I think, that the United Kingdom is a single United Kingdom and that it doesn't break up into smaller units, but there will be a lot of further constitutional debate, and a lot of further constitutional development as a result of the referendum in Scotland, and I hope that the right that various parts of the United Kingdom are seeking for more social justice is well balanced with the rights of businesses and others to generate wealth in the way that they see fit. And there is an important discussion and important debate to be had there, and I am sure we will all listen to it with great interest.

The important thing I just wanted to say to our constituents is as a result of the Scottish referendum there are no changes for the Overseas Territories and for the Falkland Islands, what might have happened if there had been a yes vote, of course, is something else. At the end of the day there has been a very clear exercise in our jurisdiction, in our United Kingdom jurisdiction, of the fundamental right to self-determination and to us that matters a very great deal indeed, and I thank and congratulate the Scots on what they have done.

## **The Honourable Phyl Rendell MBE**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, in rising to support the Motion I want to begin with talking about the extreme weather conditions that we have experienced recently, and these have had quite a major impact on transport services around the Camp in particular. That heavy rainfall, probably the worst for the last 40 years, has really had quite an impact and flooded areas, washed out roads and overwhelmed culverts. I think the last time we met in this Assembly in August we went in the afternoon to Hope Cottage, those of us who were here in the Islands, and we experienced something of the road network at that time in August before the great rain. It was pretty slushy. It's okay getting through in a single vehicle, but if you are towing a trailer with a load of stock for the abattoir it's really very, very difficult and does impact on business.

I would just like to congratulate Public Works Department, not only for the speedy response to the damaged roads, but also to the excellent information process that they have been giving us. They have been putting out notices about when roads have been opened, and also thanking the farming community for their support in assisting and repairing those roads. I think it's been really a great team effort, where we have had residents in the Camp being the eyes and ears for the Public Works Department, going out and assessing damage when Public Works Department people can't get to every corner of the Falklands, sending in credible assessment reports on washout and washed out culverts, and then physically helping to repair those roads, so people can always drive around them in a landrover. When you are trying, in a modern society as we are trying to develop our economy in the Camp, we are trying to use that network for trade and development and to get those road networks back running so we can access markets. It has been a great effort on everybody's behalf and I congratulate all that have solidly got behind that and just accepted the situation.

It's also been an impact for FIGAS operations. I think it must have been extremely difficult in the last few weeks for FIGAS to make those difficult choices as to whether to fly or not with very, very, poor visibility, and then knowing that they are going to possibly be landing on water sodden airstrips. I know for one on Bleaker Island, on our Island, we have had at least a week when we had no communications because the airstrip was completely water sodden, so again this has impacted on people's lives, but everybody has got on with it with fortitude.

I also would like to comment on Workboat Services, who had a very speedy dry dock service this year and were back in service quickly. I know how much the West Falkland depend on the ferry, and they really miss it when it's not operating, so it was great to see the Concordia Bay back very promptly and also delivering the Island service that it does.

I think, we in Falkland Islands Government have our part to play in all of this. We not only have to maintain those services because they are absolutely critical to the development of Camp, without communications, without transport services there is no business. It's Falkland Islands Government part to not only maintain, but we have to improve, and we have to also look at integrating those services. I think in the coming months and as we approach yet another budget session, we must look at how we improve those facilities, particularly the road network, and how we look at integration to make some sensible savings. Again, I refer as I did to the Appropriation Bill, much of that may not just be related to money, but I think it's related to resources, and I think we will have some serious issues to look at regarding



resources in the coming year, particularly with a vibrant oil exploration phase coming up. It will draw on the workforce, and I think we will have to take positive action to back up the programmes that we want to see carried out.

Just turning to the Select Committees that we have been going through recently, that the Honourable Roger Edwards mentioned in his portfolio address. Yes, we have been through six sessions, and we have completed scrutinising the Criminal Procedures and Evidence Bill. It's taken a lot of time, six half days and a lot of hours of reading for all of us, and I don't think any of us take it lightly that we are making new laws which will impact on the lives of everybody in this community, and it is a massive responsibility.

Today, this afternoon, we start looking at the Crimes Bill and that is a huge piece of work. I welcomed the public meetings, but I also am looking forward to seeing some of the policy issues that are touched on in those Bills coming to Executive Council, and then those papers being made public so that people have an opportunity to see highlighted some of the policy issues we are grappling with, and what may well change in the new legislation that we are looking at. I think that process will be another way of informing the public. I know a lot of people do rely on seeing the printed word through the release of public papers, and we will look forward to people commenting to us on those policies, so I think that's another part to be played in this exercise.

The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby and myself, we shortly go to West Africa. We go to Cameroon for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference, it's going to be its 60<sup>th</sup> meeting. This is going to be an excellent opportunity to work and build on the work that previous MLAs have done with the CPA, and I look forward to that, and I am sure we will be met by people passing good wishes to previous MLAs who have attended those conferences. But this really is an excellent opportunity for the Honourable Dr Barry Elsby and myself to network, the Commonwealth spreads across the world and we will be able to network with a huge number of people to put across the message from the Falkland Islands that we are a community in our own right, that we have a right to determine our own future, and that we are trying to grow our economy in quite different difficult circumstances. So I am looking forward, and relishing the opportunity to spread that work to a very large gathering of the Commonwealth, and look forward to reporting back on that conference when we return.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support the Motion.

### **The Honourable Michael Poole**

Thank you Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, sadly the only time I will speak today is a series of apologies which I think is becoming a bit of a habit, but I will try and break that later in the year.

Firstly, I will begin with the Falkland Islands Tourist Board. I had boldly, foolishly perhaps, promised earlier in the year that we would look to pass the new legislation creating a statutory corporation for the Tourist Board. I think I initially claimed it would be the 1<sup>st</sup> July which we missed, since then I have claimed that it will be the 1<sup>st</sup> October which we are going to miss as well. The draft Bill is ready, it's currently with the Attorney General's Department for final review and sign off and I am hopeful, confident even, that we will have it passed before the end of the year, (as I look at the Attorney General here), so we will keep

progressing that, and I apologise to the industry for that delay. It's been a long time coming, but we will get there. In the meantime, the Tourist Board obviously continues to operate as it has for a number of years, I am very grateful to the existing board for staying on in the meantime and continuing to do their good work. There are some positive things in terms of the Tourist Board that have happened over recent months, as well. I am sure a number of people have seen some very good articles in the UK press, and some of the travel media as well, about the Falkland Islands as a destination. There was a particularly good one in the Daily Mail recently which was very accurate, really sold the place as a place to come and visit, which was great to see. Also there is the World Travel Market coming up in a month or two's time, and the Tourist Board have organised three London taxis to be branded with the Tourist Board logo and some details of how to come to the Falkland Islands and that kind of thing, some great images as well, which I think is the kind of novel and cost effective promotion that the Tourist Board should be looking at, and I would like to congratulate Tony and his team for doing that.

Also in relation to the tourism industry, the Waterfront Development Working Group met last week and have moved on a few bits. When that group was formed about 10 months or so ago it had quite ambitious goals in terms of trying to implement the waterfront master plan that had been agreed by the previous Government, and I think it is a very useful document. Sadly, it hasn't quite worked out in the way we had envisaged, it perhaps hasn't met those ambitious ideals, but we have been able to progress two really important bits of work.

Firstly, the group has supported taking to the Planning & Building Committee some plans for how to develop the waterfront walk that commences from where tourists disembark at the Public Jetty through to the new Historic Dockyard and Museum site. Hopefully, in the next 12 to 18 months, we will see that work implemented, assuming the Planning & Building Committee approve it. I think that will improve the tourism experience within Stanley a great deal, so I look forward to that happening.

The group has also looked at the current quite large area of land next to Gilbert House within the Historic Dockyard site, and there will be an advert in tomorrow's Penguin News for that site, looking for expressions of interest from people that might be interested in building something in that currently vacant area, so we hope we will get a number of groups come to us and talk to us about what they might be able to do on that piece of land.

Finally Mr Speaker, I will just note as well that the Credit Union Working Group met last week as well. I represent the Government on there, Mike Rendell is on there representing the Rural Business Association and Stephanie Gibbs representing the Chamber of Commerce and Mike Betts and his colleagues up at Falkland Islands Development Corporation are doing the actual hard work and administrative work of that Group. It's been slow going, but we are getting there and I think we hope in the next few months to have a draft business plan for the creation of a Credit Union. It's still early days to say whether it's going to stack up or not, but I think we will have a meaningful document to consult people on so they can take a look and see what they think. I am still very keen to see this progress as the others on this small group do as well, so we will keep working on that over the coming months.

Mr Speaker, I support the Motion.

## **The Honourable Roger Edwards**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Colleagues, once again I think my Honourable Colleague Phyl Rendell had been looking over my shoulder and reading my few notes.

During the last Assembly I pointed out that the Camp tracks are getting so thin they are actually beginning to collapse, the substructure is giving away. I reported that following a wet winter, sides of the roads are being washed away and in one place almost half the road had been eroded. Mr Speaker, things were bad and then the rains came. As my Honourable Colleague has already said, one of the heaviest rain-falls, the most and biggest floods we have seen, I have ever seen, in the Falkland Islands.

We are about to start a period when the proper heavy lorries, the haulage, the assistance from the farmers, their wool, their sheep and everything else is beginning to get moved around, we are starting a period in the summer when 38 tonne trucks will be moving around. We already have areas impassable to heavy good vehicles, passable to light vehicles, land rovers and the like, but certainly not passable to heavy goods vehicles.

It's going to be a problem. Part of that carryover that was mentioned earlier, I seem to remember about £1.1million, was monies that had been committed for road and track works, much of it work specific. It is not a lack of money, but resources. I welcome the longer term contracts that have been put out to the private sector on road works, but I understand that one area which has been recognised for a considerable number of years as being very poor and very dangerous, no one bid for that piece of work, which is rather worrying. I look forward to seeing a full report on how we are going to overcome this lack of resource and how we are going to make some real improvements to our roads, and in particular our Camp tracks.

Mr Speaker, I would like to support the Motion.

## **The Honourable Dr Barry Elsby**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I'll keep my comments brief, but I would also like to associate myself with the comments made by the Honourable Mike Summers in relation to the recent Scottish Referendum. I, too, am very pleased that they chose to remain in the Union. As someone who was born in Wales the only times I have ever voted in general elections in Wales its been for Plaid Cymru. I understand the Scots' desire for devolution, and I think that's what will happen, you will have a devolution max if you like, and I think that will be good for the United Kingdom as a whole. I don't think we need to fear that, but I am pleased that they have remained within the Union.

I have just returned from a two week visit as an MLA in the countries in Central America, accompanied by Melanie Gilding. That's my third visit to countries in the region and we are slowly beginning to get our message over, people are starting to learn, we are building good links there and countries are beginning to understand and hear the Falkland Islands side of the story, because when we meet with Minsters or with academics, or we meet with think tanks, they are willing to listen, but what they say is that what we hear about the dispute is only what we hear from Argentina. We are trying to up our game in various ways, we are trying to make sure that our message gets out to all the regions in the world so people can hear our side of the story.

The referendum that was held has helped us tremendously in making people understand our situation. That was a free and fair referendum, and when we visited these countries post referendum and said “look, this is what the people want, this is the wish of the people” they understand that, they can clearly understand that, but going back this time to some of the same countries in Central America, that Scottish Referendum has really focused people’s minds, because I think up to now many of the countries have said “yes, well we know that the United Kingdom says your future is in your hands and they will do exactly what you want”, I think there has always been this little nugget of doubt in people’s minds in the regions, that when, if push came to shove, and if we had voted in that referendum for independence or something else, the United Kingdom might not have fulfilled their stated aim to allow us to do that.

The Scottish Referendum changes all that because when I was meeting Ministers or academics, or again these think tanks in the region, they talked about the Scottish Referendum, and that really made them think, because here is an integral part of the Union itself asking for independence and being allowed to decide their own future, and I think in many, many, ways the Scottish Referendum has made our job of convincing people around the world that we have the right, not just under the United Nations, but also the willing support of the United Kingdom to take our route, and I think that’s helped us tremendously in a strange sort of way.

Mr Speaker, I support the Motion.

### **The Honourable Gavin Short**

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, is rising to support the Motion I would like to perhaps mention a couple of things, I will try and keep it brief, so we can be out of here at a half decent hour, or at least by dinner time.

I would like to thank the Honourable Phyl Rendell for her kind words about Public Works Department, and also other private sector companies who stepped up at the time of the great rain, or certainly afterwards. The Honourable Roger Edwards also mentioned it and, of course, I am almost left with nothing to speak about now.

The great rain though did have a pretty awful effect on our roads network, and as I say, I really was wanting to thank those in the private sector and Public Works Department boys alike who got out there and got things back up and running as quick as they possibly could. It was pretty well unprecedented.

My Honourable Colleague mentioned the run out to Hope Cottage. Certainly the piece of road out towards Hope Cottage, the last quite long stretch, is not in a good condition, but it is as it ever was. That is, was, and always has been, a bad section. Up until then actually my humble view the road was very good, there was a few potholes but we toddled along, within the speed limit I hasten to add, but at quite a steady clip. That section is in our sights to be done, but what we want to do is to do the restructuring, the re-engineering of the road in a manner where we are not leaping around like an over excited kangaroo from pothole to pothole, we will get there but we want to do it in a structured way.

I have already come under a bit of fire this morning about the state of the roads, as I always do every Assembly meeting. I would perhaps like to point out that I agree with you, the roads out there are bad, we are in fact going backwards, they are fag paper thin in places, but what I would say to this House is, give me the money so I can get the resources and I will build you an autobahn, but in doing that I will take money away from other sections of the Capital Projects. It's a balance I am afraid. This is what we are coming down to, there is a carry over, we have had I believe no takers for one section of works that was put out, which is going to put us in a bit of a quandary because the model that we have been following for years is to put more and more work out to the private sector. We do not have the people, and more importantly the equipment, to undertake two large pieces of work in-house with the Government, we can either do one thing or the other. I am certainly happy to take your comments back to Public Works Department. I am more than happy to work up some sort of scheme which probably will mean importing and lord knows what, as long as this House is happy to fund it, because I don't think it's going to come cheap. We will certainly look at that, we may even be able to perhaps find a contractor yet to do the piece of work to which he has eluded.

Just to assure the public, that unless there is an almighty catastrophe, which I am sure there won't be, we will have that last slab down on Ross Road, and be out of everyone's way by the time the first big tourist vessel hits town, which I think is about 6 weeks' time, so we should be done, dusted and gone, only to reappear next winter.

Likewise, I have been assured yesterday that the conversion work on St Mary's Hall for the Education System is going full steam ahead and should be brought in on date, which I think is about the second week of next month. So I have been assured everything is looking good.

Hydatid is something I would like to touch on, if I may. It's something that interests me deeply because, of course, I lived through the initial campaigns and the testing of all the inhabitants here in the Falklands. We made huge strides and the campaign has reduced the percentage occurrence to something that I think is under 1% now, and that is based on statistics from the abattoir I believe, so it's an extremely low level, but it's still around after all these years, so that's telling me that something somewhere is not quite working the way it should be, and I was certainly more than taken aback, I think it was last week, to hear that we had hydatid under control and it was all good. Well, in my humble opinion, having it under control is actually not good enough, and from what I remember from when I was a wee lad, we always the dream, it was always the hope, that the campaign we were launching or was launched then, was to lead to its eradication, not just the control. So for me control is not good enough, eradication is the only thing we should be aiming for. I was also bothered to hear somebody say that "well, it might be a bit expensive to do this". If we could launch a campaign many, many, years ago when the Falklands was on its uppers, I am sure we must have the money now to almost have that last final push, that enhanced campaign, to make sure that for once and for all, the work that was started by our forefathers can be completed and hydatid eradicated from our country.

If I could just touch on one other thing, I would also.... well, in fact two things. I would just like to pick up on a point that my Honourable Colleague Michael Poole made reference to, the Credit Union. I certainly fully support the work that is being done on Credit Unions and more power to their elbows and I hope you can make it work, I really do.

Life insurance though, which is vaguely related, is starting to become an issue. I believe the supplier that a local company was using has pulled out, it's not the fault of the local company and I know they are doing their best to try and find someone. There was a rumour that there may have been another supplier in town, but today I am told they used to do it but didn't now, so I am presuming that there is no other supplier now and if this goes on for some time this is going to have a pretty nasty effect, it will have a knock on, if I can't get life insurance I can't build a house, therefore the builder has nothing to build, etc., etc. It will take some time to get to that extreme stage, but I believe my colleagues at Falkland Islands Development Corporation may well be monitoring the situation and keeping a very beady eye on it, but it may be something that we can't let go on for too long before we have to think of some innovative way of making sure that the building trade can carry on, and folks can build their houses, or else we may have an upsurge in planning permissions for people importing caravans.

Finally, I think as others have said in this House, I would like to pass on my best wishes to Jan and Ian over there at the Party Conferences. It is important that we do get out in the world and spread our message and counter the Argentine lies, but it's equally important that we concentrate on our friends in the United Kingdom, because time is moving on since the war and people do forget about the Falklands, and the other thing, perhaps, that's now well known, the Argentines are fairly active in the United Kingdom also, trying to spread their mendacious twaddle. So I do wish them well, and with that, Sir, I shall sit down and I support the Motion.

**Mr Speaker**

Honourable Members, the House stands adjourned accordingly.