Draft Pollution Prevention and Waste Management Policy: Consultation Report

Falkland Islands Government

Environment Department

Directorate of Policy, Economy and Corporate Services

May 2024

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Overview

The FIG Environment Department held a public consultation on the draft Pollution Prevention and Waste Management Policy from December 2023 to February 2024. The policy aims to enhance environmental protection and to promote sustainable development across the Falkland Islands, through effective waste management and the reduction or removal of pollution sources from entering into the environment.

The public and key stakeholders were invited to review and comment on the overall direction of the policy and whether it addresses the major environmental issues facing the Islands; what FIG could do to better support individuals and businesses seeking to reduce pollution in the Islands; and to prioritise key pollution and waste issues for action.

A total of 61 digital and paper surveys were returned, and further opinion and comments were collected through a public presentation session in addition to an engagement session with business representatives at the Chamber of Commerce. The results of the public consultation and a summary of the responses received are presented in this report. The comments and considerations raised by stakeholders and the public are being used to improve the Pollution Prevention and Waste Management Policy, which will be taken to ExCo for a decision.

Key findings from the public survey

- The overall direction set out in the draft policy was supported by 84% of respondents.

- Overall, 39% of respondents believed the draft policy sufficiently covered the major environmental issues facing the Islands.

- When asked what Government could do more to support individuals and businesses seeking to reduce pollution in the Falkland Islands, the most frequent responses related to Incentives, Penalties and Grants; Collaborative Working and Education; Environmental Action and Best Practice; and Government Leadership.

- When asked to rank areas of focus for which there is no, or limited, legislation or policies in place; respondents indicated that managing pollution on land and in freshwater was the highest priority, although only marginally higher than managing industrial/commercial pollution, with managing air pollution ranked third most important.

- Respondents ranked the importance of a range of different waste management issues, the top three areas of focus were reported to be managing industrial/commercial waste; increasing sewage treatment; and managing household waste.

Key findings from private sector engagement

- A lack of infrastructure for renewable energy and energy efficiency; and limited workforce capacity to take on additional infrastructure projects; were identified as some of the main challenges for businesses to become more sustainable.

- Economic benefits of environmental protection through improved waste water and sewage treatment; and the potential for a collaborative approach by businesses to access cost-effective sustainable materials and technology; were identified as key areas of focus.

- Limited access to and awareness of funding opportunities; the amount of funding available; and practical assistance from FIG for Camp businesses; were highlighted as key reasons why businesses had not accessed funding or grants to help with developing their sustainability.

Table 1: Demographic profile of public survey respondents

		n	%
Location	Stanley	47	78%
	East Falkland	11	18%
	West Falkland	0	0%
	An Outer Island	2	3%
	16-18	0	0%
	19-25	2	3%
	26-35	10	17%
	36-50	24	40%
	51-65	20	33%
	Over 65	4	7%
Islands	Less than 1 year	3	5%
	1-5 years	12	20%
	6-10 years	7	12%
	11-20 years	6	10%
	More than 20 Years	32	53%
Employment sector	Agriculture/Agri-tourism	4	7%
	Business Services	6	10%
	Construction or Trade	1	2%
	Conservation/Environmental Protection	9	15%
	Environmental research/science	2	3%
	Public Sector	32	53%
	Fishing	4	7%
	Hospitality (hotels, guesthouses, pubs, bars,	0	0%
	Land and / or sea transport	0	0%
	Oil and Gas	0	0%
	Tourism Industry	0	0%
	Wholesale or retail trade	0	0%
	Other	2	3%

Note: per cent totals may not sum to 100 due to rounding

Level of agreement with overall direction set out in the draft Pollution Prevention and Waste Management Policy

	n	%
Agree	51	84%
Disagree	3	5%
Unsure	6	10%

Answered: 60; Skipped: 1

In total, 20 respondents provided comments relating to the direction set out in the policy. Figure 1 shows the frequency that different themes were mentioned. Table 2 overleaf shows the themes and subthemes that emerged, broken down by respondents' level of agreement with the overall direction of the policy.

Figure 1: Themes arising from comments on the direction of the draft policy
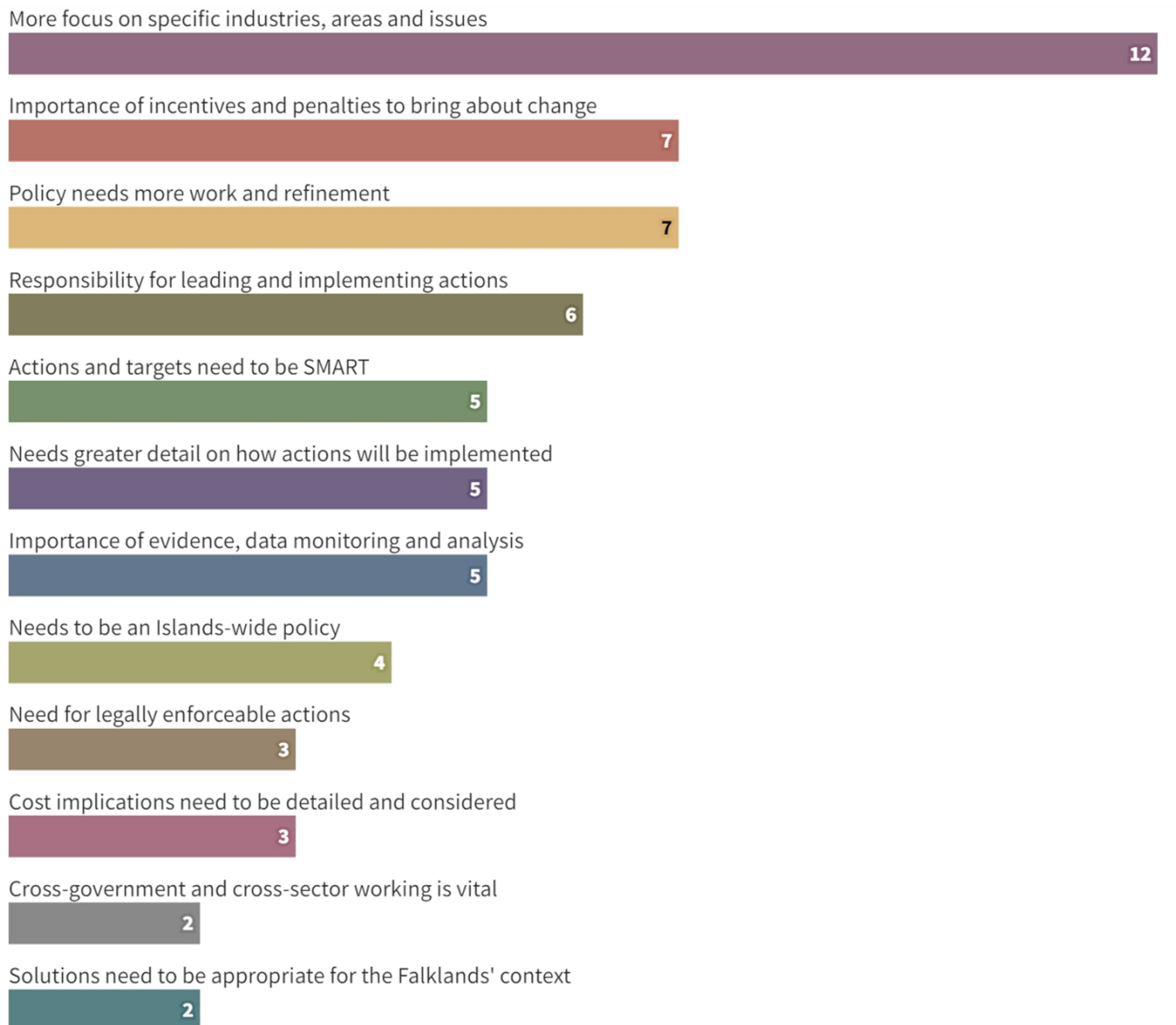
Note: only issues that were raised by two or more respondents are shown. Any comments provided by respondents which were unrelated to the question are not included here.

Table 2: Agreement with the policy direction - frequency of themes arising in respondent comments, by level of agreement with the overall policy direction

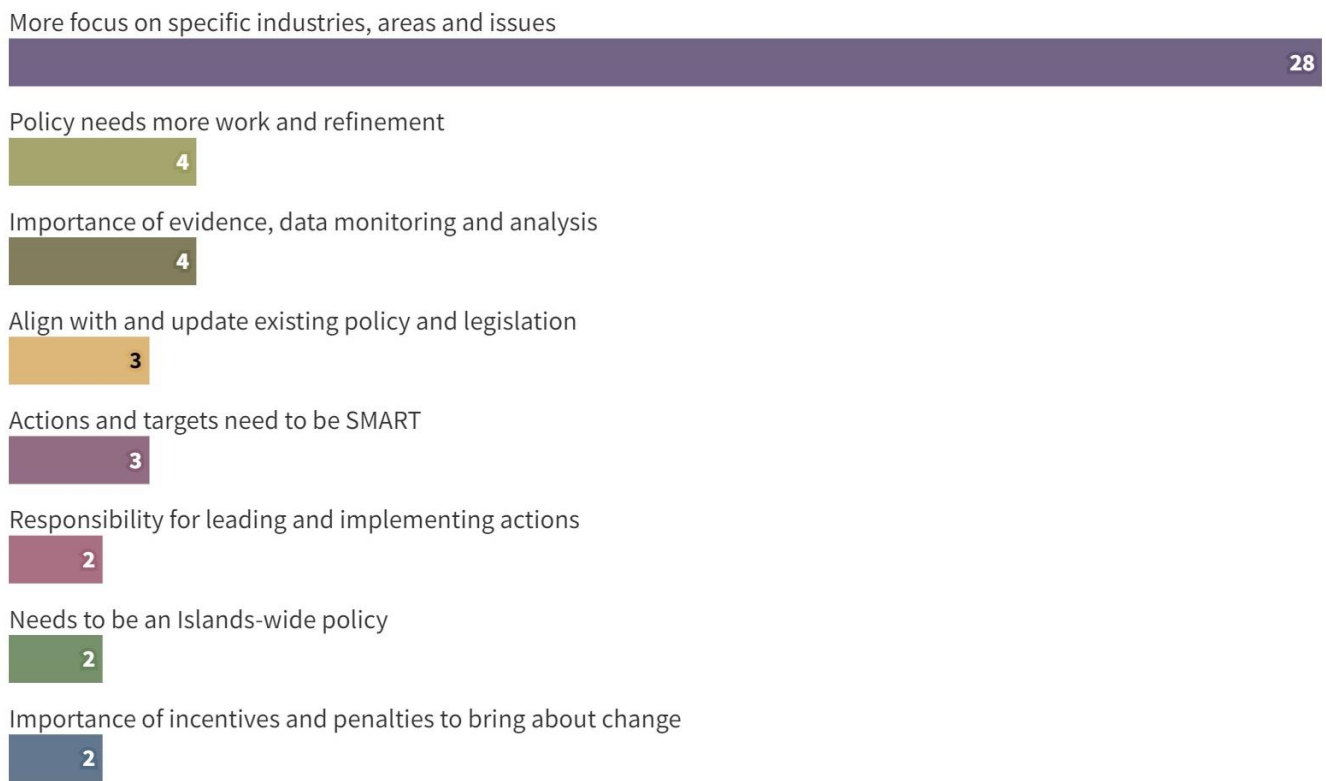| Agreement	Theme	Subtheme	Frequency
Agree	Implementation factors and considerations	Importance of incentives and penalties to bring about change	5
		Actions and targets need to be SMART	4
		Needs greater detail on how actions will be implemented	3
		Responsibility for leading and implementing actions	2
		Solutions need to be appropriate for the Falklands' context	2
		Cost implications need to be detailed and considered	2
		Need for legally enforceable actions	2
		Align with and update existing policies and legislation	1
		Cross-government and cross-sector working is vital	1
	Scope of the policy	More focus on specific industries, areas and issues	5
		Policy needs more work and refinement	5
		Needs to be an Islands-wide policy	4
	Data and evidence	Importance of evidence, monitoring and analysis	4
Unsure	Implementation factors and considerations	Importance of incentives and penalties to bring about change	2
		Needs greater detail on how actions will be implemented	1
		Responsibility for leading and implementing actions	1
		Need for legally enforceable actions	1
	Scope of the policy	More focus on specific industries, areas and issues	4
		Policy needs more work and refinement	1
	Data and evidence	Importance of evidence, data monitoring and analysis	1
Disagree	Implementation factors and considerations	Responsibility for leading and implementing actions	3
		Actions and targets need to be SMART	1
		Needs greater detail on how actions will be implemented	1
		Cost implications need to be detailed and considered	1
		Cross-government and cross-sector working is vital	1
	Scope of the policy	More focus on specific industries, areas and issues	3
		Policy needs more work and refinement	1

Agreement that the draft Pollution Prevention and Waste Management Policy sufficiently covers the major environmental issues facing the Falkland Islands

	n	%
Yes	23	39%
No	36	61%

Answered: 59; Skipped: 2

In total, 26 respondents provided comments relating to whether the policy sufficiently covers the major environmental issues facing the Islands. Figure 2 shows the frequency that different themes were mentioned. Table 3 overleaf shows the themes and subthemes that emerged, broken down by respondents' level of agreement with the overall direction of the policy.

Figure 2: Themes arising from comments on whether the draft policy sufficiently covers the major environmental issues facing the Islands

More focus on specific industries, areas and issues

28

Policy needs more work and refinement

4

Importance of evidence, data monitoring and analysis

4

Align with and update existing policy and legislation

3

Actions and targets need to be SMART

3

Responsibility for leading and implementing actions

2

Needs to be an Islands-wide policy

2

Importance of incentives and penalties to bring about change

2

Note: only issues that were raised by two or more respondents are shown. Any comments provided by respondents which were unrelated to the question are not included here.

Table 3: Agreement that the policy covers the major environmental issues – frequency of themes arising in respondent comments, by level of agreement with the overall policy direction
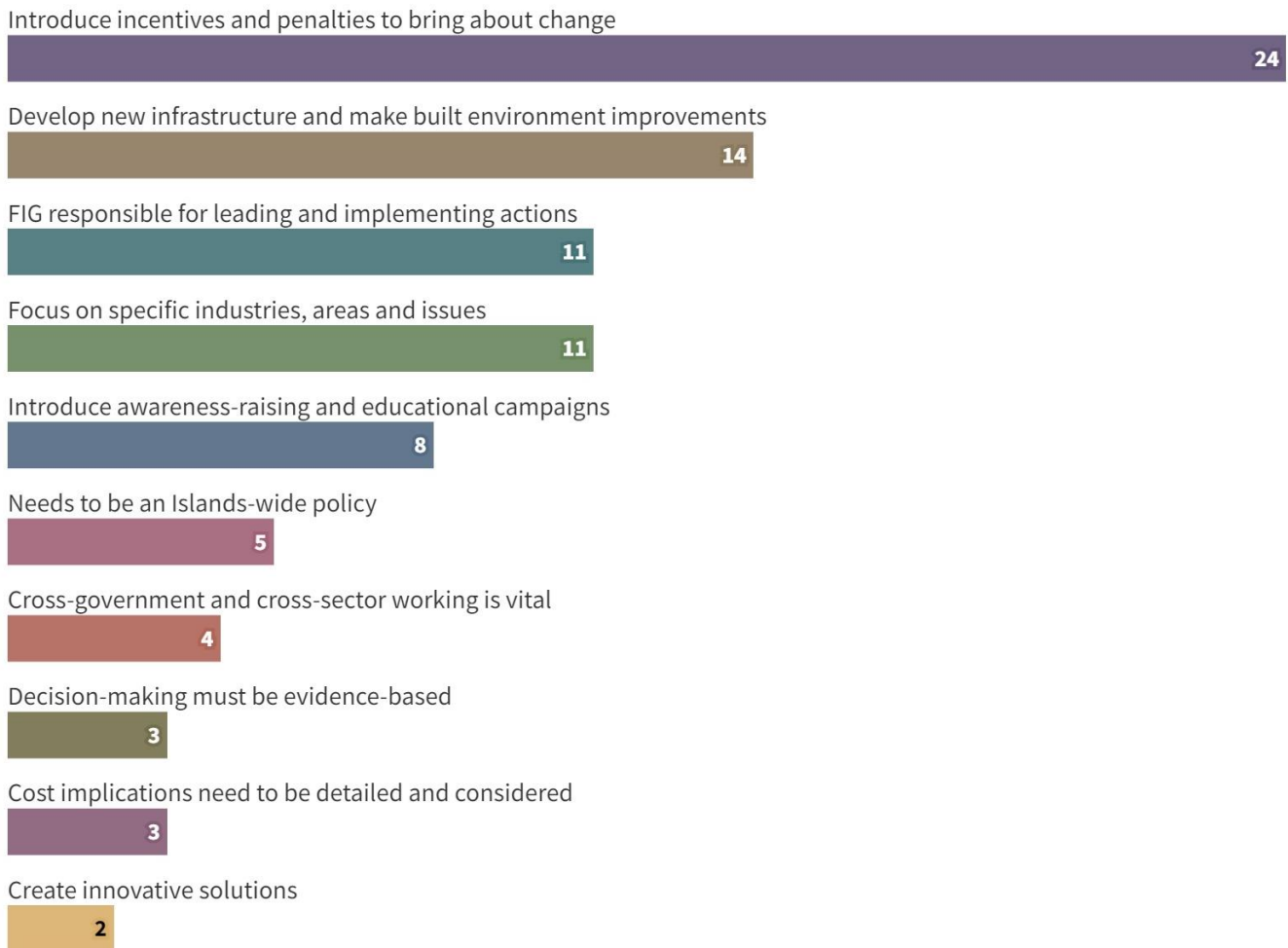
Agreement	Theme	Subtheme	Frequency
Agree	Scope of the policy	More focus on specific industries, areas and issues	18
		Needs to be an Islands-wide policy	1
	Implementation factors and considerations	Align with and update existing policy and legislation	2
		Actions and targets need to be SMART	1
		Importance of incentives and penalties to bring about change	1
	Data and evidence	Importance of evidence, data monitoring and analysis	3
		Evidence-based options and decision-making	1
Unsure	Scope of the policy	More focus on specific industries, areas and issues	6
		Policy needs more work and refinement	2
		Needs to be an Islands-wide policy	1
	Implementation factors and considerations	Actions and targets need to be SMART	2
		Importance of incentives and penalties to bring about change	1
	Data and evidence	Importance of evidence, data monitoring and analysis	1
Disagree	Scope of the policy	More focus on specific industries, areas and issues	4
		Policy needs more work and refinement	2
	Implementation factors and considerations	Align with and update existing policy and legislation	1

What respondents believe government could do to more effectively support individuals and businesses seeking to reduce pollution in the Falkland Islands

In total, 41 respondents provided comments on what government could do, to more effectively support individuals and businesses seeking to reduce pollution. Figure 3 shows the frequency that different themes were mentioned. Table 4 overleaf shows the themes and subthemes that emerged, broken down by respondents' level of agreement with the overall direction of the policy.

Figure 3: Themes arising from comments on what government could do to more effectively support individuals and businesses seeking to reduce pollution in the Islands

Introduce incentives and penalties to bring about change
24

Develop new infrastructure and make built environment improvements
14

FIG responsible for leading and implementing actions
11

Focus on specific industries, areas and issues
11

Introduce awareness-raising and educational campaigns
8

Needs to be an Islands-wide policy
5

Cross-government and cross-sector working is vital
4

Decision-making must be evidence-based
3

Cost implications need to be detailed and considered
3

Create innovative solutions
2

Note: only issues that were raised by two or more respondents are shown. Any comments provided by respondents which were unrelated to the question are not included here.

Table 4: What government can do to support individuals and businesses – frequency of themes arising in respondent comments, by level of agreement with the overall policy direction
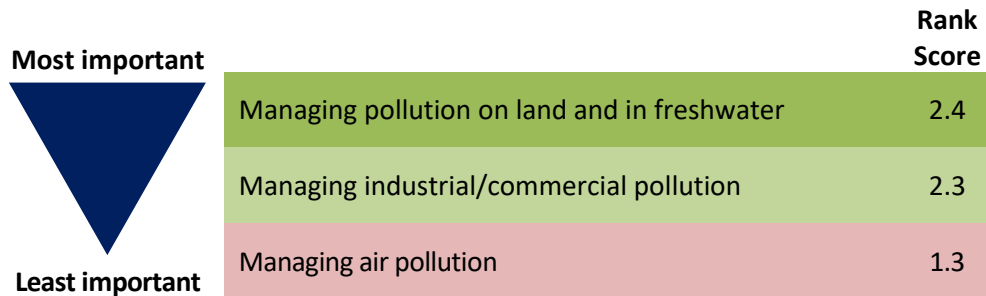
Agreement	Theme	Subtheme	Frequency
Agree	Implementation factors and considerations	Introduce incentives and penalties to bring about change	20
		Develop new infrastructure and improve built environment	10
		FIG responsible for leading and implementing actions	7
		Introduce awareness-raising and educational campaigns	6
		Cost implications need to be detailed and considered	3
		Cross-government and cross-sector working is vital	3
		Create innovative solutions	1
		Need for legally enforceable actions	1
	Scope of the policy	Focus on specific industries, areas and issues	9
		Needs to be an Islands-wide policy	4
	Data and evidence	Decision-making must be evidence-based	2
Unsure	Implementation factors and considerations	Introduce incentives and penalties to bring about change	3
		FIG responsible for leading and implementing actions	2
		Introduce awareness-raising and educational campaigns	2
		Develop new infrastructure and improve built environment	2
		Create innovative solutions	1
		Cross-government and cross-sector working is vital	1
		Robust enforcement	1
		Solutions need to be appropriate for the Falklands' context	1
	Scope of the policy	Focus on specific industries, areas and issues	1
		Needs to be an Islands-wide policy	1
Disagree	Scope of the policy	Focus on specific industries, areas and issues	1
	Implementation factors and considerations	FIG responsible for leading and implementing actions	2
		Develop new infrastructure and improve built environment	2
		Introduce incentives and penalties to bring about change	1

Importance of pollution and waste management issues

Respondents were asked to rank the importance of high level pollution and waste management issues and to indicate the most pressing concern for the issue they ranked as having the highest priority.
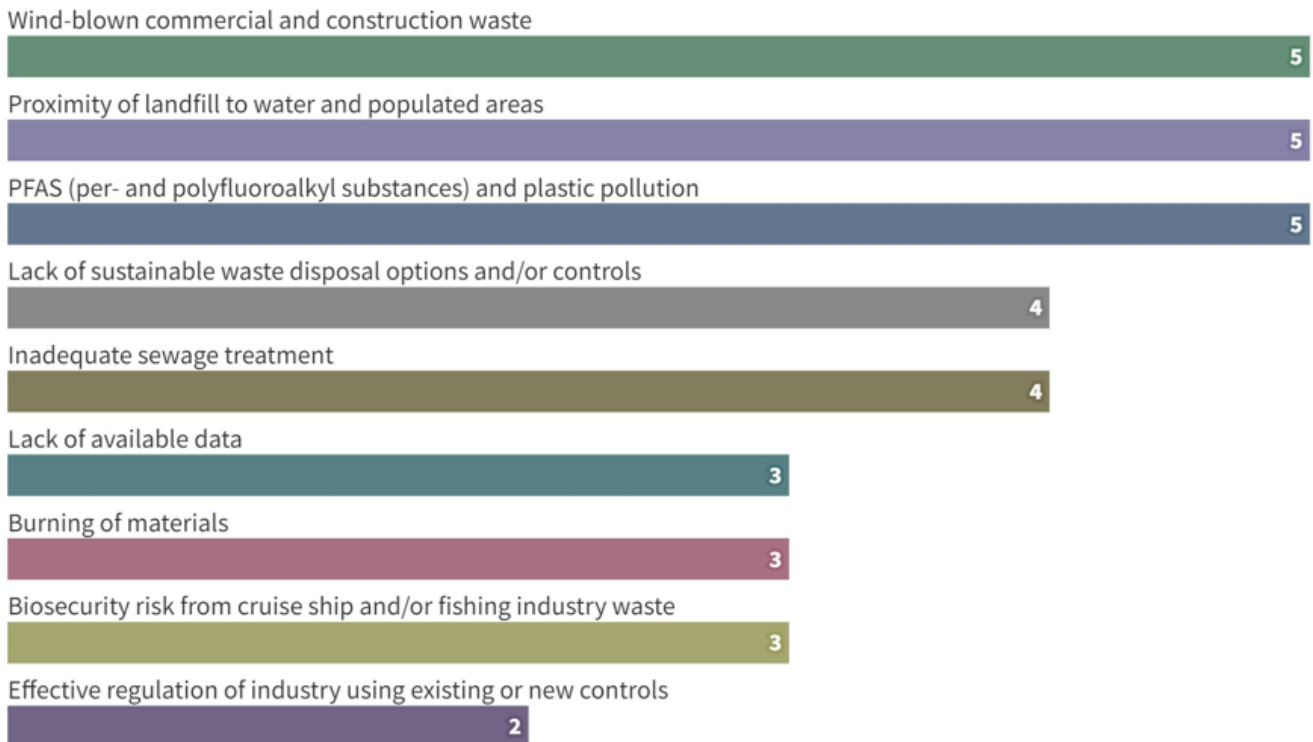
Figure 4: Ranked importance of pollution and waste management issues

	Rank Score
Managing pollution on land and in freshwater	2.4
Managing industrial/commercial pollution	2.3
Managing air pollution	1.3

Most important → Least important

Note: the weighted average ranking for each pollution issue produces its rank score. The issue with the largest rank score is categorised as the most important. For example, in a list of 3 options, the rank score ranges from 0.0 to 3.0, with 3.0 representing the highest importance.

Figures 5 to 7 below show the issues of the most pressing concern for the environment and human health, which were raised by respondents who ranked land and freshwater; industrial and commercial; or air pollution as their highest priority.

Figure 5: Most pressing concern for the environment and human health – issues raised by respondents who ranked land and freshwater pollution as the highest priority

Issue	Value
Wind-blown commercial and construction waste	5
Proximity of landfill to water and populated areas	5
PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) and plastic pollution	5
Lack of sustainable waste disposal options and/or controls	4
Inadequate sewage treatment	4
Lack of available data	3
Burning of materials	3
Biosecurity risk from cruise ship and/or fishing industry waste	3
Effective regulation of industry using existing or new controls	2

Note: only issues that were raised by two or more respondents are shown. Any comments provided by respondents which were unrelated to the question are not included here.
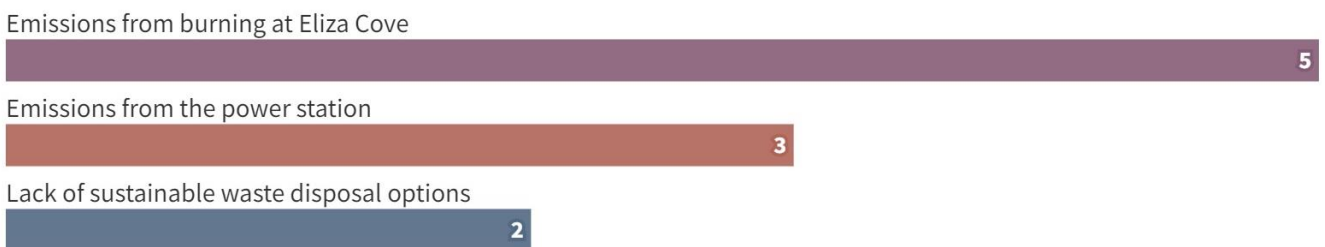
Figure 6: Most pressing concern for the environment and human health – issues raised by respondents who ranked managing industrial/commercial pollution as the highest priority

Lack of sustainable waste disposal options and/or controls
12

Having robust legislative controls that are industry-specific
6

Lack of waste-water treatment from domestic and/or commercial sources
5

Lack of vision and/or commitment to deliver
4

Should focus regulation efforts on large industries
3

Having robust controls that are future-proofed
3

Not having seamless regulation to tackle all pollution sources
2

Government investment in highly polluting industries
2

Note: only issues that were raised by two or more respondents are shown. Any comments provided by respondents which were unrelated to the question are not included here.

Figure 7: Most pressing concern for the environment and human health – issues raised by respondents who ranked managing air pollution as the highest priority

Emissions from burning at Eliza Cove
5

Emissions from the power station
3

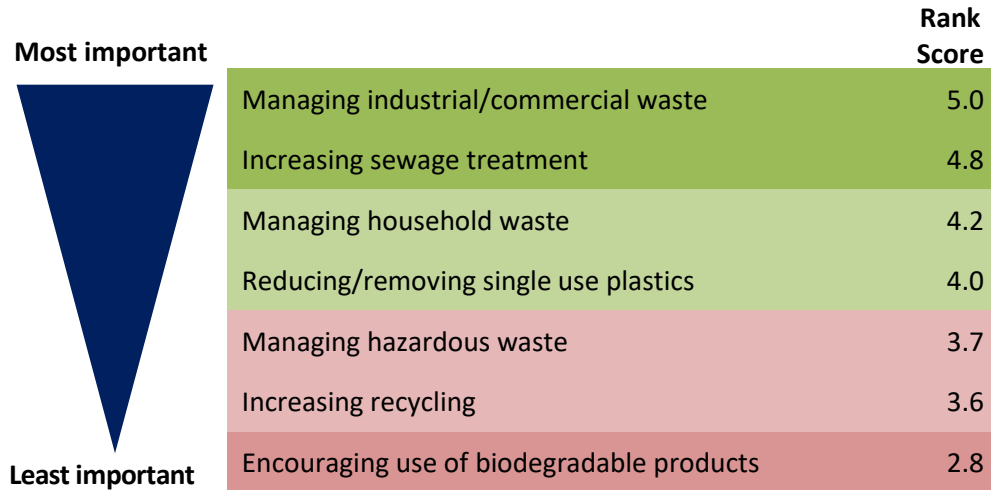Lack of sustainable waste disposal options
2

Note: only issues that were raised by two or more respondents are shown. Any comments provided by respondents which were unrelated to the question are not included here.

Prioritising potential areas of focus

Respondents were asked to rank the importance of potential areas of focus relating to improving waste management in the Islands.
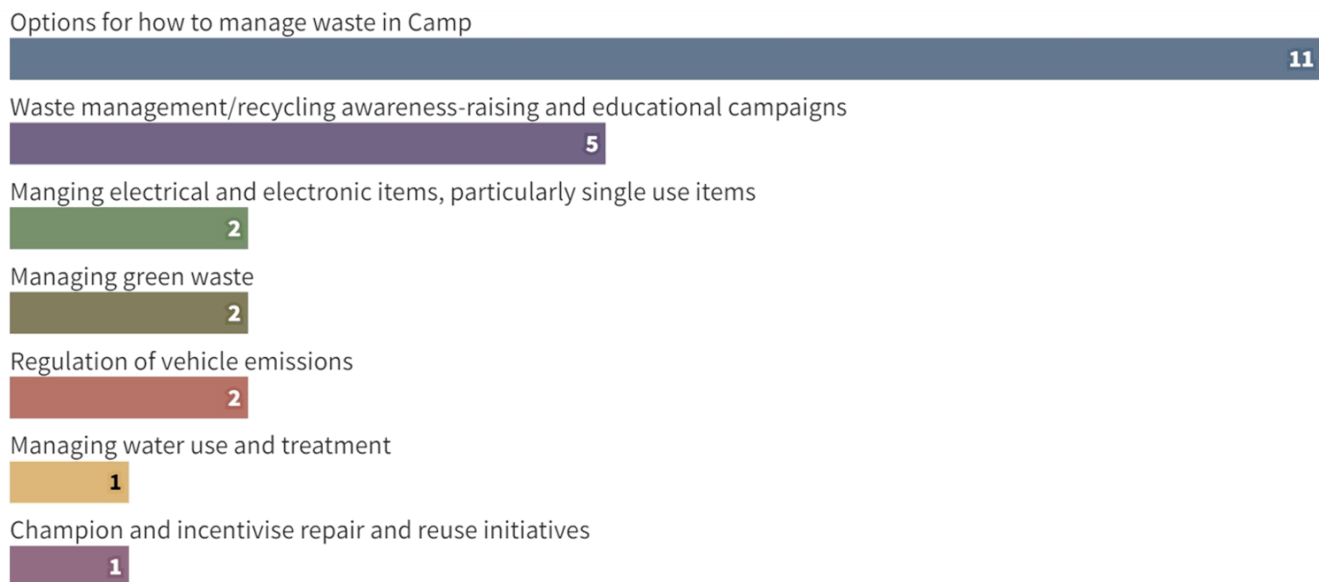
Figure 8: Ranked importance of pollution and waste management issues

	Rank Score
Most important	
Managing industrial/commercial waste	5.0
Increasing sewage treatment	4.8
Managing household waste	4.2
Reducing/removing single use plastics	4.0
Managing hazardous waste	3.7
Increasing recycling	3.6
Least important Encouraging use of biodegradable products	2.8

Note: the weighted average ranking for each pollution issue produces its rank score. The issue with the largest rank score is categorised as the most important. For example, in a list of 7 options, the rank score ranges from 0.0 to 7.0, with 7.0 representing the highest importance.

When asked to identify other potential areas of focus relating to improving waste management, the majority of respondents commented on the areas already detailed in the draft policy, or on issues unrelated to the question. However, Figure 9 summarises the potential areas of focus identified by respondents, which weren't already accounted for.

Figure 9: Other areas of focus highlighted by respondents, in relation to improving waste management

Options for how to manage waste in Camp
11

Waste management/recycling awareness-raising and educational campaigns
5

Manging electrical and electronic items, particularly single use items
2

Managing green waste
2

Regulation of vehicle emissions
2

Managing water use and treatment
1

Champion and incentivise repair and reuse initiatives
1

Summary of feedback following engagement with the Chamber of Commerce

Figure 10: Challenges and bottlenecks for businesses in becoming more sustainable
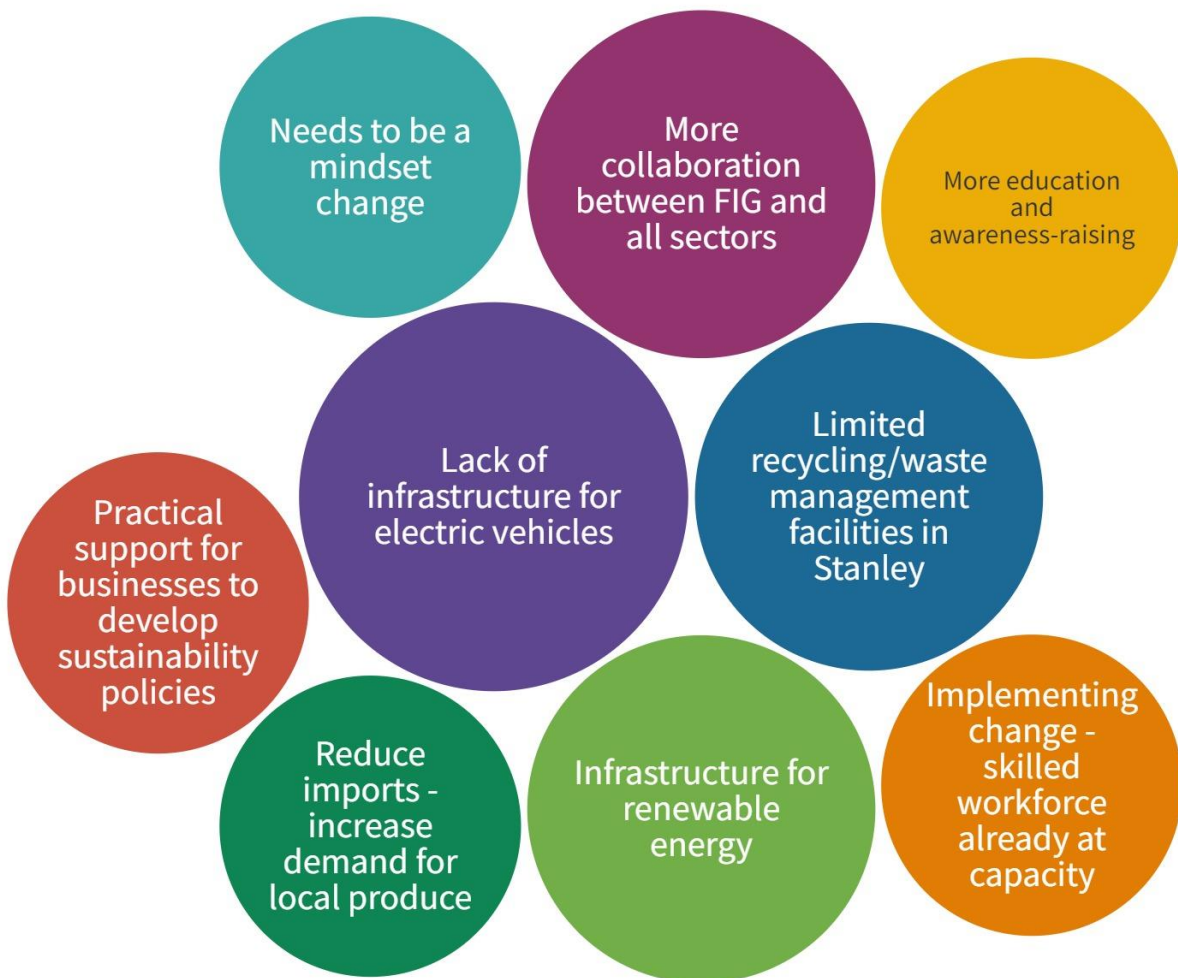
Figure 11: Tackling different waste management areas of focus - challenges identified

Figure 12: Accessing grants and funding for developing business sustainability – challenges and barriers identified

Application process too burdensome

More difficult for smaller businesses to take up

Need for collaboration and information sharing between businesses

Practical assistance from FIG for Camp

Accessibility to and awareness of funding opportunities

Level of grants/funding not enough for large projects

Policies need to be Islands-wide

Timely access to materials and equipment

Access to local expertise

Access to data and metrics for measurable changes