



Get **UNRESTRICTED DIGITAL ACCESS**

Subscribe

Subscribe Login

Bogus fox carcass and scats concern scientists

December 5, 2016 12:40pm

HELEN KEMPTON



The Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) is investigating all the circumstances surrounding a fox carcass that was reported to the Department by a member of the public on Sunday.

THE State Government should consider making it a criminal offence to dump interstate fox carcasses and scats in Tasmania.

That's the view of two scientists who last year alerted Biosecurity Tasmania to anomalies in the analysis of fox scats, which supported the state's \$50 million eradication effort.

They have asked the Government to clarify the laws governing the importation of fox products and who enforces them.

Wildlife biologist David Obendorf and scientist Clive Marks have written to Attorney General Vanessa Goodwin asking her to consider criminalising such offences in order to bolster Tasmania's biosecurity systems.

The legal questions follow revelations that a fox found on the Frankford Highway in October was brought in from Victoria and "planted" by a Tasmanian and a leaked DPIPWE report from 2011 which showed "hoax" fox scats may have been submitted by a fox taskforce employee as evidence the pest was living here.

"Clarifying what laws and penalties exist to deter such behaviour has obvious relevance to biosecurity and invasive species management in Tasmania," they said in their letter to Dr Goodwin.

"We are advised by Tasmania Police that they do not enforce laws under the Tasmanian Animal Health Act nor the State Services Act."

MORE: SCIENTIST TELLS OF HOAX FOX SCAT SAMPLES USED AS EVIDENCE

They said there was no law "that considers misconduct or intentional interference in the gathering of animal survey data to be a form of fraud and a criminal offence in Tasmania, even if this data is relied upon to form policy and allocate significant public resources".

FREE delivery on your first shop

Shop now

ADVERTISEMENT

MORE LOCAL NEWS



First degree murder
Boy, 16, 'decapitated by classmate'



Corrections boss told of Don Dale concerns

Call out racism, UN official tells PM

China changes end Mur..., Goulburn plans



Shock resignation
Key joins politics' most exclusive club

-20%

Shimano Stradic 2500C14+ HGFB Reel
Pre order now in store....

-20%

Shimano Stradic 4000C14+ XGFB Reel
Pre order now in store....

ADVERTISEMENT

SPONSORED LINKS

[Breaking news video!](#)

MORE: FOX CARCASS FOUND ON HIGHWAY ORIGINATED IN VICTORIA

Primary Industries Minister Jeremy Rockliff said Tasmania Police carried out an inquiry into the Fox Eradication Program on the back of a complaint by Windemere MLC Ivan Dean that evidence had been fabricated and found no criminal offence had been committed.

“DPIPWE is reviewing the police report to determine if further action is required,” Mr Rockliff said.

He said the legal process around the department’s investigation that found the fox carcass near Exeter was brought in from the mainland by a Tasmanian man was continuing and no further comment could be made.

Watch the latest Local and National breaking news

Celebrity news and video!

Up to the minute celebrity gossip, photos & celebrity videos

Ads By Google



Cairns
from \$25 ~~\$59~~
trivago

JOIN THE CLUB THIS SEASON **betting.**
club
JOIN NOW
GAMBLE RESPONSIBLY. 18+

A NOTE ABOUT RELEVANT ADVERTISING: We collect information about the content (including ads) you use across this site and use it to make both advertising and content more relevant to you on our network and other sites. This is also known as Online Behavioural Advertising. You can [find out more about our policy and your choices, including how to opt-out here.](#)

MOBILE

NEWSLETTER

SEND PICS

SEND STORIES

Follow Us



- About Us
- Contact Us
- Digital Print Edition
- Letter to the Editor
- Place an Ad
- Advertise with Us
- Subscription Terms
- Tributes
- Powered by WordPress VIP

News

- Breaking News
- Gold Coast
- Traffic
- National
- World
- Opinion
- Photos

Sport

- NRL
- AFL
- Local Sport

business

Real Estate

Entertainment

- Competitions
- Lifestyle
- Beaches & Fishing
- Pets & Wildlife
- Travel
- Hipages

Network Sites

- The Australian
- The Courier-Mail
- The Daily Telegraph
- Herald Sun
- The Advertiser
- news.com.au
- Townsville Bulletin
- Cairns Post
- The Mercury
- NT News
- Geelong Advertiser

News Corp Australia

- Privacy Policy
- Relevant Ads Opt-out
- Cookie Policy
- Photo Sales
- Careers
- Terms of use
- Accessibility
- Code of Conduct