



Get **UNRESTRICTED DIGITAL ACCESS**

Subscribe

# 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".

Subscribe

Login

**FREE delivery on your first shop**

**Shop now**

woolworths **Online Shop**

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 2500CI4+ HGFB Reel**

Pre order now in store....

-20%

**Shimano Stradic 4000CI4+ 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

[JOIN NOW](#)

**betting.**  
club  
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

News Corp 2016 Copyright