



The group Tasmanians for Transparency wants an inquiry into the Fox Eradication Program.

Call for Tasmanian fox program investigation

By ROSITA GALLASCH

A GROUP has called on Primary Industries Minister Jeremy Rockliff to seek a Tasmanian Integrity Commission investigation into the spending on the Fox Eradication Program.

Called Tasmanians for Transparency, the group is also requesting that the investigation include allegations of bullying by public servants against those involved in a recent scientific report debunking the existence of foxes.

The call for the investigation follows news reports that for more than a decade the former state

Labor government spent about \$50 million on the fox program with no credible scientific evidence to justify the spending.

Tasmanians for Transparency spokesman Matthew Holloway said yesterday members wanted the minister to seek the investigation because they believed he would hold more sway and the minister would also be privy to the findings, whereas as a public group may not.

"We're seeking the Integrity Commission do a report and those that are found to be responsible for what could be a complete

furphy of a program, to be held responsible for the money," Mr Holloway said.

Mr Holloway said members also raised claims that in the past few weeks with the imminent release of the report, some public servants had threatened and bullied others who were critical of the fox programs.

He said they wanted to know what level of protection would be afforded those people.

Mr Rockliff would not say if he would seek an investigation over the spending and bullying claims through the Integrity Commission.

However, a government spokesman said it had been concerned about the level of spending.

He said if a member of the public was concerned about how they had been treated by a public servant, then the first point of referral was to the agency involved.

Opposition Leader Bryan Green said the evidence provided to the Labor government at the time suggested there were foxes in the state.

He said no responsible minister would have been prepared to take the risk and let foxes establish.