

DPIPWE to review fox file

BY CHRIS CLARKE

A DEPARTMENTAL review will be conducted into allegations of evidence tampering by the Fox Eradication Program, after police confirmed it would not investigate the matter.

Following eight months of analysis, Tasmania Police Assistant Commissioner Glenn Frame said there was not

enough evidence to support a long-term investigation, and the matter will now be looked at by the Integrity Commission.

The state government was also treating the matter "very seriously", Primary Industries Minister Jeremy Rockliff said.

"If any further action within government is required we will do so in an appropriate

and transparent manner," he said.

"Tens of millions of dollars were spent on the Fox Eradication Program by the previous Labor and Labor-Green governments, and Tasmanians rightly expect this matter to be treated seriously."

Mr Rockliff said the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment would conduct

the review, despite it being subject to some of the allegations contained in the complaint to the Integrity Commission.

Complainant Windermere independent MLC Mr Dean said he was satisfied with Tasmania Police's decision.

"I initially identified in the report to them that it might be more appropriate to be considered by the Integrity

Commission," he said.

Former primary industries minister Bryan Green said Labor was justified in its approach to a possible fox incursion.

"You've got to take (departmental) advice in good faith," he said.

"There's no way any government should leave a stone unturned when it comes to making sure foxes don't get

a foothold here. The baiting programs and everything that's gone with it could well have succeeded in getting rid of the foxes that were here."

Between 2001 and 2013, the FEP spent upwards of \$40 million on fox eradication.

Between 2001 and 2011 the FEP found fox carcasses, scats, bones and other DNA. A live fox and a fox den were never found.