



A fox looks comfortable in its surroundings. Fox eradication measures used in Tasmania have been discredited.

Fox baiting was never going to work: report

By ALEXANDRA HUMPHRIES

A NEW study into the methods used by the Fox Task Force found there was no evidence to support the use of 1080 poison for fox baiting in Tasmania.

The study, authored by scientists, academics and a veterinary pathologist, found that many of the assumptions behind the fox baiting program in Tasmania were based on

interstate experiences that could not be applied here.

The report said there was "inadequate justification" that practices used elsewhere would work in Tasmania.

"Therefore, the baiting strategy appears to be unrealistic as an anticipatory measure to prevent fox establishment

in Tasmania or other large offshore islands," it said.

Legislative Councillor Ivan Dean said the aim of the report was to get the message out that the baiting process had been flawed.

"This (report) was just to follow up, to show very clearly that the baiting program was never going to work," he said.

Mr Dean said that the

victims of the 1080 baiting had been native animals.

"There is no evidence at all, absolutely none, not one bit of evidence anywhere to show that any fox had even been anywhere near the baits," he said.

Mr Dean said he believed \$50 million had been spent on the fox eradication program in Tasmania since 2002.