

www.foxnews.com.au



Minister
RICH MOUNSTER

ni
d

e University
Launceston-
ture that will
aimed at a
ians who are
out on a uni-

independent
mbie said the
nitment was
ment in uni-
dependent on
lation and its
30 degrees.

Fox fraud decision due next week

PATRICK BILLINGS

A DECISION on whether police will investigate allegations of fraud within Tasmania's multi-million-dollar Fox Eradication Program (FEP) is expected within days.

Earlier this year long-time FEP critic, MLC Ivan Dean, provided a 150-page brief to police alleging physical evidence proving that foxes were in the state had been tampered with.

Police have conducted an initial assessment and will announce next week whether they will formally investigate the claims.

An estimated \$50 million has been spent on Tasmania's fox eradication efforts, which began in earnest in 2002.

Despite the large-scale project, a live fox has yet to be captured in Tasmania.

It comes as Federal Government documents circulated to the media show the FEP believed in 2014 that there was "a very low probability that foxes remain extant" in the state.

Whereas it had previously labelled the pest widespread, the lack of any fox evidence since 2011 has been held up as proof of the FEP's success.

The FEP progress report, released under Right To Information laws after it was initially blocked, said the likely absence of the fox was supported by modelling.

The modelling took into account the evidence of foxes such as carcasses and scats, collected by the FEP.

It is this evidence that has come under a cloud after police launched the probe into claims some was fabricated.

EXCHANGE

OR MORE STOREWIDE &
5 GAS EXCHANGE FOR \$15

OFF