

Origins of dead fox found in Tasmania traced to Victoria

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A dead fox found in the state's north last month was brought into Tasmania from Victoria an investigation has found.

A member of the public discovered the male fox carcass on the side of Frankford Highway on October 30.

An investigation by the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) and Tasmania Police has determined the animal was brought into the state.

A Tasmanian man has been interviewed.

DPIPWE and police said because the legal process was continuing they would not be commenting further.

The find is the latest instalment in a tale of intrigue involving allegations of a conspiracy and questions as to whether the multi-million-dollar program to keep the island free of the predator was ever justified.

In 2006, a Fox Eradication Program was established after reported sightings around the state, and following claims fox cubs had been smuggled in and released for hunting.

It was scrapped in 2014, two years ahead of the planned 2016 end date, with the Government asserting "a range of physical items have been collected since 1998" proving foxes were on the loose.

Earlier this year, former policeman turned independent MP Ivan Dean lodged an official complaint to police alleging evidence used to support the program may have been fake, including the planting of fox faecal matter to give the impression of the animal's presence.

Topics: animals, pests, quarantine, government-and-politics, tas

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PHOTO: A Tasmanian man has been interviewed in relation to the fox carcass found last month. (Supplied: DPIPWE)

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