Tasmania Police
FOI File Disclosure

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TASMANIA POLICE

BRIEFING NOTES: ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF FOX'S INTO TASMANIA

- **Initial Information:** Information started to filter in initially from various shooting groups throughout the state, starting approximately two weeks ago. The information related to [redacted] shooters, who go to Victoria every year shooting for [redacted] bringing fox pups into the State and releasing them

- **Investigation :** From this initial report, numerous people within the shooting fraternity were contacted by several Rangers involved in the Fox Investigation to find out some more details and to determine the reliability of the information. The reports that were received seemed to be very reliable and indicated that 3 people were involved in the importing, raising and release of 11 fox cubs into Tasmania.

- At this point in time we are unaware as to how many were involved in the capture from Victoria of these fox pups. It is alleged that these pups were brought into the state over the Launceston Show week of 1999 via the boot of a vehicle travelling on the Spirit of Tasmania. The pups were allegedly raised on a property in the Longford area in a pen in the bush until they were of adult size (approximately two months).

  These pups were then allegedly split up and released into the wild but we are unaware as to the location of these release sites. Allegedly the same people involved in this release attempted a similar operation previously in 1997 in which 8 pups were allegedly imported and released. The belief was that this attempt had failed resulting in a second attempt in 1999 to establish a population of fox's in Tasmania to improve the hunting.

- **Summary:** Two of the suspects allegedly involved in this operation are located in areas where we have had very positive fox sightings. These include Longford and St Helens. The information received so far indicates that a third person involved comes from Oatlands which also corresponds with a number of recent fox sightings in that area.

  The two people allegedly involved in the import and release of these fox pups are:

[redacted]

Note 1: Information received indicates that [redacted] may no longer be at the above address but is still living in the St Helens area. [redacted]

Note 2: The main informant is extremely concerned about threats that have been made about releasing information to authorities. His concerns relate directly to the possible action from [redacted] who has a history of violence. As a result this informant refuses to cooperate in any other way other than that which is currently in place.