



Tasmanian Farmers & Graziers Association

ACN 009 477 810 ABN 69 646 967 202

A Member Of The
National Farmers' Federation

TFGA House
Cnr Cimitiere & Charles Streets
Launceston Tasmania 7250
PO Box 193
Telephone **03 6332 1800**
Facsimile **03 6331 4344**

06 April, 2009

Ms Heather Thurstans
Committee Secretary
Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts
HOBART, TAS 7000

Dear Heather,

Please accept this letter as the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Associations' (TFGA) submission to the Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts inquiry into the Efficiency and Effectiveness of Fox Eradication Programs in Tasmania.

Firstly the TFGA wishes to state that it strongly supports the contention that foxes are present within Tasmania. This position has been reached by reviewing the evidence collected and published over the last twelve months by the Department of Primary Industries and Waters' current fox eradication program.

With this position in mind, the TFGA cannot state strongly enough that the current level of investment for eradicating from Tasmania is absolutely necessary. The cost to Tasmania will be far higher than the current eradication program if foxes are able to establish viable populations within the State. This view is strongly supported by the Invasive Animal CRC report in 2008 stating that foxes are Australia's worst predator causing conservatively \$228 million worth of environmental and agricultural damage annually in Australia.

In regards to reporting upon criteria a, b, d and e of the Terms of Reference for this inquiry, the TFGA is realistically not in a position to comment on the internal workings of the State Governments budget allocation and performance management processes.

However the TFGA wishes to state that it would welcome a closer working relationship with the State Government on the Fox Eradication Program. The TFGA believes that it could play a larger role in assisting the State Government to engage and communicate with the agricultural sector within Tasmania. Consequently, the TFGA would be more than happy to discuss this in greater detail at a convenient time with relevant State Government representatives.

Yours sincerely,

Roger Swain.
President