



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Urgent Action Required to Eradicate Foxes**

TFGA President Roger Swain said the fox is not only a serious threat to agriculture but also to population of Tasmanian wildlife. The cost of the fox problem to mainland Australia is estimated to be \$227 million a year. The Tasmanian sheep industry alone could lose up to 5.3% of production and this equates to \$2.5 million per annum. The cost of the whole economy is estimated to \$20 million per annum.

The Tasmanian Government has a commitment to the people of Tasmania to control pests already in the state and prevent the introduction of any new pest, as stated in the Tasmanian Together Plan.

The revelation of finding of a fox carcass (and many fox sightings) is proof of a potential disaster not only for Tasmanian agriculture but also for the broader community. The industry is demanding urgent and decisive action by the Tasmanian Government.

The Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre prepared Foxes in Tasmania: A Report on an Incursion by an Invasive Species for the Government. The report states that the likely density of foxes in Tasmania is still at a stage where eradication is achievable provided the necessary resources are made available. To that end, the report supported a continued 1080 fox baiting programme.

The report also stated that, the small risks associated with the use of 1080 for fox control in relation to the enormous and obvious benefits from a successful outcome should be continually reinforced.

The TFGA has recommended to the State Government that additional funds are made available to the Fox Free Taskforce to implement an ongoing broad-scale fox baiting program for at least the next 10 years.

“If the Government fails to take immediate action, they should be held accountable for the consequences to Tasmania’s economy.” Mr Swain said.

ENDS

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For Further Information:

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