



tasmanian conservation trust inc

Letters to the Editor
The Examiner

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Fox Eradication Program

We must eradicate foxes from Tasmania to prevent an ecological and agricultural catastrophe and this will only be possible when they are low in numbers.

Disproportionate and unfair criticism such as the front page Examiner story '\$70m and still no live foxes' (23 May), puts this program and the goal of ridding Tasmania of Foxes at risk. The program is clearly not without fault but let's see some informed and proportionate criticism.

The FEP gets criticised for spending \$3.1 million of state government funds per year, but this is less than 0.1%, or one one-thousandth, of the entire state budget (\$4,334,000,000 in 2010-11). When will the media start to give attention to where the other 99.9% of the state budget gets spent and how much of it is wasted?

While it is easy to criticise the 45 FEP staff for chasing a prey which it does not find (but may be killing through baiting), how many hundreds of unseen public servants are just chasing paper? The FEP is just an easy target because it is a highly active and visible program which tackles an allusive animal without delivering tangible results.

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