

## **Investigation of matters by police**

### **Receiving a complaint regarding an alleged offence**

Essentially by being called to a location, police are responding to a report of an offence (i.e. complaint is made).

The successful investigation of offences and the management of incidents is dependent on timely and accurate information being passed to investigating officers. Police officers who receive complaints or reports of offences and incidents are responsible for the accurate collection, recording and dissemination of this information. First response officers tasked to attend an occurrence are to promptly investigate the facts and circumstances in order to:

- (i) identify if an offence has been committed;
- (ii) identify potential witnesses and offenders;
- (iii) obtain all relevant information; and
- (iv) safeguard evidence.

Once an offence is identified, police then must consider two factors when deciding to prosecute – (1) Sufficiency of Evidence and (2) Public Interest. There are a number of aspects of both areas that police must be satisfied with.

So when they ask a landowner/occupier, 'Do they wish to make a complaint'? Police are ensuring that they are agreeable to providing the necessary evidence to commence a prosecution. This may include later providing a written statement and attendance in court as a witness. If they have recorded the actions of the activists, then this can be tendered as evidence.