

De-escalation suggestions

The QPS appreciates that this type of activity can be perceived as highly intrusive and an invasion of privacy, resulting in feelings of vulnerability, fear and also anger. This can result in an emotive, unpredictable and potentially violent situation if landowners/occupiers/managers confront persons who are unlawfully on their property.

The following are suggested techniques/strategies to help those involved to reduce their anxiety and also collect evidence at the same time.

DO

- Continually ask questions. Repeat the below questions if they don't respond. (Be prepared that they will just use slogans)
- Try and identify the organiser/leader of the group by asking who is in charge
- Ask them their names – tell them yours and tell them that you are the lawful occupier. This shows accountability and willingness to be cooperative.
- Ask why are they there/here
- Ask who gave them permission
- Tell them that they have no permission to be on the property (use the direction provided previously)
- Ask them to leave and move to public property
- Acknowledge that they have a right to protest - offer for them to remain at the farm gate
- Offer to discuss their reasons for being there once off the property
- Tell them that this is a place of lawful business and a home
- Personalise the experience – that you and your family/workers are upset/fearful due to their presence
- Advise them that they are compromising the biosecurity and health of the animals on the property.
- Call the police and tell the activists that you have

Record their actions – use a phone or another video-recording advice.

Focus on collecting evidence, i.e. note registrations of vehicles used, who seems to be in charge, description of persons, who said what and what did they say/do.

DON'T

- Threaten any harm
- Produce, use or threaten to use weapons
- Answer any questions, particularly personal ones (other than providing your name).
- Argue about their ideology; this is not about changing their mind.
- Discuss your farming/business practices
- Disclose where any animals and/or equipment is stored/housed.